



[Rev. Delle McCormick](#)
Sr. Pastor

Dear Friends,

This Sunday marks the end of my fourth year as your senior pastor. I recall learning of the former pastor's leaving in December of 2012, just two months after I had finished an interim commitment at First Christian Church in Tucson. Rincon was a perfect fit for me, I thought. But the search process is deliberate and prayerful, and its members have lives they need to live in between things. Church Council members did double time as the Search Committee, reviewing candidate profiles, doing Skype and in-person interviews, calling references. But more than that, a good church search process builds community. I experienced the closeness and generosity of this group in my interviews. I noticed the spirit of grace and generosity on that team, and at my last interview, I felt the Holy Spirit join us as we prayed together for the first time. And then, on April 28, I preached my "candidating sermon" and the congregation voted to approve my Call with you on May 1, 2013.

We have accomplished so much together, too much to list here. We have grown together in love and a commitment to Be the Church in all the ways our banners proclaim. We have been bold in proclaiming and living extravagant welcome and hospitality to all people. With the ever-changing political landscape and subsequent fallout on vulnerable populations, we have deepened our commitment to be the hands and feet, body and breath of Christ in our community and in the world.

I am so grateful for and awed by your willingness to Be the Church together. The hundreds of ways every week that you show up, growing ever more deeply in your commitment to "Be the Bold," as we say at every service. Together we create lively and inspiring worship, are good

stewards of our facilities, develop faith development and service programming that matters, provide faithful accompaniment to those who need help, host community gatherings around a shared table, ensure fiscal responsibility, protect just personnel practices, and so much more – all of which reveals the *kingdom* of God, here on earth, now. Our church is growing in numbers and deepening in our understanding and commitment to show up, for God, for each other, and for our own tender and complicated selves.

And, of course with new life, comes loss. Donna Harrison, our Church Administrator for the past twelve years, has given notice that she is retiring effective, July 28. Donna has been the backbone of the church through at least six pastors. She is the first face a visitor sees when they visit the church on weekdays. She is an amazing pastoral presence for visitors, members, and friends. She holds the church together, coordinating meetings, recitals, rentals, service projects, repairs, worship services, social media presence, supplies, and so much more. She has had my back over my four years, always keeping track of where I should be when, offering a listening ear, and providing help when needed. In so many ways, she has pastored me, as I know she has you.

While Donna will remain a member and you might see her in church, she will put down that long to-do list that she has always carried around, and begin to live into a life of retirement. I know you will join me as we celebrate Donna's faithful service to our church. If you wish to make a donation to a love offering for Donna, you can do so in check or cash with a note specifying "Donna's love offering". Meanwhile, Donna will continue, with the exception of two weeks of vacation after Memorial Day, to grace the church with her presence and many gifts.

As I begin my fifth year as your pastor, I am so grateful for Donna, and for you dear members and friends. We need each other to survive. We need each other to thrive. Although we encounter losses along the way, we are in this together for the long haul. No matter how far away you go, we are always here, ready to welcome you home. God is acting, beyond our wildest imagination, to bring about peace, and justice, compassion, and grace to our broken and bleeding world. God gets up and goes on, in and through and around, and often, despite us. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In Christ,

Pastor Delle