



August 2018

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Greetings on this wet, but beautiful, July morning. As I write this, I am saddened to realize that the summer is already half over. But thank you Lord that we still have half the summer to go!

Recently I have had more questions posed to me regarding the Wesleyan Covenant Association. Peace's Church Council voted to renew its membership in the association in the spring. I can say that nothing has changed in the way we do ministry at Peace church, and we continue to reach out to all people in the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, regardless of who they are. The only difference is that, by joining the WCA, we have made a declaration that we stand with other likeminded UMC churches and individuals who believe our doctrine and Book of Discipline should remain as is in regards to marriage and ordination standards. Trinity's church council has discussed the WCA at length but has not taken a vote whether or not to join. In the coming months we will hold congregational meetings to be able to dialogue with one another regarding the way forward. If you would like more information on the WCA, go online to wesleyancovenant.org. There you will find in depth information, resources and FAQs. As always, my door is open if you would like to discuss the WCA or give me a call.

Also, on August 6th at 6:30 pm, our District Superintendent, Rev. Scott Carlson, will be at Trinity Church to share his thoughts and the WI conference's position on these matters facing our denomination. This is a wonderful opportunity we have, as D.S. Carlson has graciously accepted our invitation to come and present to us, when he has no obligation to do so. These are anxious times in our denomination and I pray that this time with Rev. Carlson will help relieve our anxiety a little. Everyone is welcome and invited to attend.

I am looking forward to the big worship in the park on Labor Day weekend September 2nd. That Sunday was my first one in Richland Center two years ago, and I was tremendously blessed by the music, worship and fellowship that took place that day. I knew there was something special about this town when 700 people showed up for a worship service; with a population of just 5,000, at 14% that is impressive! This year I have the honor of being invited to preach the message that morning. So mark your calendars and attend worship in the park September 2nd at 10:00 and enjoy a great time of refreshments and conversation afterwards. So, friends, until next time, go out and enjoy your summer, because by the time you read this the summer will be 2/3 gone!

Your fellow servant in Christ, Rev. Wiley Gladney