

From the Pastor

February 7, 2017

Lord Carey, the former Archbishop of Canterbury has said, "Christianity in Britain is one generation from extinction." He pointed out that many churches in England have no ministry to young people and that means they have no interest in the future. I recently met with our confirmation class and their parents and am grateful for those who recognize the importance of investing in the spiritual development of our young people. It is important. We do well to consider what happens in other contexts when congregations or churches do not invest in their youth.



I am especially grateful about our youth group's participation with other United Methodist young people across the conference at Warmth-in-Winter. We are fortunate to have Beth Morris, our dedicated and talented Youth Director on staff and all our youth volunteers who spent time with our youth at the event and who work with them on an ongoing basis. Special thanks to our Red Bird building volunteers who led a work project at the conference.

Thank you ALL for all that you do to help our young people feel connected to God and to the church.

One way we can help young people stay connected to the church is to provide opportunities for leadership training. Church Mutual Insurance Company, who provides our church with insurance, has announced they are making scholarships available for young leaders for advanced degree religious studies programs. You can find out more information about the program at www.churchmutual.com/cmcares-scholars.

Ask the young people you know to consider serving in the church full-time or other forms of Christian ministry and let them know that they are an important part of God's kingdom. The reality is, Christianity is always one generation from extinction unless our young people are encouraged to live as disciples committed to Christ. Let's all be thankful for all those who have encouraged us to follow Christ and invest in our spiritual development.

Blessings,

Craig