



February 22, 2015

Dear Gustavus Adolphus Brothers and Sisters,

It is with both selfish sadness and supportive excitement that, on behalf of the Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church Congregational Council, I receive Pastor Bonnie Wilcox's letter of resignation as our Senior Pastor.

Pastor Bonnie began her journey as faith leader of GA ten years ago. Her approachable, down-to-earth personality has allowed so many members of our community to "dig in" and to serve with her *bega kwa bega* (shoulder-to-shoulder).

She has brought to our community stability and growth. She has also challenged us, for the benefit of our surrounding neighborhood as well as our own, to look outward - to throw open our doors and invite in to our facilities, our prayers, and our hearts many diverse groups, services, and activities. This has been important for our growth in mission to our surrounding community both spiritually and financially.

With Pastor Bonnie's departure, I think it is important to address our recent successful stewardship campaign. Our pastors have partnered with the council and many others from our GA community and provided leadership in key areas that allowed us to experience the success we have realized through the campaign - defining a vision and securing monetary support for that vision. We, the GA community, have done such amazing work listening to each other, our surrounding neighborhoods, and God to see where the work of this congregation should be centered in the coming years.

We will, of course, continue as planned. The council is committed to the goals and strategies we as a congregation have agreed upon and will continue to provide leadership as new opportunities that fit our mission arise. They are also committed to entering into conversations and being thoughtful about letting go of those things that no longer make sense with regard to our new vision and direction. Kairos will continue with us as part of our current agreement to aid us in the implementation of our current plans - initiatives that will affect our congregation into the future.

We send Pastor Bonnie to a new call with a different church family that is in need of her gifts - gifts that she shared with us so willingly. We pray for her as she manages feelings of loss in leaving our congregation - her first call as Senior Pastor. We pray for her as she manages the welcome, yet hard work of getting to know an entirely different church community. We send her with hugs, appreciation, and love.

Pastor Bonnie has served us amazingly well. She has truly led us to do God's work in new ways here at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. We will miss her amongst us - in the worship spaces, in the pulpit, at the altar, in our meetings, in our facilities. But we will carry her with us in our hearts as we continue the work we are called to do.

God's peace and love to you all,

Christopher Stordalen
Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church Congregation President