

07 January 2016

Dear Pastor Brad & Aldersgate UMC SPRC,

It is with sadness that I write this letter to you all. I want to make it clear that I will be stepping down from my position as the Youth Director and 1st Service Worship Leader and that I will be leaving Aldersgate UMC on February 10, 2016 (Ash Wednesday) to go and worship with my wife at a church closer to Seattle where we live.

However, it is my hope that even though I will not be an active member of Aldersgate, that our relationship would continue, and that this is not a goodbye, but rather a shift in our relationship. I think fondly of my time at Aldersgate and am glad that I had the opportunities to experience life with all of you. I am now at a transition point in my life and my marriage with Manny has taken priority, which means we wish to begin worshipping together in one community. My resignation and leaving is not a reflection of the character of Aldersgate, for everyone here is so loving and compassionate, but it is rather because of our new life together that we will be worshipping closer to our home in Seattle. I hope to continue visiting from time to time and catch up with you all so we can continue to encourage each other's faith.

You all have been so kind to me and have been there for me through some of the hardest times of my life, and I am deeply appreciative for all the support you have given to me. You have shown me the impact a community can have on an individual, and I hope to share this with my future ministries. So thank you for everything, for praying for me, being patient with me, teaching me, and being so gracious to me, and surrounding me with support at all times. I have no other choice but to hold onto the deep love of Christ you all have given me, as I leave.

Grace & Peace,

Nick S. Laasanen