

Sermon Title: **Together - with the movie, The Intern (2015)**

Bible: Psalm 133 & Romans 16:1-16

Where & When: Sunday Service at Gilroy UMC on August 11th, 2019

Audience: about 35 English-speaking Church Members

### **Opening Prayer**

Gracious God, I am so thankful that you called me as your loved one. And I am also thankful that you called each of us as your loved ones. Yes, Lord, we are all your children, and your loved ones. Please guide us to love one another. Please lead us to love Gilroy. We are all your children and your co-workers for your kingdom. Please be with my lips! In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **1. Movie Nights and The Movie, The Intern (2015)**

This summer, we are having three movie nights. The first movie we watched was The Mission (1986), which has beautiful music, "Gabriel's Oboe," or "Nella Fantasia." The second movie was "The Intern" (2015), which depicts the experiences of a senior intern. This coming Friday, we will watch the third and last movie, "Secret Sunshine" (2010), which is a Korean Movie. But do not worry! It has English subtitles. As always, popcorn will be provided. Please come and enjoy the movie together! On our last movie night, 19 people attended.

### **2. Together in the Movie, The Intern**

Today's message is from the second movie, the Intern (2015). I hope that most of you have seen this movie. It is the story of an older man who is hired as an intern for an online fashion site. Even though there were a lot of challenges and differences, 70-year-old Ben caught the

opportunity to get back in the game, and became a senior intern. He learned about how to use email and facebook, and worked with the younger generation. They spent time together at each others' houses. They work together, but they even care about each other. To me, it looked like they treat each other like family or friends, beyond co-workers. I know that this is just a movie, but it made me dream about what it looks like being together in the church.

### **3. Together in the Church**

There are many denominations and many churches in Gilroy. Each church and each denomination has its own character. There is no one that is right or wrong. But each church and each denomination is different and unique. To me, it is like team sports. There are many team sports: Baseball, Basketball, Volleyball, Football, and Soccer. Every sport is fun, but its play style or rules are different. Some sports can depend on one or a couple of star players, but some sports need to focus on team workers, rather than star players. In other words, how to look at the teamwork is different. I believe that this is the same in the church. In some churches, one senior pastor is the star player. Sometimes, this senior pastor has the charismatic power. In some churches, a pastoral team makes up the key players. In this case, there are many pastors: a senior pastor, associate pastors, education pastor, worship pastor, etc. In some churches, the congregation's members are the important players. How about our church and the United Methodist Church? I believe that our teamwork comes from the harmony between the pastor

and the lay leaders. When the California-Nevada Annual Conference is held, Gilroy UMC sends one pastor and one lay member. At the annual conference, the same number of pastors and the same number of lay members discuss together and make decisions together. In other words, pastors are important and at the same time, lay members are important. In a local church, a local pastor should work together with lay leaders. I will work together with lay leaders, and furthermore, I want to care about all of you, like family and friends, like the senior intern Ben in the movie.

#### **4. Together in Romans 16**

The book of Romans is the letter of Paul to the Roman church. Paul is the significant leader of the early church with twelve disciples, called the twelve apostles, after the death of Jesus Christ. In the Bible, the Old Testament has 39 books. In the New Testament, there are 27 books. Among 27 books, it is the tradition that 13 letters were written by Paul, while there were only 4 gospels. The majority of scholars argue that Paul himself wrote only 7 letters, while the other 6 letters might have been written by someone else. The concept of copyright at that time was totally different from that of now. Anyway, Romans is one of these 7 that are unquestionably Paul's letters. In the letter to the Romans, there are many important theological themes, but what I want to see is in the first part of chapter 16. As we read, there are many co-workers, many lay leaders, and many church members. Paul is an amazing leader in the early churches.

His letters, his theology, his teachings, his experiences are deep and wide. I should study Paul again and again, because I want to be a better pastor. But what I really want to learn from Paul is to work together and to care about each other with lay leaders and church members.

### **5. Closing Prayer with Psalm 133**

(Can we hold each other's hands? I would like to invite you into this prayer. When I point to each of you, can you say aloud your name?).

Oh, Lord, it is blessed to live together in unity. We are here, Lord; (church members' names). We remember those church members and church friends who cannot come today. Please bless us to be one in your love and grace. How very good and pleasant it is when all of Gilroy church members live together in unity. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Possible Qs.**

1. What are your favorite Team Sports? Why?
2. What does it mean to you, to work or live together in unity?
3. What kind of church do you like? How? Why?