



November 2018

A Word from the NWC Superintendent Mark R. Stromberg ...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ Jesus,

God's grace and peace be yours as you engage in the important work of ministry in your local context and beyond. It continues to be my privilege to serve our churches, pastors, leaders and constituent ministries as NWC Superintendent. Moreover, I know I speak on behalf of the Conference Executive Board and other staff members when I thank you for your faithful service to the Lord and to those both within and outside of your local faith community. I also want to thank you for supporting the Northwest Conference, even as you remember that your church is part of a broader body of believers who, when working in collaborative relationships, are able to do far more than what any one of our individual churches could do in isolation. In this way, we are truly better together!

At the NWC office, we are pleased to be able to come alongside you in times of need and in times of celebration. As some of you know, we are staffed to provide resources and support in areas of congregational vitality, church planting, as well as children, youth & family ministry. We are also equipped to provide pastoral care and support to the clergy and other ministry personnel within our region. Further, we work diligently with pastoral search committees, the credentialing of pastors, and leadership development.

All of this to say, that we are here to assist you. We are also here to encourage your church to join with others in shared ministry, as we believe that serving as a resource to local churches as well as being a catalyst for the ministries we share in common are worth our best efforts.

We live in an ever-changing world where things seem to be occurring at an accelerated speed. Often, this can add additional stress to congregational life, as we are not living in a culture that is particularly civil or supportive. We may even begin to lose heart. Yet, we are told to be courageous even in the midst of the "whitewater turbulence" pressing in all around us.

So as you are meeting to prayerfully discern the direction of future ministry, be reminded of the fact that the same God who has walked with you in the past is still with you as you look to the future. The same Lord is still Lord. The same Spirit continues to dwell within you and is also interceding on your behalf.

And be reminded of the words of the old song, "I am not skilled to understand what God hath willed, what God hath planned. I only know at His right hand stands one who is my Savior." May this assurance be yours even as you consider both the challenges and opportunities that are in front of your congregation. We are both pulling and praying for you ... that you remain faithful, fruitful and obedient to the call of Christ, come what may.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Stromberg
Superintendent