



The United Methodist Church
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October 2012

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Following a recent discussion with the appointive cabinet and further conversations with colleagues in other annual conferences as well as members of our own Emmaus community I'm writing to clarify my policy on granting local pastors the authority to preside over Holy Communion at Emmaus or Chrysalis gatherings.

It is preferable that elders preside over Holy Communion at Emmaus or Chrysalis gatherings. Every effort should be made to encourage and enlist elders to participate in this ministry. This honors the ordering of The United Methodist Church as described in the Book of Discipline. The intent of the legislation for permission for local pastors to have sacramental authority beyond the bounds of their appointments was to provide for sacraments in geographical areas in which elders are not present and available to preside. An example of this would be one of our missionary conferences where there are few elders.

It is my strong hope that in the North Carolina Annual Conference elders would be engaged in Emmaus in such a way that they would be present to preside at table. However, when the effort has been made and an elder cannot be secured for an Emmaus or Chrysalis weekend, we will follow the guidelines developed by the Upper Room.

These guidelines allow for local pastors to preside over Holy Communion at an Emmaus gathering with the written permission of the bishop. This letter of authorization must be on file with the local Community Spiritual Director, and the Emmaus/Chrysalis International Office prior to serving as the Weekend Spiritual Director. Please contact my Administrative Assistant, Becky Biegger at beckybiegger@nccumc.org to secure such permission.

I trust this letter clarifies our preference while also allowing for some exceptions. Thank you to all who contributed to the discussion.

Yours in Christ,

Hope Morgan Ward