



East District
Desert Southwest Conference
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

November 22, 2020

Rev. Rick Casebolt
First United Methodist Church of Gilbert
331 S Cooper Rd.
Gilbert, AZ 85233

Dear Rev. Casebolt, Pastor Pate, Members and Friends of Gilbert First UMC:

Grace and peace be with you in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I am writing today to share some exciting news. Your church has been faithful in nurturing people in the faith and encouraging your members to listen to the call of Christ to serve through the ministries of the church in powerful ways.

For many years you have nurtured Sylvia Harris in her faith. You have been blessed by her leadership in your church as she served among you in a variety of important ways. You are aware that Sylvia has been attending seminary and you have voted to support her as a candidate for ordained ministry.

It is my joy to let you know that Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata intends to appoint Sylvia as an interim student local pastor at Wesley United Methodist Church in Phoenix, Arizona, serving less than full-time, beginning December 1, 2020. We know that the gifts she has shared with you will be a blessing to the Wesley UMC congregation.

As Sylvia takes this new step in her journey of faith we know that you will want to share your words of blessing with her for all that she has meant to you. We ask that you continue to support Sylvia with your love, wisdom, and support as she assumes her new role in ministry.

Please know that Bishop Bob and the entire appointive cabinet hold you in prayer, grateful for the ways that your church calls and encourages people to be fully engaged disciples of Jesus Christ.

May God's blessings and peace be with you and Ingrid.

Your Sister in Christ,

Susan

N. Susan Brims
East District Superintendent

CC: Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata

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