

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Dear MUMC Family,

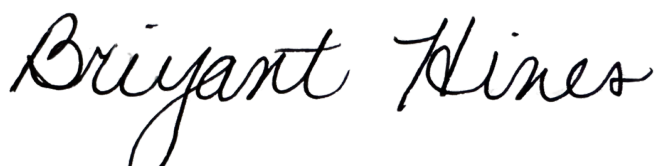
By now, I am sure you all have heard of my resignation from the position of Youth Director. Please accept my sincerest apologies if I have disappointed or hurt you all by this decision in any way. My decision to resign derived from personal issues that needed my immediate attention. While these personal issues required my immediate attention, I came to the painful conclusion that I would not be able to be as fully present as I would like to be as Youth Director.

Since SPRC announced my resignation effective on June 2, 2024, I have received a lot of questions regarding my decision to resign. Some have asked if I found another position. The answer to that question is no, I have not. I also want to state that my decision was not coerced by anyone at Mentor nor had anything to do with anyone at Mentor. I felt a great urgency to take some time for discernment.

While my position as Youth Director is coming to an end this Sunday, my membership will continue. I could not fathom leaving you all behind and considering my tenure as Youth Director as another notch on my belt. You have embraced me with much love, patience, and kindness. You all became my village, my place of refuge and relief. I love your urgency in serving others and being intentional about ministry. Thank you for teaching me that all churches are not the same. You all have had such a significant impact on me. I came to Mentor as a Baptist and left United Methodist because I saw your heart, dedication, and sacrifice. I marvel at such commitment.

Thank you for loving me and ensuring I had a place at Mentor that exceeded my role as Youth Director. If there is one thing I ask of you, it is to tap into your calling as lay leaders. The youth ministry must function even without the presence of a Youth Director. While God is leading the search team for my replacement, I ask that you all step up and volunteer to teach Middle School Sunday School, offer to invest in the youth, help chaperone events, and volunteer to be on the youth ministry team. The youth are not the future but the present, and the time to intentionally invest in their spiritual formation and cultivation of discipleship is now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Briyant Hines". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'B' and 'H'.

Briyant Hines, MDiv.