



October 19, 2017

Dear People of St. Paul & the Redeemer,

After considerable discernment, I have decided it is time for me to leave St. Paul & the Redeemer. My tenure as your Rector will end on December 31. It has been a great privilege to work at this remarkable parish. And it is the right time for a change. I arrived in July of 2007, newly ordained, to serve as Assistant Rector and began as Rector in February of 2010. Thank you for the privilege of a decade of walking with you through the joys and challenges of life, for your vulnerability, passion, creativity, faith, and courage. I give thanks for you and for the time I was able to spend among you. I take pride in the many ways we mirrored the radical hospitality of Jesus. And I am full of gratitude for the many ways grace and love have revealed themselves. You are an exceptional community with a rich history and a high calling.

In January, I will seek to continue what I have come to know as my vocation, namely leadership in important institutions in the city. That calling came early, when I volunteered as a kid at the Olive Branch Mission and in college for the Park District in Washington Park. I tried to live it out in my work as a chaplain at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital and as a high school teacher and baseball coach at Nueva Esperanza Academy in Philadelphia. The calling has found its fullest expression in my work with you all at St. Paul & the Redeemer. I hope that my next move can be towards leadership in a larger, not-for-profit organization. I will start by taking some classes.

St. Paul & the Redeemer has been a wonderful church for Erin, Simon, Connor, and for me. Thank you for the many ways you have nurtured and raised all of us. We will remain in the neighborhood.

You are in good hands. Harold Olivey and Romonda McKinney Bumpus are good wardens. The Vestry is strong. And the Diocese of Chicago will be helping at every step going forward. My focus these last couple months will be on saying goodbye and on making sure that I can hand back to you all a flourishing parish.

To me, St. Paul & the Redeemer proclaims and worships a gracious and loving, just and beautiful God, a God marked by openhandedness. I will take that with me and will be cheering on SPR as you continue to live out your calling. I look forward to seeing you on Sunday and in the weeks to come.

With gratitude,

The Rev. Peter C. Lane, Rector

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