

01-27-2018



Frequently Asked Questions

Pastor Paul's New Appointment

Why is Pastor Paul leaving Lovely Lane?

In January, Pastor Paul was selected by Bishop Laurie Haller and her cabinet of the Iowa Conference to assume an increased responsibility of guiding 100 churches as the District Superintendent of the Northeast Iowa District.

All pastors within the United Methodist Church are appointed to their position by the bishop of their State Conference. Each year pastors are evaluated and potentially assigned new appointments. Lovely Lane is part of the East Central District of the Iowa Conference. Paul and Gayle were appointed by the bishop of the Conference as Lovely Lane's pastors in 2006.

What is a District Superintendent?

A district superintendent is an ordained minister appointed by a bishop to oversee the pastors and local churches in a district. A district superintendent may not serve in that capacity more than six years in any consecutive nine years. No minister may serve more than a total of twelve years as a superintendent. The superintendent carries a wide range of responsibilities for the local churches in the district and throughout the Conference as a whole. Primary responsibilities relate to overseeing the work of the local churches, including presiding at Charge Conferences, and supervising the work of the pastors, including participating with the bishop in the making of appointments.

Where will Pastor Paul be located as the District Superintendent?

The Northeast District office is located in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and Paul will work primarily from this location. He will also have an increased presence in the Iowa Conference main offices located in Des Moines.

Will Paul and Gayle continue to live in Cedar Rapids?

No. They will relocate to the Cedar Falls area prior to July 1.

Is this appointment temporary or permanent?

Paul's appointment is permanent.

How long has Pastor Paul been in ministry?

Paul has been serving the United Methodist Church for 36 years.

How long has he been at Lovely Lane?

Pastor Paul was appointed in July 2007.

Pastor Gayle's Transition

Is Pastor Gayle leaving Lovely Lane too?

Yes. Gayle is currently prayerfully considering her possible new responsibilities within the Iowa Conference.

Will Pastor Gayle be appointed to a new church?

Perhaps. Pastor Gayle is working with the Iowa Conference to determine her next role. Paul and Gayle have been serving as a team for 25 years. This will mark the first time in their ministry that they will not be serving together in the same church.

How long has Pastor Gayle been at Lovely Lane?

Pastor Gayle was appointed in July 2007.

Methodist Pastoral Transition Process

What is the timing of this transition?

The transition process is currently underway with guidance from the Iowa Conference. The SPPRC will serve as the primary contact for the church's' effort and provide leadership for the transition. It's expected the process will take place from January through July when the new pastoral team arrives.

When does Paul assume his new role?

Pastor Paul will officially assume his new role on July 1, 2018. He will have the opportunity to spend part of his time over the next few months with the current Northeast District Superintendent Rev. Jackie Bradford to begin working on a transition process.

Will Pastor Paul continue to preach at Lovely Lane until he leaves?

Pastor Paul will continue to be active at Lovely Lane UMC through this transition period although it's expected he will begin taking on additional responsibilities associated with his new appointment during the next few months.

Are their plans to delegate some of Paul and Gayle's responsibilities to lay leaders within the church over the next six months?

Yes. We will all have an increased responsibility during this transition process. All members are encouraged to reach out and volunteer to help where the spirit leads them.

Will an interim pastor be hired?

No. Lovely Lane is blessed with superior Lay Members that will have an increased responsibility during this time of transition.

Will a there be a farewell event for Paul and Gayle?

Yes. We definitely want to celebrate this moment in the history of our church and of Paul and Gayle's life's work. The SPPRC will be working with Paul and Gayle to understand and respect their wishes.

How will the new pastoral team be announced and when?

Communications will primarily made via announcements at Sunday services and on the Lovely Lane website, www.lovelylane.org. A comprehensive communications strategy will also make use of social media and postal mail as appropriate.

Where will the new pastors live?

Lovely Lane is unique in the United Methodist Church in that we do not own a parsonage. The new pastors will be responsible for locating and securing their own housing with support from the SPPRC.

Will the church provide the pastors with housing allowances?

Similar to today, a housing allowance is provisioned in the compensation package for our pastors.

