

REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE
**WORD, WATER
& WITNESS**
2019 MEMPHIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2019 Retiree Class Farewell Letters

Farewell letter from Drew Brewer:

"I am very grateful to have been able to serve the UMC these many years in both the Memphis and Tennessee Conferences. I am grateful for the mentorship of so many pastors who went before me, took me under their wings, and shared their experiences in pastoral ministry, and for my family, whose support, patience, and sacrifice has strengthened me constantly.

I am also grateful for the wonderful people of the 9 churches I served in these 35 years. I can truly say that I learned more from them than I taught and received much more than I gave. But most of all I am grateful to the good Lord who must have seen something in me that I could not see in myself, and who entrusted me, with all my faults and flaws, in sharing the Gospel. I hope to continue to serve my church in any way I am able during the years of my retirement from full-time ministry.

I will be living in Jackson, my "home town", in the same home which my grandfather built in 1922! I am reminded of a T.S. Eliot quote, from his play, "Little Gidding: "We shall not cease from exploration, and the end of all our exploring will be to return to the place from which we started and know it for the first time."

Thank you all for this blessed journey!

Drew Brewer

Retirement letter from Martha "Marti" S. Bunch

Thank you Katrina, Dave, Amy, Devon, Emma, Jacob, Claire and ALL my family --- Over the years, I have missed so many gatherings and holidays with you but you continued to encourage me with your prayers and your love. I consider you the greatest of gifts from our Heavenly Father and I give thanks for you every day.

My ministry began with the Tennessee Conference and there were so many who helped me to grow in the faith as well as in ministry. I am reluctant to name anyone but there are five that I must name. Rev. John Casey, you showed me what it means to be a pastor to the pastors and I am so thankful that you were my pastor during some rough roads. Reverends Jim Clardy, Ken Edwards, Allison Gilliam and Betsy Hall, you four were my mentors and encouragers as I sought out God's calling upon my life and helped me find the right path. I wish that I could name you all ---- clergy and laity ---- of the TN Conference who have and continue to have a major impact upon my life but there is not enough space.

Furthermore, Memphis Conference, you welcomed me into the fold and I will be forever thankful for the love and the encouragement that I received from so many of you. When I needed a helping hand, a voice of reason, an encourager, some guidance, or simply a companion to join me upon a section of life's path, you were the presence that I so needed. However, it was not just for the short term for you (clergy and laity) will continue to be with me (in my heart) as I move on to the next phase of my life.

Thank you ----- one and all ---- who have walked with me over the last 17 years of my life. You will continue to be in my thoughts, prayers and heart.

With Love,

Marti

Rev. Martha "Marti" S. Bunch

Refection's on Retirement

Rick C. Dye

June 2019

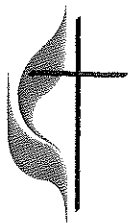
Bishop McAlilly and members of the Memphis Annual Conference, I have attempted to be a faithful member and minister of this conference for the past forty years. I have been actively preaching for over fifty years. It is time for a change!

I do want to thank all of the wonderful people who have touched my life. John Jones for helping me to see that I could find a place in the United Methodist Church. For Joe and Karen Geary who started a friendship at the Annual Conference at Whitehaven UMC in 1979. For Jerry Carr for giving me wise counsel and my first appointment at Pleasant Grove. For Earl Johnston who told me I should go to Vanderbilt. Paul Douglas and Martha Wagley for starting me on a wonderful 11-year appointment at Lone Oak. For Jerry Jeffords who helped me see a side of the church most people will never see. For colleagues on the Cabinet who shared their souls during trying times. For the wonderful church at Murray that not only put up with me once as an associate, but allowed me to come back and spend the last nine years of my ministry with them. For all of the colleagues in ministry that have walked beside me these many years!

Finally, I want to thank Vicki for standing beside me. Life has taught us some very deep and painful lessons. While our original life plans have drastically changed, we still feel blessed. We both realize that life really can't be planned, it can only be lived. We are committed to living the new life we have together as long and as deep as we can. Always remembering, while life is unfair, God is still good!

May God Bless You All & Goodbye!

Rick C. Dye, a brother in Christ!



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Memphis Conference Connectional Ministries

Dr. Joseph A. Geary, Director

Spring 2019

Beloved Memphis Conference Colleagues:

As I look back on my life as a pastor among you, my heart is full and I have many reasons to give thanks.

