



March 22, 2018

Dear Saints of Two Rivers Presbyterian Church,

A number of months ago, I entered into a time of exploring whether God was leading me to continue on as the pastor of this church. I invited the elders to be a part of that exploration. Their counsel and shepherding me in this season has been a great blessing of guidance and confirmation to me and Wendy. We now believe the conclusion of this prayerful exploration is that the Lord is leading me to not continue as your pastor. I ask that you release me from my call as the pastor of Two Rivers.

The reason I am asking for your release comes down to an understanding of my personal sense of call to serve in the ministry of church planting by ministering to church planters. *What has brought about this conclusion of a call that is different from the one I now serve?* Three things:

1. **Prayer.** I have sought the Lord and the counsel of His people as I prayed for our Father to show me where He desires me to serve. He has spoken volumes in both His Word and the wise counsel of the elders.
2. **Desire.** I take great joy in coaching, training, counseling, and encouraging the heart of ministers who serve Jesus. I come alive when I am operating out of my hearts passion to speak the gospel everyday into others heart.
3. **Purpose.** My current purpose is to pastor you the flock of Two Rivers. And while I love to do so, as I love each of you, I long to



change my purpose to pastor those who pastor the flock of the Good Shepherd.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR ME AND MY FAMILY

I have been praying for clarity, and the clarity God has given now requires courage. So we step out in obedience, trusting that the Lord Jesus has us. He is leading and we shall follow Him into the mission field of Scotland as missionaries of MTW serving in the ministry of church planting. Specifically we will come alongside church planters and their families as well as their church plants to support them by gospel nurturance and soul care.

Believing that this is the Lord's plan for us in this season, I also believe He has a plan for the church I love so much. I will follow you with our prayers as you follow Him who is leading all His children for His glory and our good. So for the sake of our sense of call and the future of Two Rivers, I humbly ask for your release. And Wendy and I ask for your prayers and support as we prepare to serve Jesus in Scotland.

With love for each of you,
Phil

Rev. Dr. Phil Stogner

Two Rivers, Sr. Pastor