



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

of NEWARK DELAWARE

May 20, 2018

Dear Church Family,

I write to you with mixture of joy and sadness. I am joyful because of the many good times we have had together at EP. We have felt and seen the Lord work in, through, and among us. It has been my highest privilege to serve as your pastor, as my family and I feel your love, support, and prayers. Even my sadness is a sweet sadness, the kind you feel when leaving family and friends to embark on a journey that must be taken for the Lord.

I believe that the Lord is calling me to do a new work. I am not making a change for any lack of love of you dear flock. Rather, the Lord has put a call before me that hit home with the very things of the mission of God that we have learned together, prayed together, and emphasized together over the years. I was not anticipating this new endeavor, but when it came I knew that the Lord was calling me to pursue it.

It is hard to lose a pastor. Yet I would ask you to think of this new work that God has called me to in a different way. I would ask you to see that you have prepared me for this work and that you're sending me out to it. I may never again pastor a church that has as many gifts and as much love as EPC. I'm so thankful to have had such a privilege. My family and I love EPC deeply.

The position I have been called to is an institutional one where I will be investing in the development of the next generation of pastors, mentoring leaders, directly supporting the ministry of church planting, actively engaging in local church ministry, and pursuing a PhD in systematic theology to equip me to teach. When I received the offer of this position, I felt a strong sense of call to it, not for any lack of love from you dear flock but for the exact opposite reason. I feel as though the ministry here has prepared me to serve the kingdom in a unique way in this new call. As Paul says of the Corinthians, you are my letter. I would not have been offered this position if it were not for the privilege of serving you for the past 13 years.

This new call will be challenging and demanding, but I believe the Lord is asking me to do it, and that I would be unfaithful not to take it. The ministry that I will be serving has not formally made the announcement to those whom it serves, so I am not at liberty now to share it. The slated time for the announcement is June 7. When that time comes, I look forward to sharing more about this new call. I am confident that you will be proud to release me to serve God's Kingdom in this new endeavor.

At first, I found it very awkward that I couldn't share right away where the Lord was leading me. However, we will all benefit from focusing on how the Lord moves his servants from one station to another. Christ alone is King and Head of the church. He dispatches shepherds to his flocks for seasons of ministry. He has the right man for the right season.

I do hope we will have adequate time to share stories and say goodbye in the weeks to come. I also hope we'll be able to see each other in the future, and I think that should be possible. This new call is in the Northeast Corridor.

I want to say a word about the future for Evangelical Presbyterian Church. God has his hand on this congregation, and your elders are humbly seeking to keep in step with the Spirit.

The Lord is leading me to another work to serve him. But that means he is leading another servant to shepherd our flock. I am so thankful for the many, many times over the years where so many of you have expressed that God blessed you through me as his vessel. Yet I know that my departure as your pastor means that Christ has another vessel that he is bringing to bless you. Fresh blessings await you through God's appointed man.

I will begin my new ministry on August 1. The speed of this transition will be challenging for us all. The Session thought it best to conclude my official duties as Senior Pastor on June 3, and to seek an interim pastor to provide ministry of the word and guidance during the time of transition. This timeline allows me to use my remaining vacation and study leave, and to be free to focus on the many preparations for the work that God is calling me to pursue. I have no doubt that the Session, your assistant pastors, and the new interim pastor will be faithfully leading you to seek God joyfully in this season.

In the midst of all of this I am sure that we will find time to say goodbyes. I am forever grateful to God for the privilege of being pastor to every one of you in this congregation.

With Much Love and Gratitude,
Pastor Harvey