

Dear Lillian UMC family,

I do not use the term "family" flippantly or lightly. Because we have been reconciled to God, through faith in Jesus Christ, we are now children of God by adoption (Romans 8). As such, we are literally brothers and sisters in Christ. We are family.

It is my continued privilege to serve as Lay Leader for our Lillian family. I am constantly encouraged by your willingness and faithfulness to address and respond to any need, whether in our church or in the community. From Bright Bridge to local food pantries, to classroom supplies for special needs kids, to driving someone to an appointment, to assisting a total stranger in the church parking lot. When our family sees a need, our family takes care of the need.

I am further encouraged when I observe that our family refuses to allow one's age to dictate one's service. God has indeed blessed our family with many who possess the maturity of the aged, but retain the vitality of the youthful. It is a wonder to behold.

Those with skill, talent, experience and financial means have time and time again proved their hearts are "knit together in love," promoting an unbreakable bond of unity. Our skills are wide ranging. Our talents are numerous. Our experiences are meaningful. Our financial resources include some who are blessed of God and give generously out of their abundance. Others, not so well blessed, give out of their poverty. Yet, all give.

To our newer members, thank you for the way you have stepped up and given of yourself. Welcome to our local family. Brother and sisters sometimes quarrel, but at the end of the day, reconciliation and forgiveness must prevail. We are family.

In the words of Paul, "let us not grow weary of doing good....as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Gal 6: 9-10)

See you Sunday,

Perry Cunningham  
Lay Leader