

Resolution #2021-05

Relating to the Discontinuance of First UMC of Perkasio

Submitted by the East District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference

WHEREAS, First United Methodist Church of Perkasio, located in Bucks County at 501 W. 5th Street, Perkasio, PA 18944 and has a proud history of ministering to the community in the borough of Perkasio, PA.

WHEREAS, Stemming from the United Evangelical church, in 1891 and the Bridgetown Evangelical Church 1866 until 1917. According to the Perkasio Historical Society the Evangelical Association Church of Bridgetown was the first church building in the present Borough of Perkasio. This church became Bethel Evangelical in 1888. These Evangelical congregations provided the burial grounds with which we have been so closely associated with through the years. They also gave birth to not one but two camp meetings – the Perkasio Camp meeting and the Highland Park Camp meeting to which many of us are still attached.

WHEREAS, two immediate predecessor congregations, Ebenezer United Evangelical Church & Bethel Evangelical, began their merger in 1924.

WHEREAS, The church became a United Church named First Evangelical Church in 1928 under pastors Earle M. Slichter and C.E.Hess. the Rev. J. W. White served this Congregation until March 1929. The Rev. H. E. Fassnacht to 1931. The Rev. H. Franklin Schlegel to 1936. and The Rev.W.E. Pottieger to 1940. Under the tenure of The Rev. W. H. Christ from 1940 to 1947 the First Evangelical Church became the Evangelical United Brethren Church with denominational merger of the Evangelical church and the United Brethren Church in 1946.

The building we have worshipped in and we recognize today was built under the tenure of The Rev. Dr. Edward Rutledge Cook, S.T.D., who was appointed pastor April 28, 1947.

After 30 years of faithful giving the members of the church broke ground on Palm Sunday, March 25, 1956. The stained glass windows, were sponsored by various families and active ministry groups within the congregation. The Sunday school classrooms, which were built, became a site of renewal for scouting and women's ministries in the town of Perkasio.

On the Day of the dedication, Superintendent of the East District, Rev. A. Hyden, preached the sermon "Marching Forward with Christ." According to the written history the skies were clear that day and representatives from all over the conference and the town came to celebrate the new church opening. Since that time, The Evangelical United Brethren Church merged again in 1968 with The Methodist Church becoming First United Methodist Church.

WHEREAS, the special church/charge conference of First United Methodist Church of Perkasio, voted unanimously on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 presided by the district superintendent to discontinue the church; and

WHEREAS, the District Superintendent has recommended the discontinuance of First United Methodist Church of Perkasio and transfer of membership to local United Methodist Churches in the area.

WHEREAS the consent to discontinue has been granted by the presiding Bishop; the district superintendents, and the East District Board of Church Location and Building; and all proper Disciplinary requirements have been complied with; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that First United Methodist Church of Perkasio be discontinued effective December 31, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Eastern PA Conference distribute any assets as result of the sale of the property of First United Methodist Church of Perkasio be distributed by Conference Trustees accordingly: 50% toward Cemetery Maintenance and 50% to be held in reserve by Conference Trustees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that historical records be forwarded to the archives of the St. George's United Methodist Church in Philadelphia, PA.