



Valhalla United Methodist Church

200 Columbus Avenue
VALHALLA, NY 10595-1727

REV. KEVAN T. HITCH, Pastor

Phone (914) 949-6252
Fax (914) 949-5560
Website www.valhallaumc.org

March 13, 2025

Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton
New York Conference UMC
20 Soundview Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606

Dear Bishop Bickerton,

We represent the Staff Parish Relations, Finance, and Trustees Committees of the Valhalla United Methodist Church, and are writing in response to the meeting held on March 4th at St. Paul's. We understand that the primary purpose of the meeting was to introduce the pastoral team that will be serving four churches in a cooperative arrangement. While it was a pleasure to meet the three pastors in attendance, there are many issues that remain unclear.

We were asked to work collaboratively with the other congregations and with the new pastors, but we were not given any framework upon which to build a plan and no clear outline or timeline other than the effective date of July 1. While we are prepared to update the rest of our congregation with very basic information about what took place last Tuesday, we anticipate that there will be numerous questions that we will not be able to answer, including details about how the pastors will share responsibilities, financial implications, and other crucial logistical and practical concerns.

As leaders of VUMC, we respectfully request the following:

- More detail on how the pastors will divide and/or share responsibilities among several churches.
- Your (or a representative's) presence on an upcoming Sunday to speak with our congregation and address their questions/concerns directly.



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- An interim period during which Pastor Kevan Hitch, our current pastor, would continue to lead our church while we work with the Conference to ensure that any future changes best meet the needs and wishes of our congregation.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mary Kovoor, VUMC SPR
Dr. Claudia Lampel, VUMC SPR
Jackie Cureton, VUMC SPR
Sal Vaccaro, VUMC SPR
Peggy Alexander, VUMC SPR
Thomas Kovoor, VUMC Finance
Barbara Vaccaro, VUMC Finance
Scott McIntyre, VUMC Trustees
Darren Wilson, VUMC Trustees
Brent Harrington, VUMC Trustees
Noel Whearty, VUMC Member

cc Rev. Simeon Law

(via email):

Rev. Bill Pfohl

Rev. Crystal Paul-Watson

Rev. Carlos Figueroa

Memorial United Methodist Church SPR Chair

Trinity United Methodist Church SPR Chair

St. Paul's United Methodist Church SPR Chair