



## *First United Methodist Church of Franklin Park*

September 2, 2010

A Pastoral Letter to the Members and Friends of the  
First United Methodist Church of Franklin Park

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We have been together as pastor and congregation now for four years, and this summer the Bishop returned me to this congregation as pastor for another year. In that time, we have shared together in hundreds of worship services, dozens of funerals, and a number of confirmations, weddings, and baptisms, too. We have bid farewell to members and friends who have relocated, and we have welcomed new members into our fellowship. We have shared prayers in hospitals. We have worked together on Vacation Bible School and at potluck dinners. We have wrestled with difficult decisions, and we have worked side by side. I feel honored to have served alongside you, and proud of much of what we have accomplished.

This summer, we wrestled together at our Special Church Conference with a difficult decision about appropriating funds from our financial investments, shifting our focus and investing them in the next few years in ministry in our community and congregation. With additional funds, we could expand programming with children and youth, with families and seniors. With a few more dollars, we could replace a worn-out roof on the Fellowship Hall and catch up on some deferred maintenance in our building. At that Special Church Conference, the members present voted to reserve those endowed funds, appropriating just \$50,000 – only what was needed to take care of immediate maintenance needs of about \$5,000 and budget deficits from the last couple of years totaling about \$42,000. The congregation gathered that night voted, and we move on.

Our church's mission remains the same: "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Our mission comes from Jesus' teachings, and it is the same, regardless of the financial resources we choose to use to accomplish it. This is our calling as a congregation and the calling of each person who claims the title "Christian".

So this fall, we are going to move forward in that mission as a congregation! We can do no other! As you can see from the September newsletter, our Nurture/Outreach/Witness committee members have planned two outreach events – opportunities for you to reach out to friends or neighbors and fulfill the call to make disciples. More events of this kind are in the works.

This is your invitation to move forward on this amazing journey together! This is your invitation to renew your commitment as part of this congregation to be the disciple-making, world-transforming partners God needs in our communities! I am committed as your pastor, called by God and appointed by our Bishop to lead on the journey in this place. We're moving on! Will you come along?

Warmly,

Rev. Denise Janssen, Pastor

***9857 Schiller Boulevard Franklin Park, Illinois 60131  
phone 847.455.5858 fax 847.455.3950 [www.franklinparkumc.org](http://www.franklinparkumc.org)***