

31 March 2019

My dear Idlewild family,

With deep gratitude and joy I write to let you know that after 16 years of serving with you, June 30, 2019, will be my final day as associate pastor at Idlewild Church.

In order to begin the Children and Family Enrichment Center, start the programs, and integrate the church and non-profit, Idlewild Church and CAFE signed an Employee Lease Agreement that called me to serve in the dual roles of Idlewild Associate Pastor and founding director of CAFE. That agreement is effective through June 30 of 2019, which is fast upon us.

Idlewild Church is ready for a season with new leadership, exciting stewardship, and faithful growth. Idlewild an extraordinary church, and anyone who is called to serve among you is blessed.

CAFE is ready for an executive director who can take the program to the next level and carry forth the vision for all families to gain tools for resilience in life.

Idlewild Church is the place Jason and I got married, the place Kate was baptized, and the place we call our home. I have often said that being the associate pastor for outreach at Idlewild is the best ministry position in Memphis, and serving as the founding director of the Children and Family Enrichment Center has been enriching.

For over 16 years I have have had the great privilege of walking alongside committed and tenacious Idlewild members who have tutored, packed backpacks and built relationships with people who tend to be pushed to the margins of our society...

with members who have created neighborhood gardens, begun international water programs, travelled to far away countries, and initiated legal clinics...

with members who spent over a year developing the Outreach Leadership Team and even more years creating Children and Family Enrichment at Idlewild...

with children who built "goat sticks" and lived in varied cultures at Heifer Ranch.

I am deeply grateful for the givers, worker bees, leaders, creators, organizers, listeners, prayers, and many faithful folks who make Idlewild open, welcoming, compassionate, and courageous.

I love you all, and it is a privilege to be able to call you my family!

Beginning in the fall, I will be consulting, writing curriculum, and spending time with my family. All my life I have been blessed to hear God's call to and from ministry, so while I am sad to be leaving, I am excited to see what God has in store the church and for me.

I am so grateful for God's call to this place and for the gift of working alongside you all. I will continue to pray that God will make his voice and purposes clear and strong for us all!

Much much love!

*Margaret*