## Mission Moment

Much has happened over the last 25 years. Just consider the advancements in technology and the ways we communicate. "Twenty five" is also the average number of years a pastor serves in local church ministry. During those years the world changes and those serving in professional ministry change as they grow and experience both life's great joy and heartache-all a part of the earthly journey we all must walk. Clergy are not only navigating their own personal journey, they are also coming alongside those they serve to offer encouragement, hope and the love of Christ.

We rely on ministers to offer words of comfort in difficult times and provide leadership in our personal journeys of discipleship. Our ministers help deepen our understanding of scripture, inspire us and offer hope as they visit with us in homes and hospitals.

The United Methodist Church is committed to supporting clergy as they travel through this delicate balance of life and service. One of the ways we do this is through our Ministerial Education Fund. Our giving goes toward this fund and provides assistance with obtaining an education that prepares clergy for ministry and in continuing education in the midst of ministry. This fund also supports clergy care and our 13 United Methodist Seminaries.

Let us pray for those that guide us- as we seek to be a church that cares for those who care for us.