



Simsbury United Methodist Church
2016 - 2017 Charge Conference Report
Monday, December 5, 2016, 7:30 pm

Retired Clergy

By Dennis R. Winkleblack

Retired Clergy Report to the Charge Conference

I am blessed to have had several opportunities to serve our church as a retired clergy member of the New York Annual Conference. Having relinquished my responsibilities with Trinity Episcopal Church in Hartford, I'm free to say "yes" more often these days. That said, on Sundays I'm usually with Jeanne attending another Episcopal church, St. John's in West Hartford, where she's a member.

An experimental, "let's see who comes" Tuesday morning study aimed at seniors has become an entrenched offering in the lineup of adult faith formation classes. In our studies of four books so far we've worked the "aging well" angle to exhaustion. But no matter what book we study we're still interested in helping each other grow older with wisdom and grace with a focus on loving as we've been loved. Tuesday mornings from 10:30 to noon are a rich fellowship with enough turnover of participants so no one feels an outsider. Whatever your age, come check us out — your life will be richer for it.

We are blessed with outstanding clergy leadership in Woody and Peter, and I enjoy the chances to preach and lead worship as the need arises — and leave the tough stuff to them.

At the Conference level, I continue as a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry and serve on its Conference Relations sub-committee. A new responsibility has come my way as a member in a group charged to interpret to the Board the workings and results of the denomination's study committee on "the way forward." This bishop-led group aims to help the Church reconcile issues that separate us — notably the inclusion of LGBT clergy. I'm also part of the faculty for the Local Pastors Licensing School teaching leadership and administration in a "boot camp" experience for those soon to lead congregations.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis R. Winkleblack

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Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Retired Clergy

By Phillip Schnell

Retired Clergy Report to the Charge Conference

This year I have been taking part in the Tuesday Morning discussion group lead by Dennis Winkelback. I have also had many visits by Woody and Peter, as well as other members of the church. Also, I have received a Prayer Blanket, a knitted cross and many books. This is a very caring church and I am happy that Anne and I as well as my family are a vital part of its ministry.

Grace and peace

Phillip Schnell