

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Dear Ones,

I write today with a mixture of excitement, sadness, and gratitude.

While I cannot yet tell you of the details or give an exact date, at some point in the winter or early spring I will be accepting another call.

The reason that I am telling you now, rather than waiting for everything to be finalized is so that the call process can now be moved to look for a Missioner instead of an Associate Missioner.

Here is where the call process stands:

- Each congregation has created a profile document
- The Cluster leadership has created a profile to describe how the Cluster works.
- All of these have been collated into one document – but without any editing or mixing of each one
- In December the Cluster Council will be looking at this Cluster Wide Profile and will be approving it soon with any additions or corrections they may need to make

The next step would be the creation of a call committee, with each congregation selecting 2 people to represent them.

The Bishops and the staff the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia and NW Washington Synod and I feel that we need to be clear about what is happening before the selection of a call committee. We want to be respectful of the time and energy of people in the Cluster.

Fortunately nearly everything that has been done to date will be usable for the call of a Missioner!

The Cluster Council's Executive Committee, Personnel Committee and the Cluster Council will be working to transition our call process to look for a missioner. Once a missioner is called, then you would work with her or him to call an Associate, probably with a much shorter process.

If there is time between my departure and the call of a Missioner, then the Synod and Diocese would work together to appoint an interim pastor to be with you during that transition.

So, even though not all the details are finalized yet, and some significant questions remain about my future ministry, I wanted to tell you what's coming.

A huge part of my excitement is that in this new call I will be able to spend about 15 hours a week working on the ancient/new concept of The Catacomb Churches. You can check out what it is and what is happening there at www.catacombchurches.org. Currently over 68% of the population in Washington State does not participate in any kind of faith community. I strongly feel that Lutherans and Episcopalians have a lot to offer but need to explore other ways to be church that might appeal to this 68%. Both Lutherans and Episcopalians will be supporting me in developing The Catacomb Churches model.



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The other reason for my excitement is that I will likely be working in both the Episcopal and Lutheran communities in some other ministries, but I can't really tell you about these just yet. I certainly will tell you more as it become appropriate for me to do so. I am a little nervous that not all the details are worked out yet, but I feel that to protect the call process in the Cluster it is worth the risk.

I also feel a mixture of sadness and gratitude. I have grown to love each of you and each congregation over the last 8 years, and Celebration Lutheran for nearly 14 years. It is hard for me to think of leaving. I think we have done a lot of good ministry together. I have learned so much from all of you and I am deeply grateful for the partnership in ministry we have.

You may have a mixture of reactions to a letter like this. That is only natural. When my pastor left my home church I felt all kinds of feelings: anger, sadness, gratitude and anxiety about the future. But I also felt it was a good time for the church to recognize its strength, to end a good chapter well, and to begin a new one with hope. Please speak to your congregational and Cluster-wide leaders and know that you are not alone.

But I am not leaving just yet. We will have plenty of time to farewell and bless one another, and to do so for Vicki Wesen, my long-time partner and friend.

We will have more time together to continue developing as persons and communities of faith. I intend to enjoy that time and use it well with all of you. Please do not hesitate to talk to me about any support you might need for your ministry, any pastoral need, or to discuss this letter.

Peace,

The Rev. Terry Kylo

P.S. I will miss not being able to see everyone on Sunday, so the Cluster leaders and I came up with this schedule so that I would be available to those who would like to see me

Terry's Sunday Schedule for December 11th:

8:00 AM Eucharist at Christ Church

9:30 AM Worship at Celebration - I'll be staying for coffee hour

11:45 AM Coffee Hour at Christ Church

2:00 PM Time with Terry at St. Paul's - for St. James and St. Paul's