

Dear Friends,

There is never a day when I'm not grateful to be pastor of this wonderful congregation! These past eleven years have been life-giving and life-changing for Rich and me. Who knew such a great life was in store for us when we said 'yes' to Immanuel!

I am not ready to retire from ordained ministry, nor do I want to say 'good-bye' to Immanuel at this point. But I am ready to work fewer hours and a little less intensely. These next five years will bring significant changes in my family. Five years from now, my grandchildren will be in school full time. Five years from now, my mother, if she is still living, will be 98. And five years from now, Rich and I will be five years older too! Now is the time for me to give more time and attention to these beloved ones. I don't want to let these years pass while being too busy to fully engage with them, support them and play with them.

At the same time, I still have passion for the work I do. I am still stimulated by my study of scripture for preaching and teaching. I am still moved by the one-to-one work of pastoral counseling/care. I still have ideas for how we can grow in faith together. I still love being in the company of the saints at Immanuel.

Therefore, it is my intent to resign from my full-time call six months from now, and my desire is to be re-called to a part-time pastoral position, here at Immanuel. This would require Immanuel to call to another part-time pastor to serve alongside Pastor Paul and me.

My request then, is that the Executive Committee begin the process of calling a second part-time pastor who would begin in August of this year.

Pastor Paul and I have had many conversations about this change and believe that we can work it out in ways that would not only benefit my family, but also prove to be a benefit to the family of Immanuel as well.

Many thanks for your consideration. God bless you in your good work!