

Why I Love the Church

Recently a Clergy colleague from Texas learned that his son was in a very serious car accident in St. Louis while traveling home from Eureka College. He shared with me that "The Church has been overwhelming in its support from the moment they learned of his son's accident."

An outpouring of immediate and long-term support came from all manifestations of the church. Various representatives of the General Church, from NBA to the Pension Fund to Week of Compassion to Chalice Press to the General Minister and President herself reached out in love, support, prayer, and offering assistance in any way possible. Representatives of Eureka College, including the President and trustees, made themselves immediately available. The Mid-America Regional Ministry team was notified and began sharing pastoral care with the family. Local St. Louis congregations began receiving donations to purchase gifts cards and other supplies the family might need during the long healing process. And congregations from across our denomination began praying for healing and wholeness.

My colleague's own congregation in Texas, from which he will soon be transitioning from and beginning a new ministry with a congregation several states away, immediately reached out to let him know that his duties lie in St. Louis. Though he is still their pastor, they have unburdened him of all pastoral obligations.

The son who was involved in the car accident has a long road ahead of him in his recovery. It's likely he will be in the hospital for a couple of weeks and then off to a rehab facility. Our prayers and love for Hayden, while still coveted, are working to reveal a God in whom we live, move, and exist!

When one member of the body suffers, the rest of the body works together to bring healing and relief. Thanks be to God, and to the body of Christ, the Church!

This is just one reason why I love the Church!

Rev. David Woodard
Associate Regional Minister for Greater St. Louis