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Dear Munsey Church Family,

As a Munsey member and your Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair (SPRC), I am proud to be a part of the 150-year history that has helped shape this community and the lives that have walked through our doors. I am confident that Munsey will continue to be a positive light for our community as we continue the journey through the next 150 years.

This year is a year of transition into that next 150 years at Munsey. These past months have been busy times for your Staff Parish Relations Committee as we have worked with our Clergy, District Superintendent, Cabinet and Bishop Taylor through the appointment process. This process started in March with SPRC recommendations on criteria and qualities that would best serve Munsey at this time. Countless hours were spent in conversation and prayer through this process including time spent meeting with our District Superintendent and Bishop Taylor on multiple occasions.

Though your Munsey Lay Leadership had hoped for a long-term appointment that would be the right fit for Munsey and our congregation and would lead us into this next phase of growth and renewal, the right fit was not available during this appointment process. Because of this, an interim appointment was necessary. An interim appointment will enable Munsey to continue the mission of our church while also preparing us for our next appointment.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee, Lay Leadership Chairs and Lay Leaders would like to announce and welcome the Rev. Dr. Douglas R. Fairbanks, Jr. as our projected Interim Pastor to Munsey UMC for the 2021 appointment year starting June 27th, 2021. Rev. Fairbanks served 48 years of pastoral ministry to the United Methodist Church before his retirement in July of 2018. Since retirement, Rev. Fairbanks has served in several interim pastoral positions. Doug and his wife Carolyn have been married for 54 years and reside in Abingdon, VA.

As with most everything this past year, this appointment process was not “business as usual”. Munsey SPRC and Lay Leadership Chairs are grateful for the significant amount of time and consideration that the Holston Conference Cabinet and Bishop Taylor have given our church. We have all undertaken this process with the best interest of Munsey at the forefront of our minds. Financial stability is one of the ways your Munsey Lay Leadership is showing that best interest. We are grateful to the Holston Conference and Bishop Taylor for partnering with Munsey Church to pay the salary for this interim position being filled by Rev. Fairbanks. This is just one of the many ways Munsey and Holston Conference have worked together through this process.

On a personal note, as your SPRC Chair, I am excited to continue to work for the mission of the United Methodist Church, 'to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world', as we continue to experience the leadership and care of Michael Lester, Doug Grove-DeJarnett, and now add that of Doug Fairbanks. I am committed to making Munsey UMC the best it can be and am excited to be doing that together with you.

Grace and peace,



Jeff Clements
SPRC Chairperson

Signed with support from:

Mark Kinser - SPRC Member
Janie Dosser - SPRC Member
Boyce Berry - SPRC Member / Lay Leader
Butch Fortune - SPRC Member
Lynda Wexler - SPRC Member
Sandra Shumaker - SPRC Member
Jennifer Hale - SPRC Member
Lauri Hale - SPRC Member
Cooper Reaves - SPRC Member
Beth Anderson - SPRC Member
Tricia Nguyen - Lay Leader
Rick Chinouth - Church Council Chair
Trish Patterson - Church Council Vice-Chair
Jeff Anderson - Finance Committee Chair
Eddie Lauderback - Trustees Committee Chair