

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Spirit of God calls people to live and work together for times and seasons, and also calls times and seasons to an end. It is with a healthy dose of both sadness and excitement that I write to inform you that I have been called as Campus Minister & Executive Director of the Presbyterian Student Center at the University of Georgia, beginning August 1, 2018. As a result, this season of my presence and work with Bethany Presbyterian Church has been called to a premature end.

There is much to be excited about in this move; it will bring Christin, Jack and me much closer to both of our families, allowing Jack to grow up around grandparents, great grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. The position also seems to be a very good fit for my particular gifts and passions in ministry.

Still, I and we are incredibly sad to be leaving our wonderful congregations and this beautiful part of the world. In just seven months I have received an abundance of welcome, care, and encouragement (not to mention the countless generous gifts that Jack received!) from the congregation of Bethany Presbyterian Church. Time and again on Sunday afternoons I find myself sharing with Christin just how grateful I am to get to serve such a gracious and faithful church family. You have so many gifts to offer this city and the PC(USA). It is my prayer for Bethany that you trust these gifts as God-given, and put them to faithful use in the bold confidence of the people of God. Whomever is called to serve this congregation into the next season of your life and ministry is surely blessed.

There is one more aspect of this that I want to address directly, and that is the fact that I will be leaving Bethany before my contract is complete. To be clear, I was not searching during my time serving at Bethany Presbyterian Church, but was unexpectedly contacted by the search committee and invited to apply for the Campus Minister position. After prayerful consideration with Christin, we decided to remain open to the possibility that it could be a call, as in time it has turned out to be.

While I would have preferred to see my full contract with Bethany through, the schedule of campus ministry requires that I be present for the beginning of Fall Semester. To this end, my last day as your Transitional Minister will be Sunday, July 22. The Committee on Ministry from Sacramento Presbytery has already been made aware of this news. They are prepared to come alongside Bethany's Session to assist in finding another Transitional Minister who will shepherd the congregation through the remainder of its interim season of discernment as you search for Bethany's next called minister of Word & Sacrament.

God, who is our beginning and our end, is faithful. Without a doubt, the good work that Christ began in you will also be brought by Christ to its completion. Until that day, I am confident that Bethany Presbyterian Church will continue to be a blessing to South Sacramento, and to future generations, just as it has been a blessing to me, to Christin, and to Jack.

With Deep Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Norman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Rev. Will Norman  
Pentecost, 2018