



Commitment for Leading Together: An Installation Service

February 17, 2011

Leader: Our passage from Ephesians 4, Paul reminds us in practical ways about God's call, our unity of faith, and God's gracious gifts that create a community that works together: ". . . from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." If you are ready to be a part of this "leading-together" community, please join with me in this act of commitment.

Too often leadership is about "moving up." Let us be more about "moving out" into our whole community. Too often leadership is about position. Let us be about relationship. Too often our leadership is in places of familiar comfort. Let us connect across differences to the farthest edges of the circle.

All: Let us lead together to create this community "promoting the body's growth in building itself up in love."

Leader: To lead in this community asks us to look at our own selves and our identity-related power. To lead together in this community asks us to reach across boundaries, to know when to stand up and when to step back.

All: Let us create this community "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love."

Leader: To lead in such a community asks us to listen fully, to hear one another's stories, to respect one another's identities and value our differences. To lead in this community asks us to build upon all our gifts. This diversity of gifts offers new insights, boosts our creativity, imagines new dreams and creates a renewed community.

All: Let us create this community knowing that doesn't mean that all should "look and speak and act the same," as "each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift."

Leader: We are bound symbolically together by this ribbon weaving among us [or in reaching out and across to each other]. Let us make "every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, on Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God of us all, who is above all and through all and in all."

Newly elected leaders: Knowing we are strengthened by this community bound together in Oneness, we commit ourselves to the office to which we have been called. We commit ourselves to the responsibilities that we have received. We commit ourselves to the community that we will become.

All: Our commitment: “joined and knit together, by every ligament with which [the body] is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself in love.”

Closing Prayer

[Offer a prayer of blessing for the newly elected leaders to be a “leading-together” community.]

Installation Service: Using 2010 United Methodist Women's Program Book, *Let's Get Together*.