

Rev. Dr. Steven Usry
Senior Pastor
Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church
Marietta, Georgia

July 1, 2021

Dear Mt. Bethel Family,

Upon this day, July 1, 2021, it is important to share where things stand in the long and storied history of Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church.

For the first time, leaders of Mt. Bethel developed a public campaign to oppose the appointment of a designated senior pastor and have now rejected that appointment in direct contradiction to church history and practice. These administrative leaders have expressed their intent to:

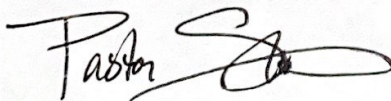
- a.) limit the role of the senior pastor,
- b.) compensate the position at a lesser rate than the full salary of the position,
- c.) continue to keep the former pastor involved by creating the role of CEO, Senior Administrator and Lead Preacher for its United Methodist pulpit without seeking proper approval, and
- d.) continue to make financial and policy decisions without fully informing church members about the consequences of these actions.

The North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church is assessing their response and next steps. For the past few months, I have shared my concerns that the present crisis would only get worse. Unfortunately, the actions by some at Mt. Bethel only exacerbate an already volatile situation.

I am disappointed that the Mt. Bethel leadership has opposed and rejected the Senior Pastor appointed to them. The best path forward would have been to embrace healthy and Biblical pastoral transition. Yet I know Mt. Bethel to be a great church. I am FOR Mt. Bethel. I will continue to seek solutions to the present crisis and will not be deterred.

I am confident if we all work together we can do powerful Kingdom work for Jesus Christ. I invite you to join me and as we work to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pastor Steven Usry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rev. Dr. Steven Usry