



March 29, 2020

Bob Duncan, SPRC Chairperson  
Tulare UMC, 228 W. Kern Ave., Tulare, CA 93274

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Tulare United Methodist Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My thoughts and prayers are with you especially as we worship this day continuing our “shelter in place” protocol in support of keeping our communities healthy. I trust that you are finding ways to socialize at a distance and stay faithful in your spiritual practices. It is with great joy that I inform you that, after much prayer and consultation, it is Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño’s intent to appoint the Reverend Doctor Allison Byerley to serve as your Senior Pastor effective July 1, 2020.

Pastor Allison recently transferred to our conference from the Texas Conference where she served five different parishes as both Associate and Senior Pastor. She currently serves the Mariposa UMC and has led them in community responses to two large forest fires, revitalization of their stewardship and financial health, vital worship and discipleship including welcoming new families, and ministry with their homeless neighbors. Pastor Allison is a trained leader with Stephen Ministry and has significant experience with youth ministry. She is an excellent preacher and administrator and has good communication experience with websites and social media.

She earned a Masters of Divinity from the Perkins School of Theology and a Doctor of Ministry from the Virginia Theological Seminary. The members of your Staff-Parish Relations Committee have a copy of her resume and can share with you other aspects of her career. Pastor Allison is single and has no children but she is a lover of animals and will arrive with a couple of dogs and cats.

Pastor Mary and Pastor Allison will work together with your lay leadership for a smooth and effective leadership transition. On behalf of Bishop Carcaño, I thank you for the great insights and prayers your Pastor and Staff-Parish Relations Committee have offered throughout this process and I anticipate even greater things from your congregation as we journey onward.

Finally, I ask for your prayers during this important time of transition for Pastor Allison. I trust that you will welcome her warmly. Please continue to pray for Pastor Mary and her children as they prepare for their move. Please also pray for own congregation especially in this time of disorientation. May God lead us in developing new skills and discovering new ways to be The Church!

Walking with you as we follow Jesus,

Rev. Debra L. Brady  
Central Valley District Superintendent