

**March 31, 2023**

**Dear Friends,**

**In late August of 2022, we had the privilege of welcoming Rev. Dan Jackson to our congregation to serve as our interim lead pastor. We've known since Dan's introduction that there was another transition on the horizon and preparations for a permanent pastor have now come to fruition. In meeting with the District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Tim Bias, the Leadership Team here at Purple Door set high expectations for the quality of person and pastor required to lead this church. As always, God provides.**

**It is our pleasure to introduce Rev. Dr. Brian Jones as the next Lead Pastor of Grove City United Methodist Church, beginning July 1, 2023. Rev. Dr. Jones is a well-respected and proven leader and has been ordained in the United Methodist Church since 1988. Rev. Dr. Jones comes to us from Lancaster First United Methodist Church, where he has served for the past eight years.**



**Brian received his undergraduate degree from Asbury University, as well as graduating from Asbury Seminary. He holds a Doctorate in Biblical Preaching, also from Asbury Theological Seminary. He has served churches throughout the West Ohio Conference. Before moving to Lancaster, Brian served as the Associate Minister at Trinity United Methodist Church in Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff/Upper Arlington area of Columbus.**

**An avid Reds, Bengals and Buckeye football fan, Dr. Jones' Kentucky roots emerge in his love for UK basketball. In his spare time, he practices and teaches several disciplines of Martial Arts, something he has pursued**

from a young age. Most importantly, Dr. Jones has been married to his wife, Kelly, for 33 years. They have three children and four grandchildren.

In our first meeting with Rev. Dr. Jones and Kelly, the Leadership Team was struck by the connections he already shares with our church. Rev. Dr. Jones advised that he has known previous lead pastors Rev. Dennis and Sue Mohler and Rev. Dennis and Rachel Miller, for decades. He mentioned that he was on the District Committee on Ministry interview team for both of our local pastors, Brandi Blackstone and Lizzy Ortiz-Alatorre. To top it off - this isn't even the first time he has been the immediate successor to Pastor Dan! We are excited about Brian leading us into whatever God has planned for us. We look forward to welcoming the Jones family into the Purple Door family.

During this time of transition, please remain in prayer for Brian, Kelly, their family, and our church.

Yours in Christ,  
The GCUMC Leadership Team