

Dear Friends in Christ,

After 18 years of ministry together, the time has come for me to leave Incarnation. I feel God calling me to a new venture, but it is hard to listen fully when my heart and time and energy are still so deeply engaged at Incarnation. So, I am listening to words that I've spoken to you again and again over the years and I am stepping out in faith; trusting that as I do so, God's Spirit will lead me to what is next.

I am so grateful for all of you and who we are as a community together. I was a new pastor when I arrived at Incarnation and you helped me learn and grow into the leader I am today. You allowed me to share in your holy moments of grief and joy and in the midst of ordinary days. It has been a profound honor to serve with you all these years and my time at Incarnation will forever be one of the great blessings of my life.

Our family will miss Incarnation as our church home. This is the community where Andrew and I were married, Tillie was baptized, and we were loved and supported and encouraged through some difficult seasons of illness, loss and grief in our personal lives. There were also countless moments of laughter and holy tears, rich sharing of faith and questions, serving side by side, and worshipping together. We will cherish all of this.

Though our futures will diverge, Incarnation is blessed with strong leaders—lay leaders, staff and in our pastoral leaders. We are living in a time like I've never experienced, which presents unique challenges and calls for innovative engagement in the world. Incarnation is rich with the gifts of people, passion, compassion, and financial resources to shine the light of Christ brightly in the world in this unique time. I will be praying for you and cheering you on.

What's next for us? I will take an extended time off. I want to be more fully present to our family, enjoy some creative projects, and practice deep sabbath that will allow me to listen to the call of God's Spirit and prepare me to begin the next venture with renewed energy and vigor. I will be available for a new call after October 1 next year.

We still have some time together. My last Sunday will be January 17, 2021. We will get creative and figure out some ways to say goodbye safely in the age of Covid-19. I will savor this remaining time with all of you.

Your sister in Christ,  
Pastor Jeanne Hartfield