

July 12, 2020

STATEMENT re GRANGER COMMUNITY CHURCH

The Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church and Granger Community Church have parted ways. Because Granger Community Church, like all United Methodist churches, held its property in trust for the benefit of the entire United Methodist denomination, the parties had significant negotiations leading up to this resolution.

We believe that God guided the Conference and Granger's discussions, which were governed by mutual respect and a prayerful commitment to spread the love of Jesus Christ. We are pleased that the parties' settlement was amicable and honored the connection that binds all United Methodist Churches in one shared mission as recognized by our Book of Discipline. This negotiated resolution did not involve a disaffiliation as recognized by Section 2553 of the Book of Discipline, but rather a closure of Granger Community Church as a United Methodist Church and the Conference's subsequent disposition of its assets through a purchase agreement with the local unaffiliated congregation for roughly \$2.6 million. Of that, an estimated \$524,000 will be deposited at Wespath for Granger's portion of unfunded pension liabilities, and another \$617,000 will be deposited in the Conference's retiree health subsidy fund at Wespath as Granger's pro rata fair share. The remaining funds represent two years of unpaid net tithes from Granger.

Granger Community Church has had many ministries that have helped to shape many communities, and the Conference and Bishop Trimble wish them all the best on their new spiritual path. The Conference and the Bishop also recognize and appreciate the thirty-three years of faithful service of founding pastor Mark Beeson who retired effective July 1st.