



**lithopolisumc.org**

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June 2, 2020

Dear Lithopolis UMC,

I'm sending this letter to share the news that Karen and I have decided to retire at the end of this year. I anticipated making this announcement at the time of our Leadership Board's April meeting. But with the quarantine, that meeting was postponed until today and although it pains me to share the news of this change when we are not able to meet together in person on Sundays, it is necessary to share this news since we cannot know how long it will be before our regular services resume.

Soon, Karen and I will complete our 40th year of church ministry. I could not be more joyful about the experience of sensing God's call to pastoral ministry and to then share life with so many people over the next 4 decades. Thank you to all of you for being part of that journey and for trusting us with your faith and with your struggles and joys. I will always count it as among my very best blessings to have served with you at LUMC. And we feel especially blessed to have been part of such an amazing and dedicated church staff.

As we look to the future, a new chapter of life awaits. We are not completely sure what retirement will be like. We anticipate taking some time to adjust and rest. And we look forward to discerning about serving Christ during retirement, too. It's exciting to step out into the unknown even as we continue to rely on God's guidance.

For LUMC at this time, I hope to be part of the rest of a very meaningful and fruitful year of life and service along with our Staff team and the whole church. Surely this year is different from anything we could have imagined. And yet as we yield to God's leading, it is also a rich season of learning and growing spiritually and finding new ways to fulfill God's mission and purpose in us and through us.

There are numerous steps to receiving a new pastor and our Leadership Board will soon be in consultation with Rev. Dr. Timothy Bias, our District Superintendent, who will assist with this process. Let's commit to praying for the guidance of God's Spirit. We'll be providing updates as plans and details about clergy leadership take shape.

May God bless this church family and strengthen us all for the living of these days.

Yours gratefully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles Martindell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles Martindell, Pastor