



March 2, 2022

Beloved in Christ,

In October of 1988 I was called to serve as pastor of the Riverside Presbyterian Church in Oakmont. In October 1992 the two Presbyterian Churches in Oakmont merged and I began my service as co-pastor at OPC with the Rev. Don Sherrill. Don then retired in January 1993 and I became OPC's pastor. I have loved serving you for nearly 30 years. After much prayer, deliberation, and discussion with many, I have come to realize that I am nearing the time when I would like to end my fulltime ministry. With that awareness, I have decided that I will retire, effective August of 2023.

Oddly enough, my call to come to Oakmont and my decision to retire feel surprisingly similar beginning with an inner stirring and a growing readiness. I am open to what God may call me to do in retirement, but Diane and I look forward to more leisure time with each other and with our family.

Your competent and committed Session has begun preparing for the work that will be required in a pastoral change. Our recent Session retreat focused on some of those issues. It was the initial conversation and there will be many more conversations. Over the coming months Session will begin to develop their transition plan.

I am pleased that the elders and I have a strong relationship with the Rev. Brian Wallace, Associate Minister of Pittsburgh Presbytery, who will be guiding us through this change. Our shared goal is for a prudent transition process that will be healthy and effective for the church.

In the meantime, I continue to be committed to my ministry at OPC. I look forward to my ongoing work with the Session, the staff and congregational members.

I invite your prayers. My goal for these next 18 months is to fulfill the vow I took when I began: to serve Christ and you with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

Yours in Christ,

*Steve*