

Mountain Sky Conference

The United Methodist Church



May 22, 2022

Dear members of the faith community of First UMC, Colorado Springs,

I am glad to announce that Bishop Karen Oliveto intends to appoint the Rev. Amy Strader and the Rev. Eric Strader to serve as the Co-Lead Pastors for your congregation, effective July 1, 2022. They are currently serving as Co-Pastors at Bozeman United Methodist Church, Bozeman, MT, where Pastor Amy leads in the areas of *Discipleship and Community Engagement* and Pastor Eric provides leadership in *Administration and Worship*. They possess specific gifts and skills, complementing each other well in their shared ministry, and are well suited to serve your church in a way that honors your past fruitful ministry and also effectively guide you as you seek to put your faith into practice.

Prior to their co-pastorate, Eric served as the pastor of Christ UMC, Denver, CO, and Amy served as the pastor for First UMC, Golden, CO. They are originally from Kansas and moved to Denver to attend the Iliff School of Theology, where they both received the Master of Divinity degrees. They have two beautiful children, Nora and Finn, who will become a part of your faith community, and you will have an opportunity to nurture them spiritually, emotionally and intellectually.

Your current pastors will work closely with your incoming pastors and your lay leaders for a smooth and effective pastoral transition. I trust that you will warmly welcome Amy, Eric, Nora and Finn as Amy and Eric transition to become your next pastors. Also, please thank Pastor Kent Ingram and Pastor Tiffany Keith as they prepare for their transitions. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of leadership transitions.

Shalom – Be Well Always!

Rev. Dr. Tezenlo Thong
District Superintendent, Peaks/Pikes Peak District

cc: Bishop Karen Oliveto

Amy Strader
Eric Strader
Natalie Marionneaux
Sandi Castro
Sherry Ferriman
Evelyn Warren
Angela Thomas
Jana Collins

Karen P. Oliveto
Resident Bishop

Annie Arnoldy
Director of Connectional Ministries
and Superintendent of Leadership
Development

Jeff Rainwater
Superintendent of Congregational
and Community Vitality

Angela Thomas
Chief Financial Officer

Evelyn Warren
Director of Communications

Deborah Christine
Cabinet Dean
District Superintendent
Montana East District

Mark Calhoun
District Superintendent
Wyoming District

Chris Carr
District Superintendent
Trinity District

Tezenlo Thong
District Superintendent
Peaks Pikes Peak District

Elizabeth McVicker
District Superintendent
Utah/Western Colorado
District

Jessica Rooks
District Superintendent
Metro Mile High District

Jan Witman
District Superintendent
Montana West District

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