



### Update on the New Church Name

Dear Members and Friends of the newly unified, and soon-to-be-named, United Methodist Church;

This is such an important step in the life of our newly unified congregation and we are all feeling the suspense. Therefore, in the interest of keeping everyone informed, here is an update on our process for selecting a new church name.

The Unified Church Council was pleased to have received more than 40 thoughtfully submitted suggestions. We enjoyed considering each of them but were also quite challenged in having to choose from among so many excellent options. As we gratefully and painstakingly considered each entry, we focused on names that best fit who we have been, who we are now, and whom we hope to become. It was important to us to select names that represent and honor:

- Our history in the community
- Our theological and biblical roots
- Our commitment to Christian love, growth, hospitality, and service
- Our desire to uphold our beloved traditions, and at the same time
- Be a vibrant United Methodist presence in Richland Center for generations to come

Therefore, we have made our choices of the five “finalists” based on what we believe will best serve the identity, mission, and longevity of the church as we go forward. I invite you to look below at the shortlist of potential new names for our church. Once you’ve done so, we encourage you to open your heart and mind and prayerfully consider each one. Afterward, if you so choose, you may rank them in order of your preferences, with ***#1 being the name you most prefer and #5 being your least favored choice.***

When you are done ranking, please return your choices to the suggestion box, or the church office, by noon on Sunday, February 4th. The Church Council will review your preferences and make the final church name selection to be announced on Sunday, February 11th.

We ask that you submit only one ranking per person. However, if there is more than one church member in your household, you may feel free to make a copy of this letter for them to use, or simply jot their name preference ranking on to this, or on to a separate piece of paper. You may also send your name preference ranking to the church office via email.

## **United Methodist Church**

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Meanwhile, further updates about our Sunday worship service time, and the title of our newsletter, will be coming soon. Also, FYI, there we will not be publishing a church newsletter for February, so stay tune for the first newly named issue coming out in March.

With deep appreciation for your time, attention, prayers, and patience in this time of newness and transtion,

Pastor Rachel Olson, on behalf of the Unified Church (Administrative) Council

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*Please prayerfully consider and then rank these new church names from 1 to 5, with 1 being your most preferred and 5 being least preferred. When completed, return this to the church by noon on Sunday, February 4, 2024. (One per person, please.)*

- **Covenant** United Methodist Church \_\_\_\_\_
- **Emmanuel** United Methodist Church \_\_\_\_\_
- **Faith** United Methodist Church \_\_\_\_\_
- **Richland Center** United Methodist Church \_\_\_\_\_
- **Trinity-Peace** United Methodist Church \_\_\_\_\_