



Greetings from Rev. Chip Bennett

Southern District Area Superintendent Starting July 1

Friends it is with equal parts excitement and trepidation that I introduce myself to you as the incoming Southern District Superintendent.

I am a native of Buckhannon, WV. I hold a degree in Organizational Leadership from Mountain State University and a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary. I am in my 8th year serving Bellemead United Methodist Church in Point Pleasant. For the past 21 years I have also served in the Army Reserve and the West Virginia Army National Guard and am currently the Chaplain for the 1092nd Engineer Battalion. My wife Karyn and I have been married for almost 13 years and we have three children Gabby (10), Evelyn (7), and Ira (5).

I never envisioned myself as a United Methodist pastor, let alone a District Superintendent. Apart from the leading of God I credit Karyn with placing me on the path I am on now. I lovingly say she came from a fully indoctrinated United Methodist family! Her dad is a retired United Methodist Pastor, her uncle is a retired United Methodist Pastor, her grandfather was a United Methodist pastor, her cousin married a United Methodist pastor, and she was working as the youth and children's director for a United Methodist church when we began dating. Fully indoctrinated.

My call has always been to minister to and with the people of West Virginia. While there was a time in my life when I entertained serving elsewhere, I came to realize God had called me to this place. I believe whole heartedly there is no better organization in the state of West Virginia poised to have a positive impact on our state than The United Methodist Church. For good or ill we seem to have a church in every holler and street corner!

My vision is for churches to work together, sharing ministries and resources to reach our communities for Christ! I have been incredibly encouraged and invigorated to learn of the ways this vision is already being fulfilled in the Southern District. I look forward to working together to continue and advance these sorts of collaborative ministries in our district.

My prayers are with you all and I and my family covet your prayers.

Grace upon grace,
Chip Bennett