Report of Pastoral Ministry 2017

**5. The Pastor shall give a report on the state of the church and an account of pastoral ministry as it relates to (¶340): providing support, guidance, and training to the lay membership in the church; ministering within the congregation and to the world; and administering the temporal affairs of the congregation. Include as a part of the report a statement outlining the pastor's program of continuing education and spiritual growth for the past year and plans for the year to come (¶350.1).**

**Please enter a narrative report of your ministry. Include as part of your reply what has been the greatest good for the Kingdom which God has wrought through your ministry in the past 12 months; any new or continuing ministries that embody radical hospitality-centered in Christ, passionate worship; spiritual formation; or risk-taking mission and ministry. Describe your relationship with the community beyond the charge you currently serve.**

At the beginning of this past year, we asked everyone in our congregation to take a step of faith as we expanded our budget to invest in our youth with a full-time director for this ministry. I believe God is blessing this effort in amazing ways. We have a newly renovated Youth Commons room and have grown our Youth Fellowship and weekly Youth Bible Study attendance this year and continue to see energy, excitement, and anticipation in what is happening. Youth have become more active in leadership, planning, and in welcoming new friends and neighbors to join them.

Our C4C outreach to South Graham Elementary School also continues to expand. We are currently feeding close to 40 kids a week and now have an entire mobile unit devoted to food distribution, school supplies, clothing, and our back-pack ministry. Our “Panda Buddy” tutoring program has also added more kids and adult volunteers. The principal of the school will be coming in November to share a mission moment at both the 9AM and 11AM worship services.

We have a chaplain ministry team that goes each week to the Alamance County Detention Center and are seeking to expand this team in the next few months. This ministry now sees close to 40+ inmates every month. This fall we have written curriculum for a new “Discovery Class” for seekers, potential members, and current members who may want to learn more about how we do discipleship here at FUMC with a four-fold emphasis: *worship, connect, serve, and give.* This six-session series is interactive, using a video component for each week, and frames the sessions each week around three questions: *1) Why Church? Why United Methodist? Why FUMC Graham?* Our first pilot group this fall has given very positive feedback and we plan to offer this class twice a year from this point forward.

Ongoing outreach continues with the local Exchange Club (addressing at-risk youth and their families), and numerous other efforts of individuals, Life Groups, UMW Circles, and Sunday School classes. We now have a total of 8 LIFE groups meeting in homes throughout the week. We also have consolidated our community outreach events to two each year. Our Trunk or Treat event last year was open to the entire community and provided inflatables, snow cones, a family meal, games and decorated trunks and candies. It was the largest in years with over 800 meals/individuals served. Our spring Egg-stravaganza this year also included similar components (meal, inflatables, egg hunt, games for the entire family) and reached and fed an estimated 450.

Our attendance has declined some this year (to date), but that total does not include our new streaming viewers that is currently averaging 27 each Sunday (that is unique IP addresses and does not count multiple family members viewing on the same device). We have also begun a sister relationship with First Missionary Baptist Church, seeking to work with them to address issues of learning, fellowship, justice, racial reconciliation, and healing in our larger community. We now collaborate with them in offering worship at Peak Resources Nursing Facility each month and we also joined them and others in offering a “Peace Concert” in Graham downtown.

In addition to my involvement in the ministries listed above, I also serve on the boards of two non-profit agencies in Alamance County: Carenet Counseling and the Exchange Club of Alamance County’s Family Center. I also recently renewed my membership in the local chapter of the NAACP and have participated as a panelist in a local forum on race in Graham and have been invited to an upcoming panel on interfaith collaboration to be held in Burlington. Denise and I also host “Open House Soup Nites” in our loft each fall that invites the entire community to drop in, eat soup, meet new friends, and collaborate and network with others. Our family also observes a Shabbat meal every Friday evening and often invite individual members and families, community friends, or others that we have discerned may need greater connection in our church and community.

**6. We invite you to write a paragraph describing your ministry style and gifts. What practice of ministry is Life-Giving to you? What practice of ministry is life-draining to you?**

I am very collaborative in my leadership style and enjoy working with teams and arranging people on those teams to help them live into their own gifts and strengths. I deeply enjoy preaching, teaching, and strategic visioning to better help the church connect and be in ministry with the larger community around them. I often self-describe myself as a missiologist, always trying to find new and fresh ways to listen, engage, and reach the unchurched in our community. I love challenges and large growing edges for ministry (**strategy, ideation, and input** are some of my top strengths in the Clifton strengths finder grid). Detail implementation and planning can be draining, and I try to have good detail people around me on my ministry team. I also find what I call “maintenance mode” type of ministry to be very life-draining when there is no shared vision, God-sized dream, and hoped-for destination.

**7. While recognizing that we are servants of the church, what personal concerns would you like for the District Superintendent to share with the Cabinet regarding your availability to be appointed wherever you are needed?**

I am willing to go where I am appointed without reserve.

**8. Are there any circumstances in which the Cabinet needs to be aware?**

No.