

When asked by Jeremy to do the charge for this service, I wasn't sure exactly what I was to do...I mean, I charge my phone; I charge with my credit card; I have been in charge and I have watched over my charges. But what does it mean to charge our pastor? In my research I found that "to charge" is defined as to "instruct" or "direct". And reviewing some other installation service charges, it often appeared as a long list of things the minister should do and an even longer list of what not to do!

I'm not sure that you need me to tell you what you should nor shouldn't do, as I believe that you have a very strong sense of yourself and your ministry. And clearly you have a few extraordinary mentors on speed dial who can set you straight should the need arise. And my kids are between the ages of 18 and 37, so I have been telling people what to do for a long time and honestly, I'm a little tired. So, if I may, I'd like to share just a few things that I hope will encourage you.

Jeremy, I'm sure that you're familiar with Tim Duncan, the incredible power forward who played nineteen seasons with the San Antonio Spurs, and whose jersey they retired. And though you hadn't yet been born, I bet that you know of famed Pittsburgh Pirate, Roberto Clemente, who played eighteen seasons of professional baseball in addition to helping with many humanitarian efforts. Both Duncan and Clemente, outstanding athletes, wore the number 21. And though I don't have a jersey for you to wear, Jeremy you will be joining this list of number 21ers, as you will be the 21st senior minister to serve the Presbyterian Church in Westfield.

Our first minister was installed in 1727, and here we are 292 years later welcoming you to the very same position. A lot has changed in 292 years, but this church still stands as the big white church, a beacon of light, in the center of town.

Many have passed through our doors; staying and making this their church home. I see that continuing as both you and Caroline offer such warmth and approachability. You both are naturals at not only welcoming people, but in striving to get to know them more intimately. Hold Caroline, Clara and Anderson close and appreciate that they are your anchors in this life.

Jeremy, as a member of the PNC, you won me over when you mentioned that Caddyshack was a favorite movie of yours and that you enjoyed a satirist whom I follow; I knew then that you had a great sense of humor. Maintain that humor as you deal with the difficult, messy, and not so pleasant issues that you are bound to encounter.

Keep sharing that you don't have all the answers and continue promising that we'll explore God's word and find the answers together.

Lead us by your example, showing us how you bring your faith and love for Christ to life in the monotony of each day where the outside noises can be deafening.

With your heart for mission, instill in us that we are God's heart and hands here on earth and help us to minister to our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Inspire us to be witnesses to God's enduring love and grace as we share with you life's peaks and valleys.

Jeremy, it is truly one of the greatest honors of my life to charge and support you in your ministry. May the Lord bless you and keep you always.