

Sermon Title: **“My Reappointment”**

Bible: **Luke 10:1-11. 16-20**

When: on Sunday, July 3rd, 2022

Where: about 30 people (plus YouTube streaming viewers) at Gilroy UMC

Opening Prayer

Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, our Rock, and our Redeemer. Amen.

1. This is a Day of New Beginnings!

Happy New Year! For the United Methodist Church, July 1st is really the start of a new year! And today is the first Sunday of this new year! The following is from the United Methodist Hymnal #383.

This is a day of new beginnings.

Time to remember and move on,

Time to believe

what love is bringing,

laying to rest the pain that's gone.

I am back for another year! It is good news to me. I hope that it is good news to you and this church as well.

2. Seventy and Us

Today's Gospel Reading of Luke from the lectionary reminds us of our church and our

United Methodist Church's appointment system. When Jesus sent his disciples out, Jesus told them that he was sending them out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Even though there is no persecution today like in our early Christianity history, we are like lambs among wolves. When my Facebook account was hacked, I just thought it was unlucky. But there was a fake Instagram account made to pretend to be me. I do have my Facebook account, but I do not have an account for Instagram. Someone who pretended to be me sent some messages to our church members. Then, I realized that we are the lambs in the midst of wolves. Yes, we are the lambs, and we are the disciples of Jesus Christ. I believe that's why the fake Instagram account was there, because we are not only compassionate, but also generous. It is kind of annoying to change the password, and to let others know that my account was hacked, and that there was someone who pretended to be me with a fake account. But it is kind of joyful, because wolves confirm that we are the lambs, and we are the disciples of Jesus Christ. Be careful of fake or spam messages! Let us be smart disciples of Jesus Christ!

I am not sure if you like our appointment system. United Methodist pastors are sent, or appointed to each local church every year. Some pastors are reappointed to the same church. Some pastors are appointed to a new church. Sometimes, the church receives a new pastor. Sometimes, the church receives the "old" pastor again and again. Now how old am I as your pastor? (5 years old!) Is my reappointment a good match? Or is it challenging or joyful? When Jesus sent the seventy, he told them not to bring a purse, a bag, and sandals. He told them to stay in peoples' homes, and try to remain in the same homes. That's because Jesus

wanted the seventy disciples to rely on the Lord only. That's because Jesus expected people to welcome, accept, and feed the seventy. Then, where there was the Kingdom of God, there was peace, healing, and even exorcism.

Unlike the seventy, I have a purse, a bag, and I have more than one shoe. When our church members are sick, I remember them in my prayers and thoughts. I try to visit them. Many times, like the disciples and the seventy, I would like to have the power to cure the sick. But unfortunately, I cannot cure sickness. I know and believe in the power of exorcism, but I do not have that power. Can I still be your pastor for another year?

I still remember my first appointment as a local pastor. When I was officially appointed, when I was sent for the first time, I could not stop my crying. Usually, it was a time of celebrating and blessing. But to me, it was the time of crying and promise. Even though I have the purse, the bags, and many shoes, I was desperate for the Lord only. I still have that mindset.

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere Lord anytime.

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere Lord anytime.

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere Lord anytime.

And thankfully, the church welcomes and accepts me as a pastor. And I think that it is still a good match so far. That's why I am reappointed, and I am back to serve you and this church at least for another year.

3. Happy New Year from Interim Bishop Sally Dyck

I would like to share a paragraph of the “Happy New Year Message” from our interim Bishop Sally Dyck.

“If it is a continuing relationship between clergy and a congregation, clergy may need to spend some time meditating, rethinking and potentially resetting priorities to match what is needed now in order to help the congregation grow, heal, flourish, and be faithful. **What’s one thing that needs to be done differently in order to help the ministry of the church flourish?** Again, spend some time listening. And laity: how can you be a better support for the success of your pastor? More encouragement? Better feedback? A little TLC?”

First of all, what is TLC? It is good, right?

Second, what is one thing that needs to be done differently? One thing that helps us to grow, heal, flourish, and be faithful? Can you pray for this and for me? Actually, can WE pray for this together? In other Gospels, Jesus sent only twelve disciples. But in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus sent seventy, or seventy-two in other translations. This seventy number implies that Jesus sent all his disciples. Maybe, I am the only one who is appointed to this church officially. But I believe and I know that God sent you to this church. God appointed you to this church.

In our book of discipline, paragraph 220, it says the following:

¶ 220. All members of Christ's universal church are called to share in the ministry which is committed to the whole church of Jesus Christ. Therefore, each member of The United Methodist Church is to be a servant of Christ on mission in the local and

worldwide community. This servanthood is performed in family life, daily work, recreation and social activities, responsible citizenship, the stewardship of property and accumulated resources, the issues of corporate life, and all attitudes toward other persons. Participation in disciplined groups is an expected part of personal mission involvement. Each member is called upon to be a witness for Christ in the world, a light and leaven in society, and a reconciler in a culture of conflict. Each member is to identify with the agony and suffering of the world and to radiate and exemplify the Christ of hope. The standards of attitude and conduct set forth in the Social Principles (Part III) shall be considered as an essential resource for guiding each member of the Church in being a servant of Christ on mission.

We are all called. We are all sent. As disciples of Jesus Christ, let us serve each other and this community together!

Let me close with the last verse of the United Methodist Hymn #383.

Christ is alive, and goes before us
To show and share what love can do
This is a day of new beginnings;
Our God is making all things new. Amen.