



March 2021

Dear Members and Friends of the First United Methodist Church of Reynoldsville,

A long time ago, I learned that every pastor makes everyone happy at some point: some by arriving, others by leaving, and, I might add, still others by doing both! I have been privileged to serve as your pastor for the past 10 years. In the appointive system of deploying clergy to churches, this is a relatively long period of time.

The time has now come for me to share with you the following announcement, as I did in worship on Sunday morning, March 28, 2021:

You can shed a tear
Or you can stand up and cheer,
But the time has come
This pastor is moving on from here

Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi has given me a new appointment effective July 1, 2021: On that date, I will begin serving in two roles on the Franklin District. I will serve as pastor to the Trinity, Bethel, and Plumer United Methodist Churches in Oil City, PA. I will also begin serving in a new position as Franklin District Ministry Assistant. The bishop has announced that the District Ministry Assistant for the Franklin District will play an important part in the new Shared Ministry model that will be implemented in the Franklin and Indiana districts on July 1. The District Ministry Assistant will serve part-time to carry out some of the duties of a superintendent that can be delegated to elders. These may include conducting charge conferences, facilitating district ministries, and organizing district Volunteer in Mission projects, as well as relating to district pastors and congregations.

While I look forward to the challenges of each of these new opportunities for serving, it is never easy to move on from a place and a people with whom Leah and I have felt so at home, with whom we have continued the journey of faith for a decade, and with whom I have spent one quarter of my years as a pastor. I am deeply humbled by your faith and service to our Lord Jesus, grateful for all you have shared with me and taught me over the past ten years, and thankful to God for the privilege of serving as your pastor.

While Bishop Moore-Koikoi has not yet announced who will be the new pastor here at Reynoldsville First UMC, I trust that you will welcome that individual with the same open arms which welcomed Leah and me.

Thank you for the prayers, support, encouragement, and love you have shown both Leah and me over these 10 years together. We love and will miss all of you.

By His Grace,

Pastor Tom Carr