

To: Pastor Dave Pettit, Members of Session, Alaina Brothers, Tara Strohm, and Providence Congregation

May 18, 2021

Dear All,

It is with much soul searching over this last year that I have come to the very difficult decision to retire from my position at Providence. I have had a 35 year career as a church pianist, one that I have loved very much, and more than half of that time at Providence. However, this last year has proven very challenging personally and professionally. As Kurt and I come closer to retiring from our full-time jobs, I find I cannot maintain working 7 days a week, therefore, I feel I need to choose between school and church. My decision came down to the following:

- the number of hours I am putting into church, and with choir possibly starting back in the fall, it would be even more hours.
- while I originally offered to do the online work and enjoyed it, now it is burdensome and time consuming.
- reducing the number of days I work back to a regular work week.
- I am having health issues that are causing me not to play at the level I used to (losing strength in my right hand and tinnitus in my ears). As these have progressed, it has become a personal struggle and I am not satisfied with the quality of the music I am playing. (Note: the level of the music I am required to play for school is not as demanding).
- I am needing more time off personally for travel, and school allows for this due to the breaks in the schedule. I have turned down many opportunities to travel due to my commitment on Sundays and how difficult it has been to find subs in the past. It is almost as much work to be gone as it is to be there.

I would like to say this to Pastor Dave, I have enjoyed our time together since you have come to Providence. I truly wish the timing was different and that we had more years together. I see great things for you and the future of this church with you as their leader/pastor. My retirement is entirely personal and in no way has anything to do with the timing of your arrival as our pastor. If anything, it made my decision more difficult as I have been enjoying working with you so much.

Alaina, working with you has been just amazing! You are the epitome of pure professionalism, determination, and yet so much fun. I have enjoyed learning from you, having fun alongside you, developing our friendship, and getting to know you and your lovely daughters.

Tara and I have years of wonderful history together, making music and now friendship. I have spoken with her personally and I appreciate her support of my decision.

I will do whatever I can in the process of finding my replacement, and to make this a smooth transition. I am also willing to be a sub down the road for my replacement, as I know how difficult it was for me to find subs.

Sincerely,

Dana Pease