

Dear Idlewild congregation,

At noon today, Government Street Presbyterian Church in Mobile, AL, voted to call me as their next Head of Staff. I am writing to offer my resignation as Associate Pastor for Christian Formation at Idlewild so that I may answer this call to ministry. My last Sunday at Idlewild will be June 23.

It was almost four years ago that I accepted the call to serve as your Associate Pastor for Christian Formation. The call was clear and humbling. The welcome my family and I received when we arrived affirmed immediately that we were in the right place. I have learned so much about myself and my ministry from my time here. You celebrated my ordination in the sanctuary in September of 2015 and have encouraged and supported me as I have grown as a pastor and a leader.

I cannot thank you enough for loving my family--especially my children--during these formative years in their faith and lives. When I came to Idlewild, I told the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee that I knew that these were the years that would shape my children's understanding of what it means to be the church. It was important to me that I be called to a congregation that would provide an excellent example of serving and loving Christ in the world. Idlewild is that example in more ways that I could have imagined.

And now, once again, I have that clear sense of call to serve with the faithful folks at Government Street Presbyterian. I recognize that this call comes at a time of intense transition for Idlewild, but I trust that God who has been so faithful to this congregation in the past will continue to guide and direct you into the future, where you will continue to serve and love and seek justice as the Body of Christ in Memphis. I cannot ever fully express my gratitude for who you are or for the privilege of being in ministry with you. You truly seek to be a place "where all who enter find a home." Thank you for being a home to me and my family these last four years.

With gratitude and love,
Rebekah