



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

October 3, 2018

Dear Friends,

I read somewhere that transition begins with an ending and it also leads to letting go. I certainly have been living with both of these ideas more so in the last couple of weeks but in reality, it's always happening. There are times when we recognize the transitions more often and feel them with a deeper sense of change.

As I shared in an earlier communication, David Siddall has accepted a position with Graceland University and will be leaving our mission center. I continue to explore our options for filling the role of Mission Center Financial Officer and hope we can identify people to assume those responsibilities. I appreciate your continued prayers for how we fill this leadership change.

The purpose of this letter is to share with you three more transitions of leadership. Several months ago, Winkie Stephens requested to be relieved of responsibilities on the leadership team and that change was announced. For several months, I've been praying about who else to invite to be part of the leadership team to provide me and our mission center guidance and support for mission. I am thrilled to announce that Sara Tubbesing has accepted the invitation to join the leadership team for the rest of this year and she's expressed a desire to continue on into 2019. Sara and her husband Brian moved into our mission center last year. They have been providing ministry in the Thunderbird West congregation and branching out to other congregations. Sara is a teacher by profession and I'm grateful for her willingness to join in leadership. Please join me in extending a welcome to Sara as she offers her gifts and counsel.

In addition to Sara joining the leadership team, Kyle Harper has accepted the invitation to be part of the leadership team too. Kyle has served as an unofficial counselor to me since arriving in Arizona. He is a respected minister and leader who has been facilitating crucial conversations in many congregations in our mission center about ways to envision our future. I have asked Kyle to continue in that role and to help expand those conversations into the future.

At the same time, Hilary Jenkins has offered his resignation as a member of the leadership team and also as the Invitation and Support Minister. Hilary is now working full-time at Grand Canyon University on a night shift and the work schedule has made it difficult for Hilary to balance his work schedule, sleep schedule, family schedule and then mission center ministry. I have appreciated Hilary's passion for mission and the wise counsel he's offered but understand the need for him to be relieved of his roles with the mission center. Please join me in expressing gratitude to Hilary for his willingness to provide support for invitation and witness.

I am grateful for each person's willingness to serve in roles of leadership across our mission center and pray for continued guidance as we live into God's future.

Grace and Peace, Larry