March 10, 2023

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As you know, last night the Strahan UMC Administration Council and others met with our District Superintendent, Melissa Drake.  Melissa provided the group with some background on the place of division we find ourselves in The United Methodist Church and the issue at hand.

After a lengthy question and answer session, Melissa left and Dan Pollock called the special Administration Council meeting to order for the purpose of final discussion and voting on whether to take the matter of disaffiliation of the Strahan church from The United Methodist Church to the membership of the Strahan church for an official vote.  Taking into consideration the results of the straw poll votes and discussions, the majority vote of the Administration Council was that the matter of disaffiliation would not be taken to the membership for an official vote.  The result of this vote means that at this point in time, the Strahan church will remain in connection with the Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church.

As your pastor and aside from the “business” aspect of this matter, I commend you for the Christlike manner and the love that you have shown for one another throughout this process.  This was a very sensitive matter for all involved, and you have shown me and one another that all of you are truly God’s children.  But more importantly, God has seen you reflect the love and light of Christ in each of your hearts onto one another, and it is with that love and light we go forward as Christ’s church.

Many blessings,

Pastor Joni Hickey