

New Beginning
Sermon September 30, 2018

“Worship the LORD with gladness.” (Psalm 100:2a)

Dear Beloved

I am returning renewed and refreshed.

Many of you know that I am returning from my vacation and intermission. Intermission was approved by the Presbyterian Church in 1989 for all ministers once in every 5 years, to help ministers to rejuvenate and to avoid the burn out symptoms. This was my very first one after being an ordained minister for 30 years.

I am very thankful for the National Church, for the Waterloo-Wellington Presbytery, for Calvin's Session and for all of you, for providing me this past intermission time to spend closer with my immediate and extended family.

Many thanks for all the ministers and preachers - Rev. Bob Duncanson, Dr. Wilma Walsh, Rev. Andrew Song and Michael Turman - who filled in the pulpit during my time off.

Many thanks to the Session, Board of Managers, and all the Committees who continued to serve God and our congregation with a faithful heart.

A special thanks for our staff members, Margaret, Michael and Michel for dealing with different challenges.

I am happy to see that everything went well during my absence.

Thank you for not missing me so much, but I have to tell you that I had many moments when I really missed all of you and I could not wait to return to the pulpit and into my service, to continue to serve you.

1. I Am Here For You

I am happy to be here again, to continue to serve you and to help you to get and to stay in a living relationship with God. I AM HERE FOR YOU. I put my life daily in God's hands to use me to LIVE FOR YOU. I have a family, and I have a private life for family and friends, and I will live for them as well. But as your minister, when I am in my office, or visiting, or anywhere in or around the city, I will

continue to do everything as your faithful minister, so you should have a sense that, around the clock, I am LIVING FOR YOU.

In my service, I am offering to all of you unconditionally love, patience and prayers. And my hope is that you will accept my unconditional love, patient and prayers and you will continue to love me, to be patient with me and also you will continue to pray for me as we do in such a Church family.

If there might be moments when my human weakness would come forward, and you might have a sense that I don't provide enough love or attention to you, or if you might see that I am not patient enough, please still love me, care for me and pray for me. In those moments, please remember that even our Lord Jesus quite a few times lost his patience with his disciples and with Pharisees.

2. I will continue to hold in front of you God's words, the Bible, God's will, His love, His rules, and His expectations because in Gods words there is light and life. I will continue to hold in front of you the Cross, the sign in which we were saved. My hope is that you will bow your head and your knees together with me and your brothers and sisters here at Calvin, praising and glorifying our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the beginning and the end, who is the best physician and healer, who is the resurrection and the life, and who promised that He is with us every day to the very end of the ages. This humbleness and these prayers will keep us together in continue. Please remember that those who pray together and play together, will stay together.

I was so impressed visiting the Colosseum in Rome, where 2,000 years ago Christians gave up their lives for their enemies. How much easier would it be to give up so many things for those whom we love?

I will continue my ministry leading our Congregation and supporting all of you with a deep Biblical understanding. I will ask God, and I will continue to do my very best to lead with Biblical wisdom. I will continue to internalize the Bible, God's words, and I will continue to ask our Lord to give me wisdom, which is rooted in the Bible by the Holy Spirit. This is how I will continue to take the daily challenges, preaching, and counselling opportunities. I will do my very best, with God's help, to communicate the biblical wisdom in a way that makes sense in your lives.

My hope is that you will be interested to know more about your Creator, Saviour and Sustainer. You will be interested to know more about your future and about the

HAND which provides for you the daily bread, the daily laugh and the constant protection. My hope is that you would like to learn about the road, which will take you closer to God's glory and your eternal home.

May our God help all of us to be faithful to our Lord and to have really hunger to know more about God and the Bible.

3. Listen

People are calling me a good listener, but I will do my very best to increase my ability to listen to you, all of you, hoping that you will listen to me as well. I will grow two more ears, and I will continue to develop the ability to listen to you, to hear what your heart is telling me behind your words, and discover their needs doesn't get enough attention. May God help me and help you to experience that my office and my heart are safe places to share your struggles and joy.

As you know me, I am very cautious to give advice. In a pastoral conversation, I am listening to your goals, to your heart's desire; I am helping to challenge you to see your path much clearer and to come to an "AHA" moment when you can realize which way would work better for you.

During our pastoral conversations, many of you experienced that praying and debriefing a situation in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, helps us to make our discernment, which later cannot be regretted.

4. Competency

Also, I will continue to be more competent in my ministry, in how to shepherd and how to lead my flock. But, please, always remember, that I am a human being, and I am not perfect, but I will continue to do my very best for you and for our Congregation. We should not forget that we are God's people, brothers, and sisters in Christ. God is present in this congregation, and God works in this congregation with His Holy Spirit. God will help us to grow in faith and in our abilities.

One more time I would like to say many thanks to the ministers who filled in: Rev. Bob Duncanson, Michael Turman, Rev. Andrew Song, and Dr. Wilma Welsh. As a token of my appreciation, I am asking them to accept this gift which I brought with me for them from Hungary.

Thank you for your faithful support. May the Lord continue to bless you all. Amen