



*A Message from our District Superintendent*

**Covenant. Connection. Itinerancy.**

These words are among the by-words of our lives as United Methodists, both United Methodist laity and pastors. And they are words that we need to regularly affirm and explain. **Covenant. Connection. Itinerancy.**

The Conference year begins anew on July 1, 2008. Prior and after that date we clergy will be embracing a re-appointment to our present position as elder, deacon and/or in an extension ministry. Others of our clergy colleagues will be transitioning to a different appointment, and numerous places of ministry within our connection will receive another pastoral servant.

In any event, the last Sunday in June and the first Sunday in July represent occasions when the concepts noted in the words – **Covenant, Connection, Itinerancy** – may be lifted up and occasions when our congregates may say farewell to a departing pastor and welcome new pastors.

**Printed below are copies of two Orders of Service from the *Book of Worship*, one a farewell and the other a greeting. Please give this material consideration for inclusion in worship on those Sundays, and please consider using the "Order for the Celebration of an Appointment" in any case on Sunday, July 6 – or a Sunday soon subsequent.** These observances obviously may be adapted to each situation, but by all means allow these brief services to frame the appointment of our pastors for the pending year of our appointment. This observance will go a long way toward helping all of us within the United Methodist family to reconsider these important concepts of our Wesleyan faith expression and to affirm our mutual ministry. **Covenant, Connection, Itinerancy.**

On a more personal note: I am deeply grateful to all of you for your supportiveness and your prayers during these two years of my appointment as superintendent. The work is challenging and demanding, but the greatest joy I

have is being able to walk the journey with the dedicated clergy and committed laity within the various congregations and agencies of the Pittsburgh.

Thanks for your continued partnership.

Love,

*Don*