

A Graced Season, A Continuing Call:

Since the season of Advent we have been walking together through a simple but profound question: What comes next? We celebrated the birth of the Christ Child, walked thru the grey of Lent, then rejoiced in the resurrection. Throughout it all we reminded ourselves that Easter is not the end of the story. The risen Christ continues His work through His church as we live between the resurrection and the return. That truth has not only shaped our preaching—it has shaped my own life in ways I could not have fully seen at the time. Looking back, I can now recognize how God has been at work across many years. What often felt like separate chapters—different appointments, relationships, and opportunities—were in fact part of a larger story that God was patiently unfolding. At several key moments, I sensed God leading without providing a full explanation. There was not always a detailed plan, but there was always enough clarity to take the next step. As we have said together in recent weeks: We may not know the plan, but we do know the Commander's intent.

At one point as I began my flight home from Kenya I heard the Lord say, "Stop, you're going the wrong way—return to the children," and that moment helped bring clarity to what had been unfolding for years. God has revealed where His story is going—toward restoration, renewal, and the making of all things new. He has made clear our role within that story—to love our neighbors and to make disciples of Jesus Christ. The details, however, are often revealed one step at a time. That has certainly been true in my own journey. What began years ago as a quiet sense of calling has, over time, become something clearer. Through relationships, experiences, and moments of unexpected clarity, God has led me to a point where the next step is now before me. In the months ahead, I will be devoting more time to the work of Purposefully Made Ministries in Kenya, while continuing to serve as Presiding Elder of the Grenada District. When I am not in Kenya, I look forward to being among the churches of the district—including Moore Memorial – encouraging pastors, strengthening congregations, and continuing the shared work of building the Global Methodist Church across Mississippi and West Tennessee. So while this marks a transition, it is not an ending.

The mission of God continues. The work of Moore Memorial continues. And the same Spirit who has guided us thus far will continue to lead in the days ahead. As I write, my successor has yet to be identified. That should not give any of us reason to doubt or worry about the future. God has the next pastor for us and all will be revealed in due time. In the Global Methodist Church pastors are appointed by the Bishop, with their tenure ending only when the Bishop says so. Until then I'm still your pastor. Cathy and I have been privileged to serve alongside you and rejoice in all the days we shared together. We are both deeply grateful for the ways we have worshiped, prayed, and labored together in the name of Christ, and for

the love and generosity you have shown to us. This congregation has been—and will continue to be—a place near and dear to our hearts as a place where the gospel is proclaimed and lived out in faithful ways. My prayer for you is simple: That you will continue to trust God’s leading, even when you do not see the full path ahead. That you will remain faithful in the place where He has called you. And that you will continue to bear witness to Jesus Christ in this community. Because the truth we have proclaimed together remains true: Christ has risen. Christ reigns. Christ will come again. And until that day, we live faithfully where He has placed us.

Grace and peace,

Brother Neville