

The Presbytery of Milwaukee wishes all the best for Jim Rand in his retirement!



Retiring in the midst of a global pandemic is not ideal. Most of the traditional celebrations, fanfare, and even the comfort of in-person goodbyes after years in ministry just aren't possible; but, as Jim reflected, he's not the first to retire or have a major life transition occur when something horrendous was happening in the world. "It's the reality of our lives," noted Jim. And our call as pastors. "We do what we can and trust in those who will follow to take the gospel in faithful ways."

Jim has certainly done what he could and challenged others to step up along the way. During our ordination vows, we make a commitment to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love and to be a friend among our colleagues. Jim has lived into those vows. In his ministry, Jim highly valued his role as pastor, visiting people in their homes or in hospitals and nursing homes. These relationships and encounters informed his preaching; as when he wrestled with the Biblical text each week, he took with him what was in the minds and hearts of people. Along with serving Wauwatosa Pres. for over twenty-four years, Jim has been moderator of the Presbytery and Council and has served on a number of Presbytery Committees in addition to moderating congregations when they were without a pastor. He's been one of the first to welcome new members to the presbytery, to host clergy groups, and gather ecumenical colleagues for important conversations about what was impacting the city.

To this end, Jim has taken the prophetic call "to seek justice and love kindness" to heart. This has been evidenced in his work with Common Ground, LGBTQ advocacy, and speaking against the systemic racial inequalities in our state and nation. Drawn to Tosa Pres. because he wanted "to be part of a congregation that would work faithfully on the welcome and inclusion of all people," Jim sees this ministry as integrally tied to his understanding of Scripture and the call to discipleship.

As a true Presbyterian (Reformed and always Reforming), Jim is looking forward to what this next chapter of his life will bring, and he is grateful for the love and support of colleagues along the way and new opportunities to come. He and his wife Sarah (another valued member of our Presbytery!) are looking forward to moving to North Carolina to be closer to Sarah's family and travel when it becomes prudent to do so. As well, will be the joys of time spent with grandchildren, reading, hiking (including finishing the Camino de Santiago which he and Sarah hiked last summer), and hopefully fulfilling his dream of working for a summer in one of our national parks.

Jim, while we don't have the traditional presbytery send off for you, we can promise innumerable hugs and handshakes (when it is safe to do); and in the meantime our blessings to you and Sarah and a word of thanks not only for the faithful work you've done but more importantly for the *you* you bring to everything you do.