

Greetings Canton First UMC Family,

Sunday, September 26, 2021, marked a new chapter in the life of our church. Our District Superintendent, Rev. John Pinson, worshiped with us and lead a Church Conference after the 11:00 Service to consider a motion from the Administrative Board to adopt a new model of governance for our church. The “Governing Board” will consolidate the administrative duties of the Admin Board, Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee and Trustees, allowing us to make administrative decisions in a more timely and mission-focused way. After two years of study and research, along with listening sessions for our congregation to learn more, I am pleased to announce that the motion was approved after a vote by the church members present.

I am excited about this and hope you will be also! By consolidating the administrative duties, more people will be freed up to serve directly in the mission and ministry of our church. Some people will also serve on short-term task force teams as needed. This is part of the reason WHY the change was made.

There are still some questions about HOW this will work. We recognize that while we have very well-prepared guidelines in place, we will need to adapt and adjust as we implement this new model. Some questions can be answered by reading about this change on the church website at the following link: <https://www.cantonfirstumc.org/transitioning-to-a-single-board-model/>

If you have any questions, please ask. Pastor Kenny, Pastor Kelly, and I welcome the opportunity for an open minded and loving discussion with anyone who wants to better understand why we are making this change.

*Romans 12:1-2 calls us, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

I pray you see this change for the intended purpose – that our church is not following the same patterns of this world rather we are constantly adapting to better serve God and His world!

May God bless you and keep you all.

Rand Bagwell, Administrative Board Chair