



The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange

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Greetings to the LaGrange First United Methodist Church!

I pray blessings upon you all in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord.

As your District Superintendent, I need to inform you that your Senior Pastor, the Rev. Dr. John Beyers, has been suspended. Suspension means that he will not be active with the church nor have contact with members during this period of due process according to The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church. Dr. Beyers will continue to receive his full salary and benefits throughout this time.

Out of concern for privacy and due process, I, nor your Staff Parish Relations Committee, can discuss the details of the matter. Bishop Robin Dease and I know this comes as a surprise to you, and I know you may have concerns. Please be in prayer for Dr. Beyers and for LaGrange First United Methodist Church during this process.

To care for the needs of the congregation, the Rev. Dr. Stuart Gulley will step in as interim pastor for the next few weeks. Many of you know Dr. Gulley as the former President of LaGrange College as well as a United Methodist Pastor. Presently, he serves as the President of Woodward Academy and is willing to step up to this need here in our community. Certainly, Dr. Gulley will guide LaGrange First UMC most

ably, as he is a strong man of God and holds deep admiration for the LaGrange First UMC, for LaGrange College, and the surrounding community. I am grateful for his willingness to serve in this capacity at this critical moment.

Because of the disruption of this moment in the life of the church, it is important that all administrative committee meetings be suspended until further notice from the Bishop or myself. These committees include Staff Parish Relations Committee, Church Council, Trustees, Finance, and the Committee on Nominations and Lay Leadership.

Additionally, the finances will be frozen for any expenditures beyond strictly necessary budgeted items and salaries approved by the 2022 Charge Conference. The mission committees may meet as usual to continue the necessary coordination for worship, outreach, children, youth and service that all may know the love of Jesus.

The staff will report directly to Dr. Gulley as senior pastor in charge for the duration of his service.

As your District Superintendent, my fervent prayers are with you for the very best. I know you will continue being the beautiful expression of light and hope that you have been throughout the years, as you make disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.

With you in ministry,

Susan Landry