First, I want to thank God for God's gracious call and claim upon my life. God sought a relationship with me through Jesus the Christ and God's Spirit continues to pour God's love into and through me these many years. Following Jesus as a disciple is the adventure of a lifetime.

As a young adult convert to Christianity who was serving in the U.S. Army – I sought a church that brought together the warm heart and the trained mind – that was structured and believed in engaging the mission field. I felt led to a church that embraced education – at a higher level and a lifetime of continuous learning. After visiting congregations of various denominations, I discovered the best fit for me was the United Methodist Church. I have never regretted nor do I regret that decision now.

After military service, I returned to complete college at Murray State. I entered the ministerial process while a member of First United Methodist Church in Murray, Kentucky. From there I entered seminary at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. I want to thank the Memphis Annual Conference for taking a chance on an unknown young man who attended a state college and had no family ties or pedigree here. I gave the one life I had to live in itinerant ministry from Paducah to Memphis and invested my leadership and service here.

I deeply appreciate the people of the Columbus Circuit, Church Grove-Union Ridge, Bells First and Cypress, Arcadia, Concord, St. Paul, Paris First and Paris District and within the Memphis Conference serving as Director of Connectional Ministries for the privilege of serving you and for the grace you extended me. I give God thanks for each District Superintendent who mentored, encouraged and directed me toward greater fruitfulness in ministry.

Thank you Bishops Wills, Chamness and McAlilly for inviting me to serve on the appointive cabinet as District Superintendent and Dean. Your personal and professional investment in me helped me to be my best in service and witness.

Thank you Karen, Josh and LeeAnn, beloved family who shared me with the family of God. I give God thanks for your love, understanding and support.

Thank you Rick Dye, singular friend, confidante, confessor and guide. Everyone should have a mature and fun loving friend like you.

Now I fade away and back into that pantheon of so many who have served alongside and before me. As I do, I look forward the remaining adventures of ministry and mission, life and service, that God helps discern. Until that day, when like the gospel preacher of old, I find myself by the banks of the Jordan River and say, "here I am Lord, awaiting further orders."

Time, like a rolling stream, bears all who breathe away;

They fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.

With gratitude and anticipation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joe Geary". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the name.

Reverend James E Graham
Moscow/Williston Charge
186 East Graycrest Ave.
Collierville, TN. 38017

Dear Church,

Good byes are never easy. I'll start with offering thanks. Thanks to God for never giving up. He is truly the Hound of Heaven. He pursued me for fifty five years until I thought He was going to bankrupt the whole country in 2008 to get me in the pulpit. I trained through 2009. In July 2010 I accepted Barry Henson's invitation to Pastor Williston United Methodist. I began pastoring Moscow UMC in January 2011. I have spent this decade serving God and the people of the Moscow/Williston Charge and Fayette County.

Thank you to Cynthia and Sunny Davis and to Deborah Smith for their care and nurturing of me during my many body part replacements and my loss of Debbie. I thank God every time I think of you.

Thank you to the good people of the Moscow/Williston Charge. After three years of my tenure they teamed together in Christian mission and fellowship feeding the hungry in Fayette County, offering financial support to Hannah's Hope and a different ministry each month, and evangelizing through Christmas parades in three towns. We had fun.

The Lord and I covenanted for me to preach the Gospel for ten years. Now I'm off to pray and study Holy Scripture for the rest of the year and wait on the Lord to explain my next adventure.

Sincerely,

Reverend Jim

Farewell from Sharon Karamoko:

Dear Bishop and Conference,

As God transcends me into a new season of my faith and my life, I count it all joy. Truly God offered me a gift when the Holy Spirit led me to the United Methodist church. Serving in the Memphis conference has been filled with joy, wonder and sorrow and pain. However, regardless of the situation, it has taught me how to more fully live out my faith and trust God. In my 22 years of service, God has open doors and allowed me to serve the church in awesome and unbelievable ways at the district, conference and local level. The congregations that I have been blessed to serve, taught me a lot and allowed me to share in the diversity of God. The greatest lesson that I have learned and continue to learn is that the greatest gift that I possess is the ability to love God and others regardless of their race, gender, sexual orientation or economic status.

