

# **COLLEGIATE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



March 27, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write to let you know that I have decided to retire from the ministry and from my position at Collegiate Presbyterian Church effective May 31, 2018. My last day with you will be Sunday May 20, 2018.

It is hard for me to believe that I have been among you for almost 16 years. I had no idea when I began my time here the mountaintops we would attain and the valleys we would navigate together with God's ever-present help. Through it all I have felt your love and support.

Simply put, I love Collegiate Presbyterian Church and I will miss all of you. I always counted it as grace that I was called to serve here. You have been so gracious to Paul and to me. You have helped nurture our children, have prayed for us as we relocated, have walked beside us when Paul's father died. Even though we are leaving CPC, we will always cherish our relationships with you.

I have no grand plans for my retirement. I am looking forward to spending more time in Detroit with the most beautiful grandson God could provide! I have been engaged in some volunteer activities in Des Moines to which I will probably devote more time. I will remain involved with my work as the Moderator of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly. And I am eager to take some classes in the College for Seniors at Drake University. I am certain other opportunities will open themselves to me, and that excites me.

I am leaving CPC at a time when you are anticipating the arrival of a new Head of Staff. We have done this together many times before (!) and I know that God will provide richly for you and is even now preparing a new minister to lead you into a wonderful future.

Over the next few weeks there will be time for farewells and prayers. For now, let this word be enough.

May grace and peace be yours,

  
Barbara J. Gaddis

p.s. On the reverse side of this letter is a statement about how ministers must separate from their congregations. Please read it and understand that I will continue to keep you in prayer, but that I will no longer be your minister, and cannot continue to worship with you.

## STATEMENT OF ETHICS

The Presbytery reminds the church of the requirements established by the Book of Order when any minister resigns from a pastorate. (Or retires from service or becomes a pastor emeritus) These requirements have been established for the good of the pastor, the church members, the health of the congregation and the new pastoral relationships that will be established.

When a pastor leaves there will be bonds of affection between the minister and members of the church which will continue to be cherished. Friendships may continue, but the pastoral relationship must end. The minister should cease to perform any functions of a pastor such as funerals, baptisms, and weddings, unless invited to officiate by the pastor or by the moderator of a church without a pastor. Requests made from church members will be respectfully declined.

It is hoped that understanding this in advance of a pastor leaving will clarify appropriate communications with the pastor following departure from the church.

Adopted January 2008

Presbytery of North Central Iowa