

**CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
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April 19, 2015

Staff-Parish Relations Committee and Members:  
Pioneer Memorial, Big Pine and Bishop United Methodist Churches

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am writing to inform you that after much prayer, it is Bishop Minerva Carcaño's intent to appoint Reverend Erin Maddox McPhee and Matt McPhee to serve as your Co-Pastors, effective July 1, 2015,

Erin and Matt McPhee are not unknown entities to your community of faith. They have served among you in various capacities for several years and we trust their relational integrity with you and pastoral leadership among you will serve them and you very well as you launch more deeply into a shared ministry (cooperative parish) configuration. You have already affirmed their gifts for ministry and have embraced them as your pastors, so the hard work ahead is really about how to live into a church life with three distinct congregations with 2 uniquely gifted clergy.

You are receiving this announcement today so that when we meet at 5:30pm on Monday, May 18, 2015, to discuss more fully the shared ministry plan, you will be well-aware of who will be among you as your pastors. At that meeting the incoming North District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Powell, will also be present since he will be a guiding presence for all of you in this next phase of development and adjustment. I am grateful for the work you have done thus far and will look on with great anticipation for how God will work in you in the near future.

As Pastor Kathleen makes her transition to serve the Lompoc UMC, and as you welcome Pastor Erin and Pastor Matt as Co-Pastors, I will work with you and your Pastors to ensure a smooth and seamless transition that will benefit the ministries of all three United Methodist Churches along the Eastern Sierras.

Grace and peace,

[Hard copy available via USPS]

The Rev. Dr. Cedrick Bridgeforth  
North District Superintendent

Cc: Rev. Jim Powell