



South District
Desert Southwest Conference
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

March 14, 2024

Jeff Dimond
Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
1431 W Magee Rd
Tucson, AZ 85704

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's United Methodist Church:

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

After a time of consultation, prayer and discernment, Bishop Carlo A Rapanut intends to appoint Rev. Kevin Lester to serve as pastor of Chino Valley United Methodist Church, less than full-time and as associate pastor of Prescott United Methodist Church, less than full-time, effective July 1, 2024, serving both churches in a two-point circuit. He will be working collaboratively with both congregations reaching out to young people in the area. Rev. Lester will continue to serve your church until June 30, 2024.

Rev. Lester has worked tirelessly with Rev. Lynn Bartlow and Pastor Kim Ogle to bring Sanctuary United Methodist Church and St. Mark's United Methodist Church together, preparing you for an exciting and vibrant future as a multi-site church. I know that you will find ways to celebrate the ministry of Rev. Lester as a congregation in the coming months.

As your District Superintendent, I will be consulting with your Staff Parish Relations Committee about your pastoral needs. I trust that God will guide us in our prayerful discernment of the next Sanctuary Campus Pastor for St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Once a new Sanctuary Campus Pastor has been discerned, we will announce who that person will be.

The Bishop and I, along with the entire Appointive Cabinet, hold Rev. Lester, Rev. Bartlow, Pastor Ogle, and all of you at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in our prayers during this transition.

In Christ,

Rev. Matt Ashley
Missional Strategist and Superintendent
Desert Southwest Conference
The United Methodist Church

Cc: Bishop Carlo A Rapanut Pastor Kim Ogle
Rev. Lynn Bartlow Julie O'Neal
Rev. Kevin Lester

