



Church of the Brethren

3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012



TO: All Employees, Pastors, Leadership and Members of the Virlina District - Church of the Brethren, Inc.
FROM: Virlina District Board
RE: District Staff Announcement
DATE: November 7, 2022

MEMORANDUM

It is with celebration that we announce the calling of **Daniel L. Rudy** to serve as District Executive Minister of the Virlina District beginning on February 6, 2023.

Dan has served as pastor of Ninth Street Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, VA since 2011. He has been an instructor in the Christian Growth Institute of the Virlina and Shenandoah districts. While serving on the Virlina district board, he has been a member of the New Church Development Committee, fulfilling the role of chair for the last two years. As the pastoral representative on the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee of the Annual Conference during a five-year term, Dan gave leadership to the development of the compensation and benefits tools for pastors recently approved by the Annual Conference. He served as Virlina district's representative to the Virginia Council of Churches from 2014-2016 and also chaired the Southeast Roanoke Christian Partnership Advisory Council for six years.

Dan holds a Master of Divinity degree from Bethany Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts from Bridgewater College, with a major in Philosophy and Religion and a minor in Peace Studies. He was ordained in the Mid-Atlantic district in 2012. An avid golfer in his spare time, Dan and his spouse, Tabitha, are the parents of two young girls. Their family resides in the Roanoke area.

After David Shumate's departure, a five-week interim staff person is necessary to bridge the role through Daniel Rudy's start date of February 6, 2023. The Virlina District Board has called **Emma Jean Woodard** to serve as a half-time Interim District Executive Minister for a five-week period from January 1, 2023 through February 5, 2023.

Emma Jean brings much experience to this role having served the Virlina district as both an Associate District Executive Minister for seventeen and a half years and an Interim District Executive Minister during the absence of David Shumate due to illness. For the last four years she has been an interim pastor in various congregations within the Virlina district. Emma Jean currently serves half-time as co-pastor of the Bethany Church of the Brethren in Boones Mill, Virginia. She also fulfills the role of "pastor to pastors" on behalf of the district board.

Emma Jean holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and is also a graduate of the TRIM program of the Brethren Academy of Ministerial Leadership and is ordained. She and her husband, Ed who is a retired minister, live in the Roanoke, Virginia area.

The Virginia District congratulates Dan on his calling to the District Executive Minister position and expresses deep gratitude to Emma Jean for her willingness to serve in the interim role.