

Dear [Pastor's name here],

I greet you in the name and with the love of Jesus Christ. I am delighted to have appointed you to [put appointment here]. I look forward to seeing how your ministry will unfold as you work with the lay leadership in advancing the mission of Jesus Christ.

As I am currently serving in a Cross Racial/ Cross Cultural appointment and all of my previous appointments have been CR/CC, I am very familiar with many of the joys and stressors of such appointments. Throughout my clergy career, I have found that being in a clergy support group has helped me recognize and celebrate the God moments and manage the stress moments in my appointment. I am currently in two support groups - one that is exclusively clergy and one that is a mixture of laity and clergy. These groups have been a tremendous blessing to me and, I believe, have helped me to be a more faithful leader.

In addition, research has also shown that clergy serving in CR/CC appointments have a better sense of well-being when they have a supportive community surrounding them. A clergy support group can help to serve as that community.

Therefore, I am inviting you to become a part of one of Western Pennsylvania's Clergy Community of Practice Groups. Because this is so important to me, I am giving you permission to contact me personally if you have any questions about clergy support groups or if you want to hear directly from me about my experiences with such groups. You may call my office at (724) 776-1499 and have my Administrative Assistant, Tina Wilson, set a time for us to meet either via phone, ZOOM, or in person. You also might want to talk with the Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Dr. Reneé Mikell, who has led Clergy Community of Practice Groups for several years.

Please contact the Coordinator of Clergy and Lay Excellence as soon as possible in order to join a Clergy Community of Practice Group.

Again, I am very excited about your appointment. I pray that you will find it to be a blessing.

Peace and blessings,
Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi