

Questions for Pastor Molly

We will move to expand our connection to the community by sharing Christ's love in very practical ways - through our Food Bank, by supporting Red Bug Lake Elementary, the school supply ministry, VBS, etc. We are already taking steps to provide weekend backpack meals for Red Bug Lake's neediest students. It is important for everyone to be involved in Bible study, and we already have a large percentage of our congregation participating in Disciple, Sunday school, and other small group studies during the week. Increasing our worship attendance is a goal that everyone in our congregation can help with. Of course, we need to continue tackling our financial challenges and provide staff leadership to grow our children's ministry.

You have a reputation at your former churches as a very compassionate and caring pastor. Share your philosophy about this. I was blessed to receive God's healing grace. I experienced his love as it healed my family. Now, I am privileged to help other people and families experience this same healing grace.

What has surprised you about TUMC? I have been overwhelmed by the number of people who want to invest in what God has planned for this church. There are so many who want to help this congregation flourish, grow and move forward. As we do, I won't be surprised to see many more join us!

You're already working on your first charge conference at TUMC which will be held on November 15th? For those who don't know, what is the charge conference and why is it so important?

The charge conference is the basic governing body of each United Methodist local church. The charge conference directs the work of the church and gives general oversight to the church council, reviews and evaluates the mission and ministry of the church, sets the salary for the pastor, and elects the members of the church council and committees.

How do you plan to develop and grow TUMC leadership in the coming year? In early January 2012, we will have a leadership training open to all who lead or serve on committees to further develop their skills. Our district offers training events several times during the year, and we will be participating in those.

Your first month here was certainly a challenging one with the mission trip, the Fellowship Hall and other issues coming up literally as you walked in the door. Did you learn anything about the church and the congregation that first month? I was most impressed by the willingness of everyone to step up and help; there is a real "can do" spirit at TUMC. Yes, there have been challenges, but our leadership has dealt with each item head-on, always seeking a positive resolution, and then they worked together to handle the issues.