

Rev. Dr. David Chisham

July 12, 2021

Dear church family and board of First Christian Church, Baton Rouge,

The past year, with the many challenges that COVID has presented, has given me and my family reason to reflect on our family's goals and God's direction for us, and our feeling was that we wanted to be closer to our family in Texas and New Mexico. For that reason, I entered the Disciples Search and Call process, and have accepted the call to be the settled Senior Minister of First Christian Church, Midland, Texas.

Thus, it is with mixed emotions of sadness and hopefulness that I announce my resignation as Senior Minister of First Christian Church, Baton Rouge. These past eight years that I have served as your pastor have been important years of growth in ministry through our shared faith, friendship, worship and ministry together. I cannot tell the length and breadth of the love and support you've given to me and my family, and I offer my lasting appreciation for the countless spiritual and material gifts you've generously shared from your hearts.

Even as I have hopes for the future for my family and our ministry in Texas, I have a firm hope for a bright future for our church family in Louisiana. FCCBRLA is a strong congregation, and your network of love and rich resources of faith and shared history is a strong foundation to continue building the work begun years ago in Baton Rouge.

Believing that a change of call was emerging for me, I contacted our board chair, Pam Jones, and chair-elect, Carole Madere, a couple of months ago, allowing them and other congregational leaders to converse and develop a plan for transition after my departure. They contacted Rev. Nadine Burton, our regional minister, and have been working toward on an orderly transition process. They will be in communication with the congregation about the next steps for you. I deeply appreciate their support and patience as the Search and Call process unfolded for me these past months.

My last Sunday preaching, and last day of work, will be August 8, 2021. I keep all of you in my prayers and humbly ask that you remember Kori, Layne and me in yours.

Always and eternally in Christ's peace,



Rev. Dr. David Chisham