

Greetings in Christ, my new church family!

My name is Rev. Dr. Seung Hae Yoo-Hess (pronounce *Sing Hey*). First of all, I want to express how very excited I am to become part of Mt. Olive and Relief United Methodist churches. I am so blessed to come to the charge because I have heard many wonderful things about the churches. I have heard how courageous and active our churches have been to show God's goodness and grace to the people around us. I heard that our community has been beloved by God. I also heard the member's hearts are gigantic and generous even though the churches seem small. I already feel love and respect for our church leaders and members. I am proud to be your new pastor.

I believe that many of you feel curious about me. Since July 2013 I have served local churches –Providence/ Trinity charge – Lacrosse/ Sardis charge, and Rockingham Court UMC. Before that time, I used to serve many churches as a Sunday school teacher, a director for youth and young adult groups for 20 years.

I am also very thankful that God allowed me to receive many opportunities to learn theology and pastoral care and counseling. I finished a doctoral degree at Candler School of Theology in GA, and a master degree at Claremont School of Theology in CA. I finished a M.Div. degree and a bachelor degree at *Chong-shin* theological seminary in Korea. I also received training at hospitals as a chaplain and worked at Care and Counseling Center of Georgia as a professional counselor.

I am very passionate to love listening to people's life stories and sharing God's love and care with them. I am ready to go to people in need wherever they are. I love to work with children and youth. So, my ministry has focused on care for "people of all ages," providing pastoral care and counseling for individuals and families, and community services. I believe that God's table of love should be extended to all people and all nations. I love to meet new people and learn their cultures and languages. I also love to advocate for the voices of the minority.

I am also blessed to have a devoted husband, Jeff who is a school counselor. We love exploring nature, traveling, and watching movies. We also love giving constructive criticism to each other, regarding our sermons and ministries, but we are not like a cat and dog. The best blessing is to have you as my church family. When I moved to Winchester, many wonderful members came and did a morning work-out to set up the furniture. Some members brought food so my family did not need to starve during this transitional moment. God also poured out God's grace. While we moved there was severe rain, but it totally stopped when we began to load and unload our stuff. The word "Thank You" is not enough for God and for you. This experience reminds me of a real "family." Just as Jesus did for his disciples, I want to shout to the world, "Look, here are my mothers and brothers." As my real family, I say with a sincere heart, "I LOVE you." I want to commit myself to being a good pastor for all of you." You are my family in Jesus Christ. I already love you, trust you, and respect you. God's many blessings and grace will be with all of you.