

Friends,

For some time I have been considering the need to name a person as Mission Center Missionary Coordinator for Heart of Texas. The position is appointed by the Mission Center President in consultation with the Field Missionary Coordinator, and sustained at the Mission Center Conference.

I wish to announce that I am appointing Andy Shelton to the position of Heart of Texas Missionary Coordinator. This will be in addition to and complement his current position as Congregation Support Minister. Andy will serve as acting Missionary Coordinator until the fall conference when the appointment will be presented for approval. This appointment will not change his compensation or have any impact on the mission center or World Church budgets.

There are reasons why this is an appropriate appointment to make. Andy has the most consistent and frequent contact with the pastors and congregations of anyone in the mission center. His preaching and teaching upholds that congregations be intentional about invitational ministry and preparation for new people to be a part of the church. Andy's preaching models and emphasizes transformation of congregation life in a way that will be welcoming and open to new people. The work he has done in assisting with children's ministry moments and the sermon round table also helps congregations to meet new people as they come into the church.

Missionary work has changed from what it has traditionally been in the past. Focus on an occasional visiting minister conducting a revival preaching series to generate cottage meetings has been replaced with relational sharing of witness and invitation by friends to friends. That focus depends for success on the persons reached being made welcome into an open, receiving congregation that is working to provide the best ministry it can provide week to week.

Andy's focus on transformation in congregational life and mission will help to make that happen. Encouraging familiarity with and intentional use of recent and soon-to-be-released resources for invitation and sharing of the nature of the church is an additional role that Andy will continue to carry out in this position as Missionary Coordinator. It should be clearly understood that the Missionary Coordinator role is to encourage and assist in this transformation of congregations, rather than to be the designated person in the mission center to conduct traditional, front line missionary work for the congregations.

As Mission Center Missionary Coordinator, Andy will also focus on identifying and assisting missionary persons in each congregation, some of who may serve as Congregational Missionary Coordinators. That group would focus on these same ministries of invitation and transformation in congregations. They could also be involved in organizing and supporting outreach activities at the mission center level, which we hope will grow out of the upcoming Mission Center Celebration on April 30. President of Seventy and Field Missionary Coordinator Karin Peter will be our guest minister for that event.

I have spoken to Mark Euritt, who is Andy's direct supervisor, and with Karin Peter. Both are in agreement with this appointment. Rick Maupin is also in support of the appointment.

In Christ,

Terry