

**Ely United Methodist Church**  
**Church Conference – 2018**  
**December 19, 2018**

**State of the Church**

At the end of five months as your pastor I offer these observations as to the state of Ely United Methodist Church.

Our congregation does many things well, with individuals and groups offering their talents, experience, vision, and energy to its ministries to individuals, families, and the community. The Ely UMC congregation:

- Has highly capable leaders in the areas of worship/music, finance, administration, and programs (Sunday School, Bible Studies, and Mission Outreach).
- Is responsibly caring for its property and finances in an efficient and transparent manner.
- Takes seriously its connection to the Minnesota Annual Conference, even though it is at the end of the road, and participates in its mission and program.
- Responds energetically to local mission opportunities, within its ability.
- Understands itself and the Ely community.
- Is open to visitors and newcomers.
- Is committed both to existing traditions and to opportunities to change and grow.

I am especially grateful for the way the congregation and its members have welcomed me as their new pastor, have stepped forward during the interim time to pick up responsibilities, and are interested in working with me to shape the next chapter of our life together. Thank you.

So what is ahead for us in 2019? I venture the following thoughts as to areas of focus:

- To continue our traditions in worship/music, education, mission/outreach.
- To maintain the momentum of the Visioning Committee in sensing how the Holy Spirit is moving among us.
- To reconsider the mission/vision of our Nurture and Membership Care, Worship, and Education committees, and to do this in intentional ways and in bite-sized pieces.

With appreciation and anticipation,

Pastor Craig Haberman  
December 19, 2018