



Dear Providence members and friends,

We are nearing the fall, a season when regular activities often resume, and calendars grow full. Furthermore, as we slowly emerge from pandemic disruptions, we look with anticipation towards the fall with its activities and gatherings. Therefore, I would like to place two things on your calendars that I believe are important to our life and ministry together.

Installation Service for Pastor Dave in partnership with the Presbytery: Sunday, August 29th - 3:30 pm.

What is an installation service? It is the final step of calling a pastor, a step that has been delayed due to COVID. It is a service of the Presbytery that officially installs me as your called pastor of Providence. As with all installation of offices (elder, deacon, trustee), it happens in a service of worship, and it involves the promises and commitments of all, including the pastor, Presbytery, and congregation. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. An outdoor reception will follow in the side parking lot.

Reflecting on the Past, Looking towards the future. This will be a process that will begin with a **meal and conversation on Tuesday evening, August 31st at 6pm.** For this process, we will be drawing from a change management approach called Appreciative Inquiry.

The key principles of the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) approach are:

1. Moving into the future positively and reaching potential requires the buy-in, participation, and strengths of the whole organization. Whatever the potential is for Providence, it will take all of us working towards a common vision.
2. We build upon strengths. AI is interested in the positive core. Who is Providence at its core? At its best? And the way we get to those strengths is by telling stories. What are the moments that Providence was at its best? When is a moment you grew in faith at Providence or felt closest to God or felt most connected to God's work? We will begin reflecting on the past and telling such stories. We want to involve everybody in this.
3. Dreaming towards the future. With the strengths of Providence in view, what are your hopes and dreams for Providence? What is the unique ministry God might be calling Providence to?
4. Organizing around those strengths, hopes, and dreams. The idea is to operate out of strength and hope as much as possible, and to align our structures and processes in such a way.

The fruitfulness of this process depends upon your involvement. This will be an important opportunity for me to learn about Providence through your stories, and an opportunity for us to dream and organize around strength and possibility. The psalmist of Ps 133 writes, "How good and how beautiful it is when kindred dwell together as one." How do we work and minister "as one," working in cohesion, moving in a common calling, living out of strength and imagination?

Thank you for reading this letter, and I hope you will mark your calendar and join us for this event and please watch for other upcoming events and discussions. I look forward to getting to know each of you and Providence more through all of this.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dave