

A message from Bishop Ough on returning to the Dakotas-Minnesota Area

Char and I are delighted to be re-assigned to the Dakotas-Minnesota Area.

Our hearts are in the Area and it brings us great joy to be able to follow our hearts.

We have accomplished much in the last four years together. The list is too long to recite. The faithfulness, courage to innovate and generosity of United Methodists in Minnesota and the Dakotas has clearly set us on a path to vitality in our witness and missional impact. Everywhere I am privileged to travel in the Area I see God working through you and your churches to change lives and bring hope to our communities and the world.

Now I look forward to the next four years together. There is still much to be done as we seek to increase the number of congregations – current and yet to be planted – that are growing in their love of God, reaching and making new disciples and healing a broken world.

The events of the last few weeks – events of violence in the streets of our cities and the violence in France and Turkey – point to the profound need for all of us to continue to offer Christ and Christ's peace to a world in turmoil.

I am grateful God has given us – the United Methodist in Minnesota and the Dakotas – all the gifts we need to fully live into God's vision of the reign of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Thank you for all your prayers and support, especially as I seek to also lead our entire beloved Church through these challenging, but truly hopeful times. Be assured of my continuing prayers, as well, for the clergy, lay leadership and each of our congregations. There is a bright future ahead of us, because as John Wesley said, "the best part is that God is with us."