



First United Methodist Church

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January 6, 2010

Dear Members and Friends:

It is with a profound sense of gratitude and appreciation for the support which I have received from you and the members of the church staff over the past eight and a half years, as well as from the bishops, superintendents, clergy colleagues and especially the laity of the churches that I have been privileged to serve over the past 40 years, that I announce to you that I have notified our bishop and the appointive cabinet of my impending retirement from active service to take effect on June 30, 2010. Having been ordained an elder in our Sanctuary, my retiring following my appointment here feels very much like coming "full circle" to me. Marcia and I are so grateful for the opportunity we have had to share in ministry with you here in Iowa City.

Our Conference Superintendent, the Rev. David Crow, will be meeting soon with our Staff/Parish Relations Committee to begin the work of consulting with them on the appointment of a new Lead Pastor. The appointive work of the bishop and cabinet is scheduled to begin this month. I want you to know that I intend to do everything that I can to provide for a smooth transition in pastoral leadership.

I look forward to continuing to share in ministry with you for the next six months and remain convinced that the best days in the life of our church lay ahead in the future that God is bringing us to. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are and will always be with you.

✝ In faith~

Rev. Paul L. Akin