

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Over the past two weeks, Bishop Mueller met with clergy and designated lay leadership in congregations in all five districts to discuss the current landscape and options for the future of the United Methodist Church. During each of these gatherings, the most common request was for follow-up resources to be developed for leaders to share with their church members.

The presentations developed by Bishop Mueller and the Conference staff, along with the questions asked at each of these gatherings, have been gathered and prayed over to create a resource for all church leaders to utilize.

At the bottom of this letter, you will find a link that will direct you to a toolkit that has been prepared for any clergy or laity in leadership to use for facilitating honest, compassionate, and truthful local church communication.

It is very important for you to know that all of the pieces within this toolkit are woven together in a very specific manner to help any leader within the local church share a loving, non-biased presentation. Each piece is in the precise order in which it should be used and we do not recommend picking and choosing because this will lose the efficacy of the message. It is recommended that you allow 90 minutes for the presentation in its entirety.

The tool kit contains the following resource elements:

- A video overview from Bishop Gary Mueller
- A slide presentation with a script for each slide
- A Frequently Asked Questions document to assist the facilitator in providing answers to questions
- A video of a closing prayer from Kathy Conley, Conference Lay Leader

In closing, please know that our landscape is never static and that Bishop Mueller, the Cabinet, and the Center for Communication are committed to providing up-to-date communication as we receive it. For the communication toolkit, please visit arumc.org/current-landscape.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with each of you as difficult experiences have become the norm. Please do not hesitate to contact Bishop Mueller, your District Superintendent, or myself with any questions or concerns.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer."

Romans 12:12

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