



**Sage District**

**The Reverend Karen Hernandez** District Superintendent  
**Terri Bartish** Administrative Assistant

**Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference**

**The United Methodist Church**

April 18, 2021

Dear Whitney United Methodist Church,

Grace and peace to you in this Easter season! You are faithfully facing several challenges as you continue following all COVID safety protocols and do so in this interim time without an appointed pastor. I am grateful that you are caring well for your community and for one another, and I know that you are in good hands as Rev. Jack Bynum and Rev. Jane Shaffer walk with you. This is only for a season, albeit a long one with regard to COVID.

As you know, there will be significant change in the months ahead. I am pleased to tell you that it is Bishop Elaine JW Stanovsky's intention to appoint Rev. Daryl Blanksma to Whitney UMC effective July 1, 2021.

Pastor Daryl was ordained as an elder in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference in 1992 and has served churches in both states since that time. He is currently the pastor of Trinity UMC (Eugene) and Coburg UMC in the Crater Lake District, in addition to serving as co-chair of the Order of Elders. Pastor Daryl is a member of Oregon-Idaho's delegation to Jurisdictional Conference. He very much enjoys worship design and preaching. He brings with him gifts for administration, particularly in areas related to finance, and over the years he has served the annual conference in a variety of ways with these gifts. Pastor Daryl is a strong preacher and invests himself in each community where he lives and serves—qualities that are particularly well-suited for your congregation that has a history of good preaching and loving your neighbors.

Pastor Daryl is an answer to prayer, but many more prayers are still needed. Please continue to pray for Rev. Christina, Clint, Miriam, and Grace as they prepare to move and seek healing. Now you can begin praying for Pastor Daryl by name as he says farewell to his congregations and anticipates this significant move. Pray also for your leaders, your church staff, and indeed your whole church family so that you are able to say goodbye well to Rev. Christina and then readily welcome Pastor Daryl into your church and your hearts. Know that I, too, am praying with you and for you.

Peace of Christ,

Rev. Karen Hernandez  
Sage District Superintendent