As I continue to follow and listen to the voice of God while moving into my next season, I just want to remind everyone that the Church is not the building or the institution. The Church is the people of God, those who have made a decision to live as a Disciple of Jesus the Risen Christ is the Church. Just remember the Church can't nor will it die because we serve the risen living Jesus

God's Love and Peace

Sharon Karamoko

Farewell Letter of Reverend James L. Loftin

May 7, 2019

To: Bishop McAlilly, The Board of Ordained Ministry, The Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, and all my other brothers and sisters in the Memphis Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

RE: The retirement of James L. Loftin from active service in the United Methodist Church

Few of you know my name or can picture my face. And that's ok. I'm a Mississippian that was only lived in Tennessee for sixteen years, and all that time I served at one church. I've been gone for twenty years, but I hope this message will bless any who take time to read it!

I was the first Christian in my family. My mom and dad lived in rural poverty in south Georgia and south Mississippi respectively. They had large families, no car and little desire to make the journey to the nearest town on Sundays. Whatever "church" they experienced was around the family fireplace to hear their mother read the Bible and an occasional trip to a revival service once a year with wealthier friends who had a car.

When Jack and Sarah Loftin got married, my mom decided that church would be a part of their married life. And indeed it was. My three siblings and I were ushered to church every Sunday morning for Sunday School and worship, and then back again in the evening for the long-forgotten practice of Sunday night church.

According to their testimony, their religious habits were genuine but disconnected from a personal relationship with God. They made this discovery in 1971, a year after their only son and the entire youth group of Alta Wood Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi gave our lives to what we understood of Jesus Christ.

I am eternally grateful for the patient Sunday School teachers and camp counselors who endured me during the first 17 wild years of my life. Saints who planted seeds never knowing for certain when or if God would bring a harvest.

I am also grateful for two pastors, both in glory: Reverend David McIntosh and Reverend Sam Morris. David is the first pastor that I remember feeling somewhat close to. I respected him and his family, including my good friend Maura.

Like about forty of my peers, I thank God and the bishop sent Samuel O. Morris to Alta Woods in 1970 "just for me." Sam was a musician, an athlete and a happy guy. He loved me, and his love for Jesus overflowed. Sam was there when I prayed my first prayer of faith. He nurtured me and helped me understand my call to ministry two years later at age 19. Most of what I know about ministry, I learned in the first two years of my Christian journey. I love you, Sam.

I went to Millsaps College because I thought that's where ministers were supposed to go. I thought it was a "Christian college". Two months before I was supposed to arrive on campus, I announced to my Dad that I was going to Millsaps instead of Mississippi State University. The financial burden must have

Farewell Letter of Reverend James L. Loftin

been four-fold, but Daddy never complained. I graduated with a Sociology degree and went immediately to Asbury Theological Seminary where I received my Masters of Divinity degree in 1979.

I am thankful for my humble mother and father. They loved me although I gave them little love back for decades. They paid for me to have a great education although we were only barely a blue-collar family. They believed in me even when I doubted myself. I love you, Mamma and Daddy.

I was baptized in the Methodist Church in 1953. I went through confirmation at Alta Woods Methodist Church in Jackson, MS about 1964. I was married in First United Methodist Church in Kosciusko, MS in 1975. I was ordained as an elder in the UMC in 1976. Before I was ordained as an elder, I served in youth ministry positions in Boling Street Methodist Church (Jackson), Alta Woods Methodist (Jackson), First United Methodist (Columbus, MS) and Centenary United Methodist (Lexington, KY). I went on to serve as youth minister and associate pastor of Central United Methodist (Meridian, MS).

In 1983 the bishops of the Mississippi Annual Conference and the Memphis Annual Conference agreed for me to move to Memphis to take an appointment at Christ United Methodist. This was to be my last appointment to a local church.

I am full of gratitude for my mentor and friend of thirty-six years, Dr. Maxie D. Dunnam. He is the first world-Christian I ever knew personally. Together, we walked the road of racial reconciliation and urban outreach. Together we fought for what we believed in, made some mistakes, and disappointed some good people. But we also share thousands of memories of the victories God provided for his Name's sake. I love you, Maxie.

After serving at Christ Church in youth and then missions for sixteen years, the bishop approved my appointment beyond the local church as the Dean of the Chapel and Director of Missions at the new campus of Asbury Seminary in Orlando, FL.

