

August 13, 2022

Dear Friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I tell you that I will be retiring in November of this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 26 years as your pastor. But as with all journeys there is a time to call it to an end. I wanted to thank you for your patience and love that you have shown to my family and to me personally. During the past few months I have had a long series of "God Winks" that remind me that time passes quickly. I remember something my father said to me many years ago as he retired from his vocation as a carpenter. He said, "If I don't retire there is no place for another to start." I have been thinking of this as I considered what is best for both our church and my family.

In your immediate future, I have informed our association minister, Nayiri Karijan, of my decision. She stands ready to contact you and to help you through the process of finding new leadership for our church. While this may seem a little intimidating, as it has been many years since this was done the last time, I know there is a way forward in God's plan for us all.

For my immediate future, there are some medical issues that I have postponed that need attending to, which I hope to have underway this winter season. My family and I will continue to reside in Wadsworth. I had a good teacher in Rev. Baker as to how to make the transition of one pastor to another smoothly. I can only hope and pray that I will be as kind, generous, and thoughtful as Jerry was to me.

I wanted to thank everyone at Mt. Z for your support and help through these years. And I hope you will give my replacement and their family that same kindness, help, and support you have shared with me.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Keith*