

Dear Church of our Saviour,

When your vestry extended the call to me to be your next rector, I was overjoyed! At every turn in the discernment process, everyone I met impressed me with their thoughtful, deep listening. We got to know each other through warm conversations filled with laughter and honesty. They shared COS's strengths and could name specific places for continued growth, and the hope of my prayer for guidance was confirmed each time we met. You were people with whom I wanted to minister.

I had first heard of COS when I served as interim rector at St. Peter's a few years ago. There, parishioners spoke of your powerful ministry through Care for Friends, and I knew about your vibrant, creative music program. More recently, I've watched from afar as you've navigated this construction time with agility and grace. God has blessed you with wise leadership and an openness to the Spirit's promptings. These gifts will surely help us build on the good work already begun in you as we seek to live out God's boundless love in Lincoln Park and beyond. You are a courageous, joyful, and faithful church. I feel so blessed to be called to serve with you.

My first office day will be April 22 and my first Sunday with you will be April 27. I am really looking forward to moving to Chicago this spring. I was born at the old St. Luke's hospital and have always wanted to live in the city. Instead, I grew up in a suburb of St. Paul, MN and moved to the San Francisco Peninsula after college. I finally moved back to the Midwest in 2021, landing in Deerfield and, most recently, New Lenox, where I've served Grace Church as priest-in-charge. So this feels like coming home. We will have lots of time to get to know each other later this spring. Until then, I'll share that I love reading, singing, long walks with my dog (Louie), art museums, dance and theater performances, and live music of (almost) any genre. The former preschool teacher in me is excited to live in a place where so much is happening all at once.

I am immensely grateful to your search committee, vestry, staff, and to the Rev. Alan James for their wise and prayerful leadership throughout this transition time. Deep thanks also go to the rest of you for your prayers, presence, and financial gifts that support COS. Each one of you is an important part of the church, and I cannot wait to meet you! I will continue my prayers for you and would covet your prayers for me, too.

Grace and peace,
Charlotte+