In 2004 I resigned from Asbury seminary and launched FollowOne International, a non-profit mission agency. This ministry helps congregations and Christ followers become more strategically mobilized in God's mission to lost and hurting people across America and around the world. From the beginning, FollowOne believed that China has a unique and strategic role in God's mission in the world during this epoch. Over one fifth of the world's population is Chinese. The church is booming and beginning to reach out with God's love to other nations including the Middle East and the USA.

I am in my fifteenth year in my appointment to FollowOne as an approved extension ministry of the United Methodist Church based in Winter Springs, FL. In 2016, I moved to China and continue to serve the mission of FollowOne and the UMC.

I have married over 200 couples in TN, MS, FL, KY and CA. I have baptized hundreds of adults and children in the USA and China. Serving the Lord's Supper in various contexts has been one of my greatest joys and privileges.

Last year, God's kindness brought me to Vivien Wang. We were married in October 2018. Life and ministry have never been better. I expect to live out the rest of my life and ministry here. God continues

Farewell Letter of Reverend James L. Loftin

to use our daily Bible discussions to enlarge my mind. I have never met a person more gracious, unflappable and positive. I love you with my whole heart, Wang Xin.

I am thankful for the kindness and support that the United Methodist system has provided me for these decades. I am grateful to you, my brothers and sisters of the Memphis Annual Conference.

Yes, I am sad about the current pain in the denomination called the United Methodist Church. But I remember the early stages of this discord even before I was ordained in the seventies. I am sad but not forlorn. Denominations, organizations and movements come and go. God doesn't need anyone or any group to achieve his mission. As one pilgrim falls or loses their way, God always raises up another to carry the banner of his love forward. God forgive us.

I am eternally grateful for God's grace and mercy for a sinner such as me. I continue to be amazed by God's willingness to even use the likes of murderers, prostitutes, tax collectors, thieves and me to advance his kingdom. I hope my flawed but passionate service in and beyond the UMC has made a difference in the world and brought God glory.

I am not finished. I will continue to mentor, shepherd, teach, administer the sacraments and lift high the light of God's love in China and wherever God leads me.

To God be the Glory Great Things He has Done,

James L. Loftin

Shanghai, China



Dr. Dale Mathis, Elder
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Huntingdon, TN 38344
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LETTER OF FAREWELL:

After 44 years of ministry in the Memphis Conference, it is now time to retire. The journey has been a joyous one, with many exciting opportunities. I have served as pastor of twenty-three churches (eleven charges) in five districts and continued to grow in faith through each appointment. My educational opportunities have included Emory University and a doctorate in ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary. In addition, I have been blessed to earn an educational doctorate in adult education from University of Memphis.

I served as a district youth coordinator in four of the districts of the Memphis Annual Conference and enjoyed numerous spiritual retreats across the conference. I was the first in the Memphis Conference to be given the status as minister of youth in June 1991.

Some of the best memories have helped me utilize my skills working with both the youth and the senior adults through the state ombudsmen program. The excitement of working with people in small membership churches has motivated me to create disciples "wherever two or three are gathered together in Christ's name."

My wife and family have been extremely supportive of my ministry and in recent years she has assumed the role of music leader in the church. Each new church was supplemented with excitement from my children. Opportunities such as trips to Lake Junaluska, Lakeshore, and the Hinton Rural Life Center were a part of my ministry.

In the last fifteen years of ministry I was able to work with persons who were less fortunate, including juvenile offenders and persons needing additional encouragement. My wife and I enabled over five hundred people to move forward and graduate with a high school equivalency degree.

The role of the church in community has changed in my tenure as an elder in the Memphis Conference. But, the message of Christ for the world is still strong in West Tennessee and West Kentucky.

I encourage people who pass through Huntingdon, Tennessee to stop by and visit our retirement home. It is easy to find us on the bypass, and we would enjoy time with you.

Retirement Letter from Michael Morris

Having been ordained a Deacon in the United Methodist Church and elected to probationary relationship in the Memphis Annual Conference in 1975; and after being ordained an Elder in the UMC and granted full connection in the Memphis Annual Conference in 1978; and after serving 42 years in 8 separate appointments in the Memphis Annual Conference since 1977; I have requested and been approved to be placed into the retired relationship in the Memphis Annual Conference with an effective date of July 1, 2019.

