



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

We are once again approaching our Genesis Annual Conference (May 14-15); I hope you've made plans to join us at Pearce Church in Rochester for this annual event of equipping and empowering the people called Free Methodist in Western and Central New York. This is also the time of year when the majority of changes occur in the placement of our pastors. We are blessed that many of our churches have not been through a pastoral transition in several years, so it is our hope to simply remind you in this letter of the structure and process we have in place for appointing pastors to our churches.

One of the benefits of your affiliation with the Free Methodist Church through the Genesis Conference is that the burden of finding and hiring a pastor does not fall on the local congregation. This is the responsibility of the Conference, and more specifically the Ministerial Appointments Committee (MAC). Led by our bishop (Linda Adams) and superintendent (Pam Braman), the MAC is a group of elected representatives from the Genesis Conference who prayerfully and carefully work with congregations and pastors to determine:

1. Who would best be able to serve your community,
2. Where pastors feel a sense of calling from the Lord, and
3. Where a pastor's particular spiritual gifting can be put to the best use.

Before a pastoral appointment is made by the MAC, the goal is that there would be agreement over the decision and a sense of call from the Lord felt by each party involved: the prospective pastor and his or her family, the local church leadership, the superintendent and the MAC.

According to our Book of Discipline, once a pastor is appointed to your church, she or he is appointed for an "indefinite tenure," which means that there is no preset time limit on the appointment. It is the work of the superintendent, in consultation with the pastor and the leadership of the local church, to remain in communication regarding the effectiveness of each pastoral appointment and to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as to when a change in appointment would be beneficial for everyone involved. This discernment process is aided by annual reports submitted by the pastor and delegate(s), as well as a ministry effectiveness evaluation which is scheduled to occur every three years.

May I ask you to pray for Superintendent Pam Braman and the MAC as they work diligently this spring to ensure that each church in our region has a qualified and called pastor appointed to it, and that every pastor who answers the call to serve in this area is matched up with the best ministry for them? Pray for wisdom and discernment, for the Lord to order the steps of everyone involved and for God's will to be done, for the sake of His kingdom. Thank you for your partnership in ministry as together we love God, love people and make disciples in the name of Jesus!

Yours in Christ,

Adam Stein