

PASTOR’S CORNER

A call to Christian unity in a divided age

Recent data suggests there are roughly 45,000 Christian denominations or movements worldwide — of which about 44,984 are Protestant. Put differently, since the time of Christ, Christians have averaged more than 2,200 new Protestant groups per century. This staggering number stands in sharp contrast to the Apostle Paul’s challenge to the early church in Corinth: “Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?”

(1 Corinthians 1:13)

Paul’s questions echo across history, reminding us that the fragmentation we see today is far from the unity Christ desired for his followers.

Human nature all but guarantees that people will organize around differing worship styles and theological emphases. Yet the problem is not diversity itself but the



Roger Bray

way Christians have elevated differences over shared faith.

Jesus taught his disciples that their love for one another — not their distinctions — should be their defining witness. And yet, thousands of denominational splits later, Christianity has become one of the world’s most visible examples of division. Instead of serving as a unifying force, it often

models the very polarization that fractures societies.

A lesson passed down to me from my parents still rings true: if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

It is time for Christians to take this to heart. Are we contributing to division, or are we working intentionally toward unity? Honest self-assessment is no longer optional — it is essential.

While full agreement on every theological point is unrealistic,

meaningful conversation and genuine fellowship are not.

If believers from different traditions took the time to listen, share and serve together, we would discover that the reasons to unite far outweigh the reasons to remain apart.

The path forward begins not with doctrine but with relationship — and with a renewed commitment to the unity Christ prayed for.

Roger Bray is the interim minister at First Christian Church.

ZEPHYR PRODUCTS TOUR



Brandon Herring speaks with County Commissioner Vanessa Reid and Kansas State Treasurer Steven Johnson on Friday while providing a tour of Zephyr Products. Herring is a sales manager for the Leavenworth company. Local and state elected officials participated in the tour, which was organized by the Kansas Black Republican Council. John Richmeier



Sales Manager Brandon Herring leads a tour of Zephyr Products in Leavenworth. John Richmeier



Kansas State Treasurer Steven Johnson attends a tour of Zephyr Products led by Brandon Herring. Herring, right, is a sales manager for the Leavenworth company. John Richmeier

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LEAVENWORTH COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

To all qualified electors residing within the boundaries of the Leavenworth County Conservation District, notice is hereby given that pursuant to K.S.A. 2-1907, as amended, on the 6th day of February 2025, at 5:00 p.m., an annual meeting of the Leavenworth County Conservation District will be held at Kane Family Farm 17791 Chieftain Road Tonganoxie, Ks 66086. Please RSVP to 785-863-2221 ext 1031.

The meeting agenda shall include the following business items:

ONE:

The supervisors of the Leavenworth County Conservation District shall make full and due report of their activities and financial affairs since the last annual meeting.

TWO:

The supervisors shall conduct an election by secret ballot of qualified electors there present, of two supervisors to serve for a term of three years from date of said meeting.

The term of Rodney Parsons and Jeff Heim is expiring.
All in the county of Leavenworth in the State of Kansas.

By _____
Jeff Heim, Chairman
Leavenworth County Conservation District

Attest

Megan Hollander, District Manager