I do this with a sense of joy, peace, gratitude and honor; for having been given the opportunity to live out my sense of God's calling for me to live out my life by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, through the UMC and the Memphis Annual Conference. I give thanks to the congregations of Arlington/Burkley, Germantown, Greenland - Davant , Arcadia, St. Stephen, Ellendale, St. Paul and the Wesley Foundation at the University of Memphis; who have loved, nurtured, inspired, and challenged me in our times together.

I give special thanks to my wife Cindy, who for these 42 years of marriage has been more than my life partner and the love of my life; but also an amazing partner in ministry in all the churches we have served together; as well as to the congregations of Arcadia, Wesleyan Hills, Munford, and St. Stephen where she served in paid administrative or programming positions. She has truly been a blessing to all. Now together, we journey together in new roles but with a continual thankfulness to God for the great things he has done.

Peace and grace,
Michael S. Morris

Retirement Letter from Chuck Pittman:

My Brothers and Sister in Christ,

I want to express my deepest appreciation and the appreciation of my family to the thousands of United Methodists laypersons in West Tennessee and Western Kentucky who have welcomed us into their homes and their hearts. You have done so even when I have been unworthy of those invitations. Time after time, I have seen the heart of Christ in your kind acts of mercy and grace and for that I give thanks to God. I wish I could thank each and every one of you by name but I could not begin to do so for there would be just too many.

I would like to thank Lefty Hare, Pittman Marbury, Tommy Edwards, Bill Springer, and Bill Granberry (all who are no longer with us) for reaching out to a young preacher and inviting him to coffee and rounds of golf. They were there for me when I needed direction or support. They made the early days of my ministry fulfilling and fun. Whatever I have been able to accomplish, it has been on the shoulders of men and women such as these.

Today, Melody and I begin a new journey and we look forward to all that it has to offer.

Grace and Peace,
Chuck Pittman

Retirement letter from Dan Tilly:

I am grateful to have been called by God and to have been given the opportunity to serve God along with my wife, Faye, in the Memphis Conference of The United Methodist Church. I have a special appreciation for the late Paul Douglass who sensed the call of Christ in my life when he was the District Superintendent of the old Paducah District. I am also grateful for the encouragement I received from our home church at the time, the Trinity United Methodist Church in Paducah. Faye and I have been privileged to serve several churches in the Paducah District and in the Mississippi River District. We have been blessed to have many godly parishioners during our years of ministry and we will remain always grateful to those who have helped make our ministry fruitful.

Dan Tilly

Retirement letter from Gregory Waldrop:

I am sorry we are being forced to connect this way. We Wesleyan Christians are a people of the spoken Word; my training is in talking in person; “truth through personality” is the way a favored preacher teacher described our trade so I apologize for the two-dimensional nature of this, acknowledging the constant temptation to take the Word-made-flesh and turn it back into word alone. The Conference will recognize this error and I am confident in future years retiring preachers will get to speak their witness. Here is mine:

WOW, like my ordination in Atwood TN 38 years ago, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the life the United Methodist Church has provided! You sent me to many of the best colleges and universities throughout the world—Lambuth College/University, St Andrews University in Scotland, Duke Divinity School, Wesley Seminary, along with substantial continuing education events at Princeton and Vanderbilt and Union. You taught me the Biblical languages with their worldviews and the full range of theological possibilities as well as the grand sweep of church history across the traditions. You formed me spiritually with weeks at Taizé and Iona before anyone, including me, had heard much about them. You connected me to Methodist churches behind the “Iron Curtain” in Poland, East Germany, Hungary and Czechoslovakia and taught me the unsearchable riches provided to churches and people who dare to stand up to bullies and to hate. You immersed me in our distinctive Wesleyan understandings that had such vibrancy and currency that I was deeply changed. You prepared me well. Every stop on this learning journey exploded my horizons, challenged my faith notions, immersed me in the mysteries of an immense God, and transformed me.

Thank you for the six appointments, 9 churches, to which you sent me—Atwood, Shiloh and Lavinia in West Carroll County TN; Briensburg and Mt. Carmel in the Lakeland Parish of Marshall County KY; Broadway UMC in Paducah, KY as Minister of Discipleship; Aldersgate/St Luke UMC also in Paducah as an urban missionary; Fountain Avenue UMC in midtown Paducah KY; and currently, Calvert City UMC, Marshall County KY. I was skeptical about each church to which I was sent, and, in every instance, I was wrong! Thank you to each church who received me and my family with open arms, who made a place for us in their community as well as in their homes and hearts, and who taught me Bible living and holiness in profoundly Wesleyan ways. No church or member made unfair demands on my time or held out unfair expectations of me or my family. You provided beautifully for our living needs through both parsonages and housing allowances—because of your provision my wife and I retire to our own home overlooking Lake Barkley and the Land Between the Lakes.

