

# The UPDATE

A Message from Timm High

*For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to both you and me. Philemon 8-11*

To the Saints engaged in God's mission within Riverside Presbytery, greetings;

These verses come from a Biblical text that has helped shape and frame my call to the work of Ministry of the Word and Sacrament as a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church. Onesimus is an escaped slave who belongs to Philemon. After making his way from Colossae to where Paul is in prison (scholars suggest Rome or Caesarea or Ephesus), each has connected with the other in a profound way. Paul addresses this letter to his "dear friend and coworker" and sends the letter with Onesimus back to the man who has earthly authority over him. Verse 11 contains the meaning of the word Onesimus: useful/beneficial.

As I depart my service to God within the Presbytery of Riverside, it is my hope that my work here has been Onesimus, that it has been useful to God. In gratitude to God and to you, I share with you these reflections of Thanksgiving, Forgiveness, and Goodbye. Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is Good. God's steadfast love is everlasting...



For the time we have served together since July 1, 2017.

For the past which our time together built upon and for the future which is unknown to us but well known to God in the person of Jesus through the passion and purpose of the Holy Spirit. And in the face of uncertainty, we as disciples of Jesus Christ can be certain of a future to be faced, thanks to God's goodness and grace.

For the present which calls me away into a new service and the Presbytery of Riverside into continuing discernment around God's hopes for her preferred future.

For those whom have been hurt by my words or actions during my time of service within the Presbytery of Riverside, I ask your forgiveness.

For the privilege of living, loving, learning, and being loved together, Thanks  
Be To God with the remembrance that Goodbye is a blessing:

God Be With You!

Thank you for your witness to God's mission in the person of Jesus through the passion and purpose of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings and Be Well...

*Timm*