

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It is with great joy that I greet you and offer this information to you for the edification of your journey with your new pastor. Please know that through this exciting time, I am always available to you to answer questions and meet with you at any time. In the meantime, here are some activities that have been planned for your congregation with our Lord and Savior leading us all the way.

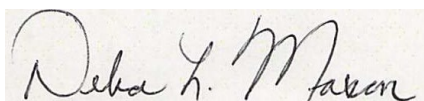
First, we have prepared a spiritual preparation format for the church. This preparation time is filled with guidance for prayers, devotions, and other resources that I am sure you will find helpful. Your District Superintendent will share this wonderful tool with you.

Second, there will be an information session held with your new pastor, the District Superintendent, and myself-your Diversity Development and Inclusion Coordinator. We call this session ‘Onboarding’. It is a time to get to know your new pastor better and understand the support that the conference center will provide for you on an ongoing basis.

Third, the congregation will have the wonderful opportunity to explore the glory of God through God’s creation. This will be done through several discussion sessions that are not often mentioned in church. Those topics are multicultural differences, implicit bias, microaggressions, and reconciliation. These discussions will be arranged for the church through your church leadership and will begin in the September-October timeframe.

Wow! That might sound like a lot, but the conference center and I will be walking right alongside of you. I look forward to meeting you real soon.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra L. Mason". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Rev. Debra L. Mason
Diversity Development and Inclusion Coordinator