

EASTERTIDE DISTRICT DAYS

WALKING THE JOURNEY TOGETHER

“Jesus was talking to us on the road” (Luke 24:32)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

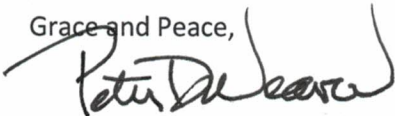
JOURNEY is a theme throughout Scripture from Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem, and all the way to Jesus walking with the disciples to Emmaus after Easter. Our United Methodist Church around the world has been on a “Way Forward” journey from the 2016 General Conference through the 2019 Special General Conference in February. Another step along the way will come at the end of April with the decisions that our Judicial Council (Supreme Court) will make concerning the legislation that was passed at the 2019 General Conference. This may have important significance for your local church and our Virginia Conference.

Jesus most often journeyed in the company of others. Even in our context, we can learn from each other and practice our Christian love for each other by journeying together. I am inviting you to join me in a District gathering (see the attached schedule) in May and early June so we may have conversation “on the road” together.

We will share in Communion, seek to care for one another, and look at the meaning of the Judicial Council decisions and their implications as your Bishop and Cabinet seek to follow the *Book of Discipline* which governs our church. Additional details about your district gathering will be available from your district office.

At the last Cabinet meeting, as we were “walking the journey together,” we sang those great hymn words, “Christ is alive and goes before us, to show and share what love can do...”. I believe it and look forward to walking the journey with you.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter DeLoach". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".