

Dear Community Church Family,

I became your pastor June 1, 2000. These 8 ½ years have been nothing short of amazing. Together we have witnessed God's astounding work in and through our church. We have grown numerically and spiritually. We have experienced deep community and have been changed.

That is why today is so difficult.

After several months of prayer and discussion, Angie and I believe that God is now leading us down a new path that will take us away from Mount Pleasant. This is the most difficult decision we've had to make in our ministry. We have loved you for nearly nine years and saying goodbye is more painful than I can describe.

Some time ago I was contacted by one of our sister EPC churches in the Detroit suburbs near where I grew up. This church is looking for a new pastor who can help them become more strategic and outward focused. Initially, I told the leaders from this church that I was not available to be their pastor, but I would be glad to be their consultant. Our conversations energized me as we discussed ways to reach and serve the communities of my childhood. Over time, we all began to wonder if God was leading a new direction.

Sunday I accepted a call to serve as the Senior Pastor of Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville Michigan. Most of our family still lives in the Detroit area and we are looking forward to being closer to them, especially to my parents who are both in their 80s.

I assure you that my departure is not due to any conflict within the staff or Session. To the contrary, our elders and staff enjoy a great deal of unity and are some of the most godly competent men and women I have ever worked with.

I am not leaving due to any frustration with our church. I am thrilled to see the church we are becoming. I am not leaving because of any problem, but because of a restlessness within me and a desire to return to my geographic roots.

I will remain in my present role through January 25. The elders have put together a transition team that will provide leadership until another senior pastor can be secured. The Transition Team will be communicating with the congregation shortly to inform you of some plans.

Leading Mount Pleasant Community Church has been the greatest privilege of my life. I will forever be grateful for the grace and growth that I have known here. While my relationship to you as pastor will change, my love and admiration for you never will.

In Christ,

Scott McKee

P.S. I would much rather be communicating this news to you in person rather than by email. However, I am aware that the news is out and spreading at internet speed. I wanted you to hear the news from me rather than through the grapevine. I will give a few more details to you on Sunday morning at the conclusion of the Christmas Collage.