



Dear Friends,

I want to lead Asbury in developing a healthy "young adult ministry." We are taking a two-pronged approach to Helping Others Follow Jesus, especially among those who are young adults.

Studies have shown that one of the most effective ways to reach new people for the gospel is by launching new churches. Our Conference and District Superintendent have strongly encouraged me over the past few years to lead Asbury in considering such an initiative. A new congregation (or satellite of an existing church) has a far greater chance of success if a mother church nurtures and supports it. I feel it is the right time for us now to **multiply** and **launch a SATELLITE CONGREGATION**. We have the capacity – through generous service and volunteers, administration, community leadership and an engaged desire for local mission. Our pastor, **Jon Odom**, feels this call.

Jon will remain on Asbury's pastoral staff but will launch a satellite congregation somewhere in "mid-town" Tulsa. I let our Trustees know that we are not buying new property for this initiative at this time. We are gaining approval and funding from our Conference and District. Asbury's primary financial contribution will be to provide Jon's salary as he focuses on reaching new people for Christ. We pray that many of the people he reaches will be young adults. This will be an extension of our mission to help others follow Jesus. Our partnership with Jon helps remove obstacles in this path as a satellite congregation is launched. Our target date is sometime in late 2017 or in early 2018.

We know: 1) We want to reach more people for Christ. 2) Creating a new congregation is one of the best strategies to do this. 3) We are confident of the person who feels called to lead this ministry. 4) Asbury has available funding for Jon's continued salary. 5) Both the District and Conference eagerly desire us to grow and have available resources.

We do not know: Where this satellite will be located, when it will officially launch or its ultimate cost. There's much more for us to figure out in this new opportunity to help new young adults follow Jesus in OUR Tulsa community.

The second prong of our "young adult strategy" is that Bishop Nunn has appointed **JAY HENDERSON** to help lead our effort on our current campus. (Jon Odom enthusiastically recommended Jay.) Jay's appointment will be focused upon developing our "young adult ministry." Jay is 33, and he and his wife, Jayme, have four children and Broken Arrow roots. He has worked with young adults in a UMC and is passionate about the Lord. He is graduating from Perkins School of Theology (SMU) while pastoring two small congregations in Texas. He will be commissioned as a Provisional Elder in Oklahoma in May. Jay serves as a chaplain in the Army National Guard and was a helicopter pilot during his earlier service.

I believe these two initiatives will empower us in "Helping Others Follow Jesus." We want to multiply our ministry to younger generations. I am VERY excited about this.

Finally, **JIM LENDERMAN** will be appointed to a new church in the Arkansas Annual Conference in June. Jim and Beth have been with us since 2008. These nine years have displayed his many gifts and his tremendous integrity. He has decided to return home. While saddened, they are leaving, we know they will bless the congregation they will serve. We will recognize and honor the Lendermans with a reception on Sunday, June 25.

We will share more information as it becomes available. Please pray for us as we continue our mission of "Helping Others Follow Jesus."

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom".