

March 15, 2017

Dear IMC Brothers & Sisters,

As I have sought to follow after Jesus with all my heart, soul, mind, and strength I've found myself led in surprising directions. Seldom has God led me in ways that I expected, or in ways that have not included some degree of *'holy terror.'* Holy terror is what Peter experienced when he took that first step out of the boat. Holy terror surely coursed through David as he stepped onto the battlefield to face Goliath. Holy terror is something I have grown accustomed to as I have sought to follow after Jesus. Once again I find the Lord leading me in a direction that is causing my spiritual knees to knock as I venture into the unknown, confident of only one thing: I have heard Jesus say, "Come. Follow me."

For the past year, I have sensed the Spirit preparing me for a change of some kind. Over the course of the past six months God has brought clarity to this coming change. I am now able to share with you how the Spirit is leading me. On July 8, 2017, my ministry with Illinois Mennonite Conference as Associate Conference Minister will draw to a close. Although I will tend to all obligations already scheduled, I will not be adding any new items to my IMC calendar between now and July 8.

In addition to feeling called to make changes to my ministry with IMC, the Lord has called me to begin looking for a non-ministry position in the Peoria/East Peoria area that will complement my part-time pastoral position with East Peoria Mennonite Church. I request your prayers as I begin seeking a non-ministry related position with an employer who'll embrace and celebrate my pastoral responsibilities at EPMC, who will understand when those responsibilities need to take priority (i.e. funerals), and will bless me for attending the MCUSA Convention in Orlando where I'm scheduled to be a youth worship speaker.

Please know this decision has not been made lightly or quickly, and certainly not without tears. A great deal of prayer has gone into this decision. My heart is heavy as I write this letter, but my spirit is at peace. I have loved my work with IMC and the many opportunities it has given me to form deeper relationships with you, but the Lord has made it clear to me that this season of ministry has come to a close.

Youth and women's ministry will forever remain two of my greatest passions. As my schedule allows, I will gladly accept invitations to engage in these areas of ministry, despite no longer serving IMC officially. As pastor of East Peoria Mennonite Church I am committed to and look forward to remaining engaged with IMC.

Thank you, IMC, for allowing me the privilege of serving you these past three years. Thank you for the trust you extended me, wisdom you imparted to me and the graciousness with which you embraced me. For all of this and more I will be forever grateful. Rich blessings to you, my dear friends!

Much love to you in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

*FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON, AND A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN. ECCLESIASTES 3:1*