

On Saturday, September 12, 2015 10:57 AM, The Church of the Ascension
<office@ascensionchicago.org> wrote:

The Church of the Ascension

Special Notice

from the Senior Warden and Rector

FROM THE RECTOR

This morning, for the second time, I offered to resign my position as Rector of the Church of the Ascension, and the vestry accepted it.

When I accepted the call to serve as your priest, it was with great hope that together we could build on the heritage of this parish, and through service and witness be a compelling Christian community. The decision that this is not possible is one that I have reached after a good deal of thought, prayer, and consultation. For several months, I have realized that this was a possible, if not likely outcome. Vestry conversations have been consumed with acrimony and the parish has suffered from a wide-spread social media campaign that, though aimed at me as rector, has made the parish a spectacle. At this point, the one thing I can do to change this situation is to step away.

With confidence that God can work through our confusion, with regret for both what might have been, and for having to saying farewell to the people and place for whom I care deeply, I ask your prayers and patience in the weeks ahead.

My last Sunday serving here is planned for October 18. In the weeks ahead, your senior warden will be working with our Bishop and his staff to plan the next steps in the life of the parish. You should be aware that the option of tendering my resignation has been carefully explored with the Bishop and

his staff for some time, and that my colleagues on the staff also knew that this was a possibility. I am grateful for the vestry's recent action to support my ministry and for their clarity in expressing their leadership now and going forward.

There will be opportunity for more conversation and reflection in the weeks that remain. For the moment, I ask your prayers and will express my thanks for the time I have had and will have as a part of the Church of the Ascension.

Fr. Cobb

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Although I regret the recent turn of events, I want to thank Father Cobb for his service to our Parish as Rector. The Vestry is committed to moving forward, and we will keep you regularly informed of our progress. Very soon, we will be in touch concerning clergy leadership following Father Cobb's departure.

Rod Luery

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