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July 30, 2019

Dear Wardens, Vestry, Staff and Parishioners of Grace and Holy Trinity Church:

It has been my deep honor and sincere privilege to serve in your midst for the past three years: first as your seminarian; later, as your Deacon and Missioner to Monroe Park; and in these recent months as Priest Affiliate. With you I have learned, I have grown, and I have received the loving encouragement that I have needed to launch into my next call. Today I write to let you know what is happening in my life and ministry and what that means for my remaining time here at Grace and Holy Trinity.

As some of you know, I began a new position at VCU on July 1 as Associate Dean for Faculty Development in the School of Social Work. One of the reasons I accepted that position is that it blends beautifully with a role I have been asked to take on at a diocesan level. I have been working with the Diocese of Virginia in recent months to re-envision the formation of vocational (permanent) deacons, who bridge the needs of the church and the world. This work is now coming into fruition through partnership among the Diocese of Virginia, the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia and the Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership (CALL) at Church Divinity School of the Pacific, the seminary I attended in low-residence for my Master of Divinity.

In September, the St. Phoebe School for Deacons will launch and begin preparing for our first cohort of students to enroll in 2020. I have been named as the Local Formation Director of the St. Phoebe School for Deacons, overseeing the spiritual and practical formation of our deacons who are preparing for ministry.

I have also accepted a call as part-time Priest Associate at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, where I will house my work with the St. Phoebe School. Although it is time for me to launch into these new endeavors, I will remain a supporter of this parish, the supervisor of your social work interns with Red Door and Circles RVA, and a neighbor and friend who will come back through your doors as often as I can.

I cannot imagine a more holy and growth-filled time than these three years serving with Grace and Holy Trinity has offered me: from preaching my first sermons, to offering hospitality, hope, and healing at Red Door, to breathing new life and the Way of Love into the Chapel of the Resurrection, to singing and chanting our way through Lenten Morning Prayer together, to a beautiful ordination as Deacon and then my first celebrations of Holy Eucharist as a Priest in God's Church. My heart is full. I am grateful beyond words for the time I have served here, and I will always treasure this parish as the foundation for my life in ministry.

As I continue to pray and discern where and how God is calling me, I will be working in this blended vocational life. Change is a part of life and I am thankful for the foundation you have offered me.

My last Sunday at Grace and Holy Trinity will be August 25, when I am scheduled to preach at both the 7:45 and 10:00 services. I will treasure the time we have remaining, and while I will undoubtedly shed a few tears, I will also be rejoicing together with you for what has been, what is, and what is yet to come for all of us.

Grace and Peace,

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Kye Price
Priest Affiliate