



April 27, 2011

Dear members and friends of CUMC:

We are blessed at Clemson United Methodist Church with a wonderful staff team. Each individual member of our staff contributes to the overall mission of our church to equip this community to love God and our neighbors in ever deepening ways. Children, youth, young adults, adults, and senior adults are all impacted by the ministry of our staff team.

I am sending this note to you today to highlight the continuing education of one of our staff team members. Our Director of Youth Ministries, Jad Taylor, has been accepted into a new academic program at Duke Divinity School. First, the good news: Jad is not leaving! Instead, he will be a part of the first Master of Arts in Christian Practice program, focused on youth ministry. This academic degree is intended for persons who are serving in local congregations. Jad will be required to attend short-term intensive class sessions but much of his work will be done via the internet. Further, this degree will give Jad appropriate credentials should he decide to persue ordination as a Deacon in The United Methodist Church.

Duke Divinity School recommends that local churches see this program as a partnership between the church and the staff member/student. The Staff-Parish Relations and Finance Committees have authorized me to invite you to consider making a financial contribution toward the tuition for Jad's program. In exchange for our support, Jad will make a commitment to stay at CUMC for a length of time to be determined between Jad, the Senior Pastor, and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. The total cost of tuition for this two year program is \$36,000 (\$18,000 per year) less a 25% scholarship from the Divinity School. This leaves a balance of \$27,000.

Jad Taylor not only impacts our youth in his ministry; he has made significant contributions to our church family as a whole. The growth of our youth program under his leadership is a testimony to his calling to ministry, and we are blessed to be able to share the journey with him. If you wish to make a contribution toward Jad's education, you may place your clearly marked gift in the Sunday offering or send it to the church office. We will keep you updated as Jad progresses in this program.

Thank you for your commitment to the mission and ministry of Clemson United Methodist Church. It is a privilege to be a part of this staff team and this wonderful congregation of Christian disciples.

Grace and peace,

Keith D. Ray II
Senior Pastor

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

