

HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



To the members and friends of Highland,

I am writing to share the news of my resignation as Pastor of Highland Presbyterian Church. My last Sunday will be April 27 with a congregational meeting after worship to dissolve the call between myself and Highland. I have accepted the call to be the Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Olympia, WA. With family already in the area, and Bethany's parents moving there as well, we are looking forward to having a built-in support system. As certain as I am that this is the right move for my family and me, it breaks my heart to be leaving you all.

It has been an honor and privilege to be your pastor. We have been with one another through some of life's greatest joys and deepest struggles. I was grateful for how you navigated the the Covid-19 pandemic, including your care for the most vulnerable in our midst. During the years since, your mission to love your neighbors has carried on, and I was honored to walk alongside you as you became a Matthew 25 Congregation, a MoreLight Church, and became certified as an EarthCare Congregation.

As surely as I believe that God is guiding me in this decision, I also believe that God will guide you into the future. I am so proud of this congregation and the way you have been a voice for goodness and justice in the Blount County area, and I look forward to seeing how God's plan for Highland will unfold in the years to come.

Thanks and blessings,

Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington