



## THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BRUCE R. OUGH, Resident Bishop  
Karen M. Martin, Executive Secretary

JOYCE E. FRY, Assistant to the Bishop  
Tim McCoy, Executive Secretary

July 24, 2009

Harlem Road United Methodist Church  
5520 Harlem Road  
Galena, Ohio 43021

Dear Members and Friends of Harlem Road United Methodist Church:

Grace and peace to you from God, our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ.

In my Episcopal Address to the 2009 Annual Conference session, I noted that we have seen improvement in several areas of fruitfulness that characterize Acts 2 Congregations. Most encouraging is the 2% increase between 2007 and 2008 in the number of congregations that demonstrated growth in all six areas of Acts 2 fruitfulness. At the end of 2008, we had 279 congregations, or 25% of our total congregations, that generated at least five of the six areas of Acts 2 fruitfulness.

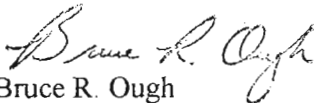
The Harlem Road United Methodist Church is one of only 97 of our 1,123 West Ohio congregations that achieved all six areas of fruitfulness: (1) growing worship, (2) new persons professing faith, (3) persons being baptized, (4) persons engaged in faith-forming small groups, (5) contributing 100% of their conference apportionments and (6) growing membership.

Acts 2 Congregations are fully engaged in transforming lives, their communities and the world. Acts 2 Congregations are reaching and baptizing new believers, growing worship, forming disciples and engaging in vital mission. Acts 2 Congregations are bearing the same fruit we see in the early church. Acts 2 Congregations are open and responsive to the Holy Spirit. Acts 2 Congregations are making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

I write to congratulate you on your faithful response to the Spirit's leading. Becoming an Acts 2 Congregation requires much prayer, obedience to Christ's leading and intentional planning. I trust you will once again be an Acts 2 Congregation at the conclusion of 2009. Take to heart Jesus' words, "I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil." (John 15:16)

May God continue to bless your work and witness on behalf of Christ and for the sake of the world.

Yours in Christ,

  
Bruce R. Ough

*Dictated by Bishop Ough, typed and stamped in his absence/kmm*

c: Rev. Marcus Atha, Capitol Area North District Superintendent