



The United Methodist Church

Upper New York Area

August 15, 2022

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

After a season of prayer and discernment, I have made the decision to retire from the active episcopacy on Dec. 31, 2022. Yesterday, I submitted my request for retirement to the Northeastern Jurisdiction and the Council of Bishops.

I have not made this decision lightly and it is the right one for personal and spiritual reasons. The divide within the United Methodist Church has lessened my joy for this role and changed my sense of whether my gifts, convictions, and leadership as a residential Bishop are best for the United Methodist Church in the future. The writer of Ecclesiastes says: "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven."

Jodi and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to serve with and among the people of Upper New York over these last 10 years. We look forward to returning to Pennsylvania to be closer to our children and other family.

Over the next few months, I will continue to offer all I can to assist leaders and congregations of Upper New York in preparing for days of ministry ahead that will honor God, boldly share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and increase God's kingdom. The mission of "making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" continues.

Thank you for praying for us and be assured of our ongoing prayers for each of you.

With gratitude and love,

Mark J. Webb

Mark J. Webb
Resident Bishop
bishopwebb@unyumc.org

William Gottschalk-Fielding
Executive Assistant
to the Bishop
BillG-F@unyumc.org

Mary Bradley
Office Manager
bishopsoffice@unyumc.org

7481 Henry Clay Blvd.
Liverpool, NY 13088
Phone: (315) 898-2020
Fax: (315) 898-2150
www.unyumc.org