

May 9, 2019

From the Staff Parish Committee,

Each year, the Staff Parish Relations Committee meets to review the direction of the church and decide what pastoral leadership is needed. This is a requirement of the conference that annually the minister and the church make a decision on pastoral appointment.

This past year, our committee went through this process and after much prayer and discussion decided that now was the time for a pastoral change. We decided that we needed a change in the style of leadership to lead us to where we see God's vision for St. Andrew's UMC. This may come as a surprise to many. Also, the process did not proceed as smoothly or affirming as we would have liked.

Dan has served us well for the eight years he has been our pastor. The committee and I would like to thank Dan for his guidance and leadership that has brought us to where we are now. With any change such as this, there is an opportunity to take a misstep and we accept the challenge to learn how to communicate more effectively in the future. We wish Dan and his family the best as he moves to his next assignment at Skyland UMC in Asheville. Dan's last Sunday preaching will be June 9. We are planning to have a reception in Dan's honor on Sunday, June 2, after the 11:15 a.m. service.

Our new minister will be the Reverend Sherri Barnes. She comes to us from Pfeiffer University where she worked in the office of University and Church Relations. Her first Sunday preaching will be July 14. I will provide more information about her closer to the transition. – David Patton, Chair of Staff Parish Relations