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Ministry Jottings by Pastor Deb

Receiving a New Pastor - Part 2

Some of you are very experienced in receiving new ministers if you have been a United Methodist for any length of time. The average pastoral stay in our denomination is four years at last check {FYI - I hope that the Bishop will keep me here longer}. Here is Part 2 of some observations where receiving a new pastor can be a blessing for all.

1. Forgive me. I'll make some mistakes. Remember, we are all going on to perfection, we haven't gotten there yet. I'd like to be the best pastor you have ever had {and you've had some good ones}. I confess I come with hope, anticipation, and some anxiety. Thank you for giving me a chance to love, lead and serve you. And thank you for the patient grace needed for this.

2. Help remove obstacles that appear in my path or chase after me. Be it criticism, lack of resources, not enough volunteers or some other kind of roadblock. A rabbit being chased by a dog through a park was observed by a crowd enjoying a family picnic. They cheered for the rabbit as he swiftly hopped from side to side, eluding his attacker. Then the rabbit pulled away from the dog. The crowd cheered even louder. The rabbit looked at the crowd and said, "I appreciate your encouragement, but couldn't you catch that dog!" Thanks for being willing to step in to assist what might be "dogging" me.

3. Remember the one to whom you owe your loyalty. All pastors, including me, only ask that you be loyal to Christ, and dedicated to what Christ wants in this, His church. Then all other loyalties will fall into their proper places.

Believe that good days for the United Methodist Church of Evergreen are ahead. I do!

Blessings,
Pastor Deb