



*From the Desk of Pastor Rey*

Dear Members,

I am writing today to inform the members of Trinity and Peace UMC that I have received a new appointment to serve Fennimore UMC, so beginning July 2<sup>nd</sup> I will no longer be your pastor. However, you can still count me as your friend. As I am writing this letter to you, I feel sad leaving Richland Center and leaving behind many friends that I have made in these two congregations and this community. I have been here for the last 4 years and pretty soon after I was appointed to serve here the Covid-19 Pandemic arrived to paralyze churches, businesses, and factories. Since Covid-19, the world has experienced a lot of changes.

I can truly say that it has been a pleasure to serve the members of Trinity and Peace UMCs. Since the beginning I have felt welcomed and loved by all of you. I have good memories of the Bible Study with the women's group that meets every Tuesday, the meetings I have attended in both congregations, the men's breakfast on the third Thursday of every month, the Ad Council meetings, SPPRC meetings, and Board of Trustees meetings, Confirmation classes and the Bible study at Peace UMC. It has also been a pleasure to work with Pat and Joan serving as office managers. They made my job easier and it was a delight to work with these two wonderful women. With Joan Wheeler now working for both congregations after Pat's retirement, things became a little more simplified because I only need to communicate with one Office Manager instead of two!

What I especially appreciate about these two congregations is that after Covid-19 (and the process of disaffiliation that Peace UMC went through) these two local churches are now more friendly and loving. It is not that you were not loving congregations to start with, but it was that the issues we discussed at Peace made us go through a lot of stress and become more compassionate about what others are thinking and feeling. With that process behind us, we can move forward and focus more on the ministry of the church. These two congregations are focusing on the mission of the Church by supporting the food pantry, Lydia's House and providing funds for those who are at a disadvantage in our community.

The members of these two congregations will always be in my heart. I love you all and I hope to keep your friendship as we keep serving the Good Lord. As we move ahead into another chapter in our lives, I will keep you in my prayers that the Good Lord will be with the members of Trinity and Peace UMC during the days ahead. I am hoping and praying that the Good Lord keeps you in his sight and that these two congregations experience church growth and many other blessings.

As you are all aware, you will have a new pastor appointed to these two congregations. I also need you to remember that although we certainly can remain friends, I cannot return to these congregations to perform weddings, funerals, baptisms, or any other duties that your new pastor will be then in charge of. Thank you for welcoming me into your church families 4 years ago when I came to serve the Lord here. Thank you for your love and care for me. It has been a rewarding experience to serve you and this community. May the Lord of all mercies and love keep you and preserve you now and forevermore. Amen.

In Christ,

*Rev. Dr. Rey Diaz,*  
Pastor