

TO OUR CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN FRIENDS:

Congratulations on 50 years of ministry.

My brief sojourn with you began in the early spring of 2010. While we were camping and being tourists in Williamsburg, VA, Dana Lindsley called, asking me to consider being your initial, part time interim pastor. After consulting with Nancy, I said: Yes.

When I arrived some members had already left. Others were thinking about leaving. Some of these folks would talk and visit with me. Many would not. I realized I could only shake hands with those who would shake hands with me.

So, I focused on those who were staying. We gathered a few small groups, following worship, so folks could vent and talk about Calvin's past and future. Many were angry. Others hopeful. Some were dismayed and troubled. Others were committed to staying and moving on.

I began visiting and becoming acquainted with people; listening and asking questions. And I focused on making worship uplifting and joyful, helpful and hopeful, encouraging everyone to deal with all the mission and ministry opportunities God gives us.

After a while, people began to settle down and began fulfilling responsibilities, and dealing with reality. People seemed to realize the past could not be changed. They could only change themselves and the future. For this I give much credit to Pam and Derek, the Session and to all those in elected positions.

My initial agreement with the Session was for five months which became seven, and Nancy and I grew to love and appreciate the faithfulness of the people of the Calvin Presbyterian Church.

Through good times and challenging times, through highs and lows, for 50 years God has blessed you. And I am confident that God will continue to bless and guide you into the future that God has in mind for you.

Godspeed.

Sincerely,

Glenn Ramsey, Jr.