

October 19, 2020

Dear Tabernacle Congregational Leadership,

I am writing to ask that the Tabernacle Congregational Leadership reduce my Minister of Music/Worship/Organist position from $\frac{3}{4}$ time to $\frac{1}{2}$ time beginning in January of 2021. The reduced responsibilities for the music program that are made necessary by the COVID pandemic; lack of children's choir, sanctuary choir and youth choir rehearsals because of the inadvisability of group singing make the request possible. This pandemic schedule has given TBC a lull in musical activity that will enable us to take a few steps back and begin to figure out what the church will need when I retire from this position. I will still be responsible for planning the worship services, playing the organ, supervising the current music staff, working with TCCC and involving people of all ages in making music for worship. I pray that this will give the church some flexibility to help cover some of the other vital ministry needs of the congregation in the short term and to begin to examine the long term needs post-pandemic.

I will be glad to speak with anyone about this request. I love my ministry position at Tabernacle and value the work and the people with whom I work greatly. My hope here is to give both the congregation and myself some flexibility to make wise decisions about the future.

Judy

October 19, 2020

Tabernacle Church Leadership:

As it has with so many, the pandemic has thrust JJ and I into a time of new discernment about what God is up to in our lives. After much thought and prayer, we have determined that it would be best for me to move into a part-time role at Tabernacle beginning in January of 2021. I came to Tabernacle after a challenging year of ministry in North Carolina, knowing I needed a place to heal and continue to discern some deeper questions about God's call on my life. I was open with you about this, and you welcomed me in all of my messiness. Thank you! Over the past (nearly!) three years, so much has happened in our ministry together, and in my personal life. Through it all, I have continued to feel a tug toward God's work outside the walls of the Church, just as much as God's work within the Church. Yes, some of this is connected to teaching yoga, but there are also a number of other ideas I have for creating spiritually nourishing space for those who may never feel comfortable walking through the doors of a Church. In order to pursue these longings, I need to step back from full time ministry at Tabernacle, and I hope I can do so with your blessing.

As I shared with the staff and key lay leaders earlier today, I am flexible in what this may look like. I would like to continue to serve at Tabernacle for 20-25 hours a week in a capacity that honors the Church's needs, and my gifts. I feel my greatest abilities are in discipleship and spiritual formation, with both adults and youth, and in preaching. My weakness has been administration, which has been arduous for me in ways I did not foresee. I could envision a position in which I focus on a combination of adult & youth discipleship, or adult discipleship and preaching, or some another configuration that we agree would be a good match. Whether I continue in leadership with the Youth Ministry or not, I feel it is important we identify someone to focus their energy on our youth, and walk with them on their spiritual journeys. They are amazing, and I do not want to see them fall through the cracks.

Thank you for the love and support you have shown JJ and I—we are so grateful for each of you and you bring tremendous joy to our lives. Thank you for entering this conversation with me, as we discern together how best to move forward.

Blessings,

Meg Lacy Vega