



ST. PETER'S BY-THE-SEA
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 18, 2017

St. Peter's Family,

It's with mixed emotions that I write to inform you that my time as a pastor at St. Peter's is coming to an end. I have been called to be the next Pastor/Head of Staff of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Westlake Village, CA. Our last Sunday at St. Peter's will be October 29, and my last day as your Interim Pastor will be October 31, 2017.

For the last year or so, while the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been working diligently to find the next pastor of St. Peter's, Hailey and I have been discerning what God has for our family. Over the last few months we have prayed and talked through what it would look like for us to stay and what would need to happen for us to be called elsewhere. The conversations have been good for our marriage and our family, but it has been incredibly difficult.

I want to be clear, your PNC has been busy. They have spent time pouring over candidates résumés, listening to sermons, calling references and praying through the future leadership of this church. I was one of the candidates for the Pastor/Head of Staff position here and, after discerning that they'd like to extend an offer to me, the committee worked with our Session and the Los Ranchos Presbytery to create an excellent offer. Our decision to leave St. Peter's and go to Westlake Village is firmly rooted in a sense of calling.

I've walked with you all for the last six years, as an Associate Pastor and as an Interim Pastor/Head of Staff. Our kids were born into this community and you walked with me during personal tragedy. You've supported my family, invested in us and prayed for us. You've given me opportunity to grow and trusted me to lead. For all these things, I am incredibly grateful.

I am confident God has a plan for this church and I am looking forward to seeing it unfold. This community has much to offer and, with the right pastoral leadership, will thrive in its next season. Know that I will continue to pray for you and can't wait to see how God uses St. Peter's for His Kingdom.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. David Rohde.
Interim Pastor/Head of Staff
St. Peter's by-the-Sea Presbyterian Church