

January 7, 2020

To the Union Council and Congregation of Huff's Union Church

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with mixed emotions that I ask you to release me from being your pastor, effective March 2, 2020. Some of you commented that, now that I have grandchildren, things might be different. You were right. I feel a need to make myself more available to them, and to other members of my family.

It has been quite a nineteen-year journey together! I have known some of your families for four, and in one case, five, generations. It will be a big transition for the congregation and for me.

A copy of this letter has been sent to Conference Minister Bill Worley, Northeastern PA Synod Bishop Zeiser, to the Dean of the East Berks Mission District, Marlene Dietrich, and to the chairperson of the Covenant Association Committee on Ministry, which will start the process of helping you move forward. They will be sure a representative is sent for our final worship service together on March 1, 2020, and will help you understand the expectations for a congregation, once a pastor has left a pastoral call.

I would like to make myself available to you before I leave, so you can feel we are concluding our relationship on a positive note. I'll be creating a schedule when I'll be available for you to drop by to talk. I know there may be unfinished business, things you wish you'd said to me, perhaps things you were disappointed in that you'd like to finally lay to rest. I would like this to happen, so you can meet your interim pastor, and eventually your newly called pastor with a sense that this chapter is over, and you are ready to move on to welcome someone new, as you once so graciously welcomed me.

I will pray for this transition, and for all of you.

Sincerely,

Pastor Jane Kropa