

Grace United Methodist Church

Desk of Pastor Andy Kinsey

January 5, 2023

Caring Together, Growing Together

“There is a time and a season for everything under heaven.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Greetings in Christ's Name!

At the beginning of a new year, I write to share that the last fifteen years at Grace United Methodist Church have provided an amazing opportunity to serve as one of the pastoral leaders. Having the privilege of ministering in this unique congregation has been fulfilling in many ways.

After 40 plus years in pastoral ministry serving in different capacities, however, I have sensed for some time the desire and the call of God to move in a new direction. I have realized, along with Peggy, that God has planted deep within us dreams and goals for the future. Therefore, I write to communicate with you my decision to retire in June 2023. It is a decision that has come after a long season of prayer and discernment.

To be sure, there is a sense of sadness. Yet, we will continue to share in our journey of faith and be mindful of the ways Christ's Spirit is working through us. We will covenant with you as the church to extend our mission of caring and growing together as we offer God's grace to all. That is our vision and our prayer.

May the Lord continue to lead us into a new phase of life and ministry.

With blessings and peace,

Andy Kinsey

Ak.1-5-23

Appointment Process
in the
Indiana Conference

The United Methodist Church in Indiana has a process which it follows in the placement of pastors. The process involves a series of steps, but three main steps are worth mentioning here.

1. Each year, pastors in the Indiana Annual Conference are to declare their intention to either stay, leave, or retire from their present appointment. That decision is made by December 1st and communicated directly to the bishop.
2. If a pastor plans to retire, an announcement is then made at the beginning of the year informing the congregation.
3. The bishop and cabinet begin the consultation process to appoint a new minister to the church.

Note: This letter will be followed by a letter from Dr. Aleze Fulbright, the Superintendent of the Central District of the Indiana Conference. In that letter, she will explain in more detail the steps in the appointment process.