

For UNITY Bulletin (7/18 and 7/19) and All-UNITY Email Blast on 7/18/26

Weekly Advisory Team Update

The Advisory Team met with the Council in its regularly scheduled meeting on July 16 and provided updates about the learnings that have been gathered over the last couple of months. The Council took part in thoughtful discussion about strengths, opportunities, and gaps in our operations and organizational structure as a large congregation. We recognize that this is a temporary season for UNITY – one that allows us time to pause and assess our pastoral model to support our congregation's growth and vitality. Looking to the near term, the Council committed to three next steps.

First, the Council voted to provide Pastor Sherrie Lorbeck a 60-day paid leave of absence. The purpose of this leave is to enable Pastor Sherrie to have time and space for rest, renewal, and reflection on her gifts and opportunities so she may support the ministry and her service to UNITY Lutheran Church. This leave of absence begins Saturday, July 18. During this period, we ask the UNITY Congregation to not communicate with Pastor Sherrie to respect her time and space. Please keep her in your prayers.

Secondly, the Council recognizes that there has been a growing gap in efficient operations for a congregation of our size. To address this gap, the Council voted for Matt Griepentrog to begin the role of Interim Executive Director effective Monday, July 20. As a natural expansion of Matt's current role, he will be responsible for assisting in the oversight of all administrative and financial matters for UNITY.

Finally, with heavy hearts, the Council made the difficult decision to cancel this summer's El Salvador relationship-building trip. While this is disappointing to us and to so many, we want to respect the increased demands that our Pastors and Staff are graciously managing this summer. This is a way to lighten their load right now. Be assured that our long-standing commitment to our El Salvador partners in Rutilio Grande and Cordero de Dios remains faith-filled and strong. We appreciate your understanding. Our El Salvador team will connect with our partners as we look to future opportunities together to continue our relationship.

The Advisory Team and Council continue to work on behalf of the congregation to discern the best path forward for UNITY. We value your perspective, patience, and prayers. We thank the Pastors and Staff for their flexibility, as well as for all their unique talents and faithful work on behalf of this ministry.

If you have questions or thoughts to share, please reach out to a member of the Advisory Team:

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