I mostly served churches with worship attendance of less than 100 people. In 29 of my 41 years, I was yoked with churches labeled churches of small membership and what a rich and deep experience I was granted! These churches opened their lives to us and embraced our lives—many church folks worked sacrificially to help us raise our daughters and nurture them in faith and hope and love. I give these spirited lay folks much credit for

my daughters continued connection to the church and faith life, though, like many Millennials, our 2019 General Conference decisions have made it difficult for them to remain United Methodist Christians. I watched Greer and Anne grow and embrace ideas and experiences far broader and deeper than I could give them by their interactions with these deep hearted Bible teachers and wisdom figures in the churches we served. In every place, God provided nourishing friendships for Nan and me among the lay folks of our churches and in the community. In every appointment, we served God in deep and imaginative ways—on three occasions the churches I served organized national events here in the Memphis Conference and welcomed folks from all over the country to our exemplary ministries. In every circumstance, God disclosed talented lay folks whose lay ministry exceeded my imagination and expectation—early on, I noticed the truth of Wesley’s understanding that ordained clergy are ordinary messengers of the Gospel while lay ministers/preachers are the “extraordinary messengers.” Wow was Wesley ever right. Our current denominational return to a ministry model highlighting lay leadership and call will, in time, allow us to reclaim the power and energy of our roots while taking us to new heights and devotion. Count on me to be watching and praying expectantly for that renewal to emerge!

I am sorry that most of you do not know my wife, Nancy. She was not a traditional preacher’s wife—she warned me early on not to expect her to lead even a silent prayer! She had a different call and gift working in her life—administration, and a gifted administrator is a sight to behold. She worked wonders in various educational settings, as Federal Education Program distributor, as legislative liaison for the state Department of Education, as author of early educational reform in KY, as Director of an exemplary, local, Head Start Program, and finally as an Assistant Superintendent, then Superintendent of McCracken County Schools. For a decade she oversaw finance and personnel in a 1000+ employee system with a \$60M+ budget and as Superintendent built a \$60M+ state-of-the-art high school complex while operating 13 schools for 7000+ students. Her enduring legacy rests in the curricula she insisted on and for which she found funds in recessionary times that enabled trades, arts, certifications, music, languages, drama, and academics at high levels and in every school. Her administrative gifts will educate and form students in McCracken County KY for decades. At the same time, she made our household a warm and hospitable home with beauty and nourishment for all who resided there for “a moment, or an evening, or for a season of the moon.” I think I am very good at what I was called to do (I do not suffer from low self-esteem!) however Nan was better at what she was called to do than I was at what I did! I am glad to share my partner with this Conference.

I shall close with two personal musings—I apologize to Mr. Wesley and his people who asked me early on to be punctual. I often failed at this; however, I choose to believe that Mr. Wesley smiles deeply at my faithfulness to his instruction to visit from house to house. Nothing formed my work and established the trust necessary for fruitful ministry these 41 years more than visiting from house to house, business to business, school to school, ballgame to band concert to academic meet, hospital room to hospital room. Secondly, I

grieve the loss of three colleagues in ordained ministry in this Conference with whom I shared much blessed ministry—Billy Massey, Stan Farr, and David Bingham (whose Blessing poetry I quoted earlier). In each instance we gave up on them too early and refused the powerful gift of healing and forgiveness and reconciliation that God entrusts to our hands and hearts. I thank God for each of them—they blessed my life.

We are retiring to Western Kentucky and placing my orders with the Briensburg charge conference, the only reconciling congregation in west KY. Please come for a visit to sit a spell and rock or to walk a trail or two together. Count on Sabbath Rest when you get here. You will be surrounded by a Creation beauty we will be caring for attentively. When you get into West KY from TN, turn right on the first big road you hit. When you get past the second bridge just east of Lake Barkley start looking for us. Just ask anyone there in Canton, they can direct you. Call if you must! You taught me well and treated us in wonder-filled ways. You can count on a wholesome welcome here in West Kentucky!