



MOORPARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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May 31, 2017

Dear MPC Friends,

Being your pastor has been a deep privilege in my life and the life of my family. Today I write to share that God has invited me into a new chapter of ministry as the Senior Pastor and Head of Staff at Lake Grove Presbyterian Church in the Portland area. My last day at Moorpark Presbyterian Church will be July 9, 2017.

During our three years together, I have had the pleasure of seeing God at work here. I recall the joys of thriving ministries, fantastic mission opportunities, small group growth, revived prayer teams, wonderful new people joining MPC, and sharing God's Word through worship. However, my most cherished experience here is enjoying God and growing in Christ together.

In spite of this privilege, I have the conviction that God has prepared MPC for a new stage in ministry. I deeply regret the growing pains of change some have intensely felt these past years, which breaks my heart. Yet, the tasks performed in my tenure have prepared the church to make space for fresh leadership and a bright new start. By my stepping aside, my prayer is that this congregation is able to move forward and flourish. Paige and I realize, however, this means leaving the congregation we love.

MPC is poised for a positive future as Pastor Diane, the staff, and the elders and deacons use the gifts God has given them for leadership and care. Even more so, God, through Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, is keenly alive in your midst, loving and guiding you as he has so faithfully done through the years.

The pulpit will be filled through July by our staff, then MPC will receive an interim pastor to walk alongside this transition. The Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) will oversee this process, and ministry will thrive through God's grace and provision.

I cannot thank you enough for our lives together. God is always good, and I see God's goodness even in this unanticipated story. Though we part geographically, we will always belong to one another through Christ.

In Christ's care,

Pastor Mark McIlraith

Rev. Dr. Mark McIlraith, Senior Pastor
Rev. Diane White, Interim Associate Pastor
Rev. Dr. Daryl Fisher-Ogden, Parish Associate

Dan McGowan, Worship Director
Dave Hubbard, Youth Ministries Director
Loris Mitchell, Office Manager
Bonnie Boe, Disbursing Treasurer