

Todd Herbert

Transitional Shepherd



Hello, my name is Todd Herbert. I was raised in Fawn Grove, attending Fawn Grove United Methodist Church most of my life. My grandparents, parents, and relatives were active in the church; it was "the community" where everyone knew and looked out for everyone in the small town. For as long as I can remember I always had Someone with me, watching over me. Not a person I thought I could see, but One I could often feel or sense. One there to nudge me to do the right thing and keep me honest; maybe allowing me to get caught as a way to instruct me if I did something wrong. As I became older my suspicions were confirmed; Jesus and the Holy Spirit were with me. There are many spiritual markers in my life where I can see He was nurturing, guiding, protecting, and instructing me. Often, I didn't listen. His presence and coordination of life events were undeniable, especially in meeting my wife Pattie and how I came to be dad for three bright and beautiful ladies. Living in Fawn Grove gave me the opportunity to do farm work at both my grandfather's and local farms. I enjoyed this manual labor but I knew I had to go to the "big city" to earn a living. Again, He coordinated the connections for me to eventually land a permanent position working in the healthcare supply chain field which afforded me many valuable and cherished relationships. I was blessed to be able to grow in this for over 40 years.

While working, much of my focus was on the actual work and earning a living with the constant struggle to balance life while trying to focus on Jesus and where He wanted me and my family to be. Upon retirement, which I never imagined I would be able to do, I began to think about my next steps. A prayer that I had was that I didn't want my remaining years to be all about me and what I could get out of this time. I wanted more of what I could do for Him (with a little of me thrown in). More of You and less of me was my continuing prayer. It was scary at times to pray this as I knew He is God and so much bigger than me. If I am telling Him I want to help further His kingdom, what might He have up His sleeve for me to do? More than I (or my family) would want to do? As I continued my devotional and prayer life, I was sensing He was giving me tidbits to digest and confirm what His plans for me may hold. Themes and words like "discipline", "servant" and "trust" seemed to trend in separate, unrelated devotionals. Questions begat more questions in my heart and mind; all of which was going on before I heard any talk about elder governing. As I have grown in my walk with the Lord, I have come to learn that oftentimes one receives validation of what God may have for you as affirmed by other believers...

I was asked to join the exploration and discussion of an elder governed church. I started to realize that while our current administrative structure was working, it wasn't including the needed pastoral and local church support the Methodist denomination previously provided. When re-reading the scripture about elders I assumed it was for that period of time, for those disciples and their followers. I didn't really understand that this was yet

another example God gave through His Word to instruct us how to live the way He intended. The more I read and learned the more I began to wonder if prayers were slowly being revealed.

I am humbled and prayerful to pursue the call to be a Shepherd for Fawn Grove Community Church. While I don't know all Jesus has planned for me and His church, I know He is Lord of all. If I am willing to listen, He is willing to instruct me, even if I don't always understand in advance, or at all. I believe God has Fawn Church in His eternal plans and I am excited to see how He blesses those He calls to share in the mission! Let's Go!