

As the elders considered the role of a congregational minister Johnie penned the following piece for what a congregational minister meant to him. We thought it useful to share this again with the congregation.

The Congregational Minister

By

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Read during the Sunday morning assembly, September 11, 2022

He is with us when we birth our children, to join in our rejoicing.

He rejoices with us when he baptizes our teenagers. (family members, friends, those that God led to us)

He marries our young adults, as they begin their life with their spouse.

He is with us when mid life crises arise and trouble us.

When life's sickness requires hospital care, he is there.

He is there when we place our loved ones under skilled nursing care.

He is there to weep with us when we bury our dead.

When grandchildren are birthed, he is there to celebrate with us.

When we need a good friend, he is there to council with us.

When we fall, he picks us up.

When we stumble, he helps us see the stone.

He is a friend who never gets in our way, unless that way is leading to sin.

His weekly sermons lead us to greater spiritual heights and challenges our hearts.

He teaches us gently, but firmly, how God would have us live.

He makes me want to be more like him, as I see God in his life.

He becomes all things to all people, as he leads them to Faith & Obedience

He is a constant source of encouragement, if called at noontide or midnight.

He is acquainted with my friends and, helps me show them the way to God.

He visits around my table, and I visit around his.

He and his good wife look more like Jesus, than anyone I know.

I am glad to call him my friend, and he is the one I want my friends to know.

He teaches me to be a better person, and to let my talents grow.

And when I reach old age, he tells me we will be together again in heaven.

He teaches me not to worry about the future, because God is already there.

And when I am dying, he reminds me that a new mother in the congregation is birthing a new baby, all a part of God's magnificent plan.

He tells me that God will be with me forever, and I will never be alone.

And when my life is ending, I tell my congregational minister and his good wife, not to worry about me, because I will see them again on the other side of Jordan; and I am able to say to them, you go help that new mother and baby, as you have helped me. Be their friend, as you have been mine. They will need you, of this, I am sure.