



May 2019

Greeting to you in the name of Jesus, our Lord. As you are aware, Heather and I will be leaving ministry in the United Methodist Church at the end of June, and will be joining the Salvation Army. Some may find this strange, to go from pastoring in the United Methodist Church to serving in the Salvation Army. However, I want to give you a little history lesson of the Salvation Army.

Not only is the SA an international charitable organization, it is also a protestant Christian church, rooted in Methodism. The Army was founded in 1865 in London by one-time Methodist preacher William Booth and his wife Catherine as the East London Christian Mission. During William's time as a parish minister in the Methodist church, he had an increasing desire to serve in evangelistic and missional work with the poor population of London. However, he was chastised by his superiors as not sufficiently tending to the needs and desires of his congregation. He and his wife Catherine were also adamant that women should serve in ministry positions along with men, but the rules of the Methodist church at the time did not permit women to be in leadership. Because of these obstacles to ministry, they decided to leave ministry in the Methodist church and formed the East London Christian Mission. The theology of the Salvation Army is derived from that of Methodism and the Army's doctrine is typical of holiness churches in the Wesleyan-Arminian tradition. A peculiarity of the Army is that it gives its clergy titles of military ranks, such as "lieutenant" or "major".

The ordination of women is permitted in the Salvation Army and officers are only allowed to marry other officers. Husbands and wives usually share the same rank and have the same or similar assignments. Such officer-couples are assigned together to act as co-pastors and administer corps (their local churches), Adult Rehabilitation Centers, social services offices, etc.

We will begin our service in the SA on July 1<sup>st</sup> in Appleton. We will work for a year as interns in the corps church and social services office there. This will give us some experience in leadership and administration in a local corps. This will be similar to what it is like to serve as associate pastors of a UM church. After that we will relocate to the College for Officer Training in Chicago for one or two years. At the end of our training period we will be commissioned as Lieutenants, ordained and assigned to a corps somewhere in the Midwestern states.

This a great adventure of faith we are embarking on, and we would appreciate your prayers and support during our transition. As the time gets closer to when we must move, I will be stepping away from direct involvement in church committees and such, but know that you can reach me at any time on my cell phone. Please know that we love and will miss all of you very much.

God bless you and your family.

Wiley Gladney