



*Joyfully loving God,
wholeheartedly
serving others*

Congregational Announcement

February 25, 2022

Dear friends:

According to The Wesleyan Church's guiding document, the form of local governance practiced in our churches is congregationally focused. Members of Wesleyan congregations select their pastoral leadership by periodic congregational voting. However, following years of cherished service by a particular pastor, congregations may show high confidence in their pastor by extending a long-term call to their church.

A few years ago, our church opted to offer Pastor Wes an Extended Call. This is not a lifetime appointment. Typically, about every four years the district superintendent conducts a Pastor-Church Assessment involving the Board of Elders. It takes the pulse of the ongoing relationships and the degree to which the pastor and the congregation are thriving.

In January and early February of this year, the Board of Elders completed a confidential assessment of both pastoral performance and multiple congregational ministries. The results were compiled by our District Superintendent Joey Jennings. In mid-February, he led an extended discussion among Board members, with Pastor Wes present for some of it. Then, with DS Jennings presiding and without Pastor Wes present, the Board voted unanimously to extend the call another four years.

The Board of Elders is pleased to announce this recent decision, and we invite all church members and attendees to join us in congratulating and embracing Pastors Wes and Cindy Oden as they lead this congregation forward. They have partnered in ministry here for nearly 26 years. These recent years have been a challenge to keep all aspects of our ministries moving ahead, but in the face of impediments, our pastoral staff—Wes, Cindy, Jon, Paul, Amanda, Emily, and Ann---have been creative, persistent, courageous, and wise in their efforts. As a Board, we strongly affirm our pastors and the whole church staff for their outstanding service.

Thank you for your continued support of this staff and congregation.

Sincerely,

Daryl Stevenson
for the Board of Elders