



SEA- TAC MISSION FIELD
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE



Derek Nakano
SUPERINTENDENT

Cedrick D. Bridgeforth
RESIDENT BISHOP, GREATER NW AREA

Erin Tombaugh
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

January 28, 2024

Dear members and friends of First United Methodist Church of Seattle. Grace to you and peace in the name of the One whom we love and serve.

I am writing today to share with you that Bishop Cedrick D. Bridgeforth intends to appoint your Pastor, the Rev. Jeremy Smith, to be the Pastor of Edmonds United Methodist Church, in Edmonds, Washington, effective July 1, 2024.

I know this comes as unexpected news, and the Bishop and Cabinet have deep compassion for all that you are and will be feeling, now and in the days to come, as you consider what this announcement means for you individually, and for your congregation and community.

But I pray that you will be reassured as you remember that it was this United Methodist appointive process that brought Pastor Jeremy and Chelsea to serve you and this mission field seven years ago; is the same process that calls them now to serve and bless this new congregation and mission field at Edmonds UMC; and, it is this same process that is now actively working on your behalf to bring a new pastor to serve you here at First UMC of Seattle.

Please know that your Bishop and Cabinet have already begun to carefully and prayerfully discern together, and will soon lift up a pastoral leader whom we believe will effectively and faithfully lead this Church, and extend its historic legacy of ministry. We place our trust and belief that God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, is active and working in this system of appointment making, just as we do in all of the challenges, changes and transitions we face in our lives.

As you move through the rest of this appointment year, and as you near their time of leave-taking, please keep Pastor Jeremy and Chelsea and their children in your prayers; and please, offer your deepest gratitude and thanksgiving to God, and to Pastor Jeremy, Chelsea and family, for their faithful service to First United Methodist Church of Seattle over their years of ministry and fellowship with you all.

We will be in prayer for you and ask that you keep Bishop Cedrick and the Cabinet in your prayers as well.

Rev. Derek Nakano
SeaTac Missional District Superintendent