Is the church able to afford a compensation package with benefits for two individual pastors?

Compensation packages for our next pastors will be reviewed with the Finance Committee as information is made available.

Who chooses our next pastors?

United Methodist Pastors are assigned by their residing conference. For Lovely Lane, our next pastors will be selected by the Iowa Conference cabinet consisting of eight District Superintendents and led by Bishop Laurie Haller.

How will our next pastors be chosen?

Step #1

The Lovely Lane SPPRC team will generate two documents to aid in the pastor selection process. First, a pastor profile will outline the top requirements for our lead pastor based on character, spiritual gifts, skill, experience, and leadership qualities to best fit the congregation. Second, a church profile will detail who we are as a church body consisting of demographic, community, mission, lay leadership, and other qualities.

Step #2

The pastor profile and church profile will be reviewed by the Iowa Conference cabinet as they deliberate about current UMC pastors that will be the best fit for Lovely Lane. After a name is selected, the cabinet will continue to pray, review, and challenge if that person will be correct for the role.

Lovely Lane SPPRC will be contacted with a lead pastor selection in the March/April timeframe. After selection of the Lead Pastor a complimenting Associate Pastor will be selected. Appointments go into effect on July 1, 2018.

How is the United Methodist Church organized in Iowa?

Iowa Conference is part of the overall United Methodist Church. The Iowa Conference is led by Bishop Laurie Haller in Des Moines, Iowa. The Iowa Conference is divided into eight geographical districts, each consisting of approximately 100 local United Methodist churches. Lovely Lane is part of the East Central District under the guidance of District Superintendent Rev. Kiboko Kiboko.

Staff Parish Pastor Relations Committee

What is the SPPRC?

The Staff Parish Pastor Relations Committee handles all matters related to the church staff, including the pastor. Among the specific responsibilities related to the paid staff are:

- Reviewing appropriate salary levels
- Conducting annual performance reviews
- Dealing with any other personnel issues

The committee also handles certain matters related to volunteer staff, including making sure all volunteers who work with the children and youth complete the form required by the United Methodist Church related to sexual misconduct. The composition and duties of the committee are given in the Book of Discipline.

Who from the church serves on this committee?

The committee is consists of 13 members. Four of our team members were added on January 23, 2018 in response to increased demand on the team during the Pastor Transition process.

Matt Mulnik, Chair

Susan Camp, Lay Member to Annual Conference

Madeline O'Brien, Youth Representative

Jeff Linder

John Schultz

John Hinkel

Scott Hauser

Pat Swartzendruber

Darla Carter

Paul Wilcox, Pastor

Gayle Wilcox, Associate Pastor

Frank Camp, Special Assignment Thru July 2018

Amber Mulnik, Special Assignment Thru July 2018

Mary Vorwerk, Special Assignment Thru July 2018

Maggie Thomas, Special Assignment Thru July 2018

What is the role of SPPRC with regards to the pastoral transition?

SPPRC has many roles during this transition period. A high level list of these include:

- Support for the current staff during the increased workload period up to and after new pastors are welcomed at Lovely Lane.
- Ensure the pulpit is filled during times when Paul and Gayle will be pulled away to take care of personal needs outside of the office as they prepare to move.
- Provide input to the District Superintendent and Cabinet on the pastor profile needs at Lovely Lane UMC.
- Serving as the voice of the congregation during the pastor transition period.
- Welcoming and onboarding our new church pastors.

Does the SPPRC make the final decision on who the new pastors will be?

No. The SPPRC will build a pastor profile and church profile to aid the Iowa Conference selection of a new pastor for Lovely Lane. These documents will include inputs from the congregation gathered through discussions and surveys conducted by SPPRC team.

Congregation Comments and Feedback

I'd like to offer my comments and feedback on the pastoral candidates. How can I best do this and when?

Our church will not serve in a “selection” or “review” capacity on pastor candidates. This is the role of Bishop Haller and her cabinet. The congregation will be encouraged to attend SPPRC organized discussions and surveys prior to February 11, 2018. Your comments and feedback during these discussions will go directly into the development of a pastor profile and church profile that will be delivered to the Iowa Conference leadership on February 16, 2018.