



Message from the Higher Education Ministry

You've made it! Regardless of whether you are being promoted from Kindergarten, Primary, Secondary, or Post-Secondary school, this can be both an exciting and uncertain time in your life. The good thing is you did not have to make it on your own. God will always help you carry your burdens. It could be through emotional and financial support from your parents, prayers of a grandmother, sage wisdom of a grandfather, bonds shared between friends, or encouragement from your Central UMC family.

You will never be alone.

Yes, it is an exciting time; you are off to a new phase in your life. There is so much promise ahead of you. If you did not like the way you were perceived in the last chapter of your journey, you can reinvent yourself going forward. However, we hope that you were satisfied and continue striving to be the best you, that you can be.

Undoubtedly, it is also a time of uncertainty. With that comes anxiety, apprehension, anger, and doubt. While we don't want to give those feelings power, we also don't want to pretend they may not exist. Your feelings are real, don't deny them, but it is best to work through them. You are not alone. You made it before, and you will make it again.

You could look at COVID-19 as something that ruined your life; but, a better way to look at it is, *no other graduating class will be remembered the way that you will*. This is uniquely your experience. You did not ask for it, could not have dreamt it, but you can "own" it! Why did God allow this to happen? We cannot answer that, but you can ask God what He would want you to do in spite of it.

A new chapter in your journey can mean leaving old friends behind, but it can also mean so much more. You have the chance to move on from that bully that gave you grief. You have the chance to make that team of which

you always wanted to be a part. You have a chance to capture that superlative title that you “deserved.” You have the chance to meet that special someone with which you may spend the rest of your life. You have a chance to design your future. And “yes,” you have a chance to “get right with God” if that has been heavy on your heart.

We tend to look towards “pomp & circumstance” as symbolism of graduation; however, in its original context, it was intended as a “coronation of a king.” Let us look at this moment as your coronation of who you are meant to be. We are with you on your journey.

With Love and Pride,

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CUMC Higher Education Ministry Committee**