

PASADENA COMMUNITY CHURCH

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

We understand that “change” can be difficult and stressful. For that reason **and** because we now look forward with hope and trust in God’s plan for both Pastor Charley as well as our great PCC, our committee has prepared this FAQ in hopes that it may help to answer some questions you may have regarding this “*transition*” process. Remember that the Church belongs to Christ – it is eternal!

1. Is Pastor Charley being reassigned or is this his decision?

This is not a reassignment. In other words, this new appointment was not forced upon Pastor Charley. This position in Atlanta was offered to Pastor Charley by the Bishop of the North Georgia Conference and he decided to accept this opportunity after much prayer and consultation with our Florida Conference Bishop and Cabinet. Although it is very difficult for Pastor Charley to leave this church he so deeply loves, he strongly believes that God is calling him to this new appointment. It is also important to know that Pastor Charley’s departure has nothing to do with any problem or conflict within the church. PCC’s health and vitality has never been stronger. Again, Pastor Charley is seeking to be faithful to God’s call.

2. Why would Pastor Charley leave the church at a time when Pastor Sidney is also leaving?

We agree that the timing is awkward; however, this was not a planned departure for Pastor Charley. This new pastoral opportunity came to him completely unexpected – he was not looking for a new appointment.

As you know, Pastor Sidney’s decision to retire was announced several months ago. It was a decision she prayerfully made – doing what was best for her and her family. Pastor Charley’s decision was made only recently after much prayer and with great consideration about where God was leading him.

This pastoral transition is part of a larger Florida Conference plan. By policy, pastoral appointments are planned once annually and, this year, moving day is June 26th. This will allow coordination of the moves and ensure pulpits and congregations are not left unattended by staggered or sequential moves.

3. When is Charley and Sidney’s last day to preach?

Pastor Charley’s last day will be Sunday June 17, 2018

Pastor Sidney’s last day will be Sunday June 24, 2018

(July 1st – Interim Sr. Pastor and Associate Pastor)

4. Will there be “good-bye” receptions for Pastors Charley and Sidney?

Yes, the SPRC is currently planning the following receptions:

Pastor Charley’s Reception 6/17/18

Pastor Sidney’s Celebration 6/24/18

5. Pastor Charley has brought so many new members to Pasadena through his preaching skills, enthusiastic love of Christ, and heartfelt caring for ALL people. What happens if people leave the church out of frustration?

We truly hope this does not happen; however, we recognize that change can be difficult and scary. It is never easy, but it is the one constant in our world. Change can also open new doors. The SPRC hopes that you will join us in prayer and surrender any anxiety – trusting God to work through the process. Just as God is calling Pastor Charley to another church where his gifts/talents are needed, God is calling another effective leader to Pasadena. We are happy for Charley, Brandy, and Baby Paul. We are also excited to see what God has in store for Pasadena Community Church!

6. Why are we having an “Interim Pastor” for a year?

It takes time to find a pastor who will be just the “right fit” for our church. This was the decision of the Bishop, Cabinet, and District Superintendent (DS). It was out of our hands and was felt that a year would be needed to make the best selection for our marvelous church. It is policy of the Florida Conference to enact pastoral changes on the last Sunday in June (Conference Moving Day). It is possible that the Bishop/Cabinet/DS may select a new Senior Pastor for our church in less than a year. However, it is likely that the new pastor will be coming from a current pastoral position and that church will also have to go through the transition process.

7. Who pays for the moves?

The cost of the move is paid for by the receiving church.

8. What can I do to help make this a smooth transition?

- a) Pray
- b) Speak positively of new pastors and the transition process
- c) Attend the farewells – rejoicing with Sidney, Charley, Brandy, and Paul as they move into other areas of life and ministry
- d) Say a personal good-bye...express your feelings, thoughts, and emotions
- e) Thank them with notes/letters - personal tributes and remembrances
- f) Go to church the first Sunday with the Interim Sr. Pastor/Associate Pastor and welcome them and their families
- g) Resist quick judgments – don’t make comparisons
- h) Tell the new pastor our names – often! Wear our name badges.
- i) EXPECT THE BEST!

This is a time of both “letting go” and “embracing change.” We may sense a feeling of loss as we say farewell to Pastors Charley and Sidney as well as their families. They have been an integral part of our church family and have touched our lives in very special ways. Remember that they, too, are grieving.

The kind of welcome that we extend to Rev. Johnson and Rev. Robinson will set the tone for the relationship that will exist between pastor and congregation. We must strive to embrace the change and realize that the transition of pastors is a unique segment of the United Methodist ministry.

Please pray for all those involved in this transition process. Re-affirm to yourself and others that this is God’s church, under the care and guidance of the Holy Spirit. As in everything, we can expect wonderful things from our gracious God.

9. Who, from our church, will be involved in the transition?

The SPRC, the Board of Trustees, our Key Church Leaders, and the Staff

10. Who can I approach with questions?

The SPRC and the Church Council

11. Where will Pastor Charley be appointed?

John's Creek UMC John's Creek, GA

12. Why does the United Methodist Church move pastors?

The United Methodist Church employs a system in which pastors move from appointment to appointment. This system is part of the connectional nature of the UMC. All local churches are bound together by a common mission. This allows the churches to work together to accomplish mission and ministry throughout the world.

13. Who decides to move the pastor?

No pastor's appointment is made casually. It is a process of consultation with the Bishop, Cabinet, and the District Superintendent. The ultimate responsibility for making pastoral appointments rests with the Bishop for the Conference.

New Appointed Pastors

Rev. Dr. Dan G. Johnson Our Interim Senior Pastor

Rev. Esther Robinson Our New Associate Pastor

Rev. Dan Johnson, our Interim Pastor, is well equipped and prepared to lead our congregation and continue to grow our membership. He lives locally and will be a full-time engaged pastor/leader with all the same responsibilities and expectations as Charley. His salary will also be the same. Dr. Johnson leaves an interim role (as Senior Pastor) at a Clearwater church and brings a legacy of church growth. Despite the disappointment that they won't be Pastor Charley's hands, we will be in "good hands" with Dr. Johnson.

Rev. Esther Robinson, our new Associate Pastor, grew up in a United Methodist parsonage and felt the call to ministry in her teens. She has spent time in extension ministry with Hospice and sees her greatest gifts as compassion, servanthood, and helping. Coming from Orange Park, she brings with her a belief in the need for inclusivity both in ordained ministry and the ministry of the laity.