

Dear friends,

Many of you know that I've long intended to return to academia some day. This spring, Covenant Theological Seminary chose a new president, a man who is a long-time friend of mine. He and several other leaders asked me to consider joining his new leadership team. It is with both joy and sadness that I share with you that a few days ago I accepted a formal invitation to rejoin Covenant Theological Seminary as Professor of Theology and Vice President of Strategic Academic Projects, starting October 1, 2013. You can learn more about my discernment of this decision by downloading last week's sermon on our website at www.centralpres.com.

In the weeks ahead, I will be here most of the time up until October 1. Together with our Session and staff, I will gradually be disengaging and transferring leadership to others. We have a terrific team of leaders and servants here, which will make this transition a time of stability and perhaps even growth for Central. Central is blessed with pastors, elders and deacons who are talented, wise, and hard-working. We have preachers, teachers, disciple-makers, leaders, administrators, counselors, and managers. Together, you are doing amazing things. God is blessing and will continue to bless. Our long-awaited building project is underway. There will be a search for a new lead pastor, but Central will press forward during the search. The breadth and depth of our team, both staff and lay, allows us to continue to forge ahead in spite of my transition. We have strong leaders now, and I pray that this season of transition will be one of growth and excitement for all of us.

By God's grace and providence, we have been moving toward team leadership, which is healthy in its own right, for about eight months. It is a strong, trustworthy team and it can absorb the load. Together we will continue to go forward with our vision and mission as a "worshiping community finding purpose for life between Sundays." This is a mission worth being a part of, as much now as ever before. In the midst of this transition period, I exhort you to continue to plow into God's work here at Central with your time, talent, and treasure.

Central has been at the heart of my life and Debbie's life for over ten years. We have known blessing upon blessing – the joys of worship, in every setting. We will have time to celebrate and reflect together in the days ahead as October 1 approaches, but for now, may the blessing of the Lord be upon all of you and upon His church at Central.

Yours in Christ,

Central Presbyterian Church

Dr. Dan Doriani