



September 8, 2010

Dear Idlewild,

Grace to you and peace! I am both saddened and excited to share with you recent news from my life. On Sunday, August 22, I was extended an offer to become the next Pastor/Head of Staff at Wayne Presbyterian Church outside of Philadelphia. Since that date, I have appeared before the Presbytery of Philadelphia's Committee on Ministry to be approved for that call and have only to preach there on September 26th before the congregation can ratify it.

I am excited about the chance to grow in my professional and spiritual calling. Wayne is a church that shares a certain kinship with Idlewild, focusing on worship, education and mission in ways similar to our own. My new position there will challenge me in extraordinary ways, and I covet your prayers. I am saddened by what will be the most difficult leave-taking of a church yet. My time at Idlewild has shaped me as a person immeasurably—and has shaped my family just as much. Whether it is the support you have provided me in finding my voice as a preacher and teacher, the wonderful friendships you have offered Sharon, the confidence you have given my Willow to sing in front of the congregation, or the prayers you sent heavenward for my Lily during her medical crisis, we have always known that Idlewild has loved us. Leaving here will be hard, but I feel God calling us to take what we have learned here and share it elsewhere.

My projected start date in Wayne is November 1—which means my last Sunday here will be October 17. Due to the collegiality and openness of your pastoral staff, I was able to share this possibility with them months ago. As such, preparations to cover for my departure have already been undertaken. I feel confident that your staff will not miss a beat in moving forward.

With great gratitude for your kindness,

Casey Thompson

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Denton McLellan
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Anne H.K. Apple
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Stephen R. Haynes
Theologian in Residence

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