

Dear members of Trinity / Prince of Peace and Union / St. Luke's,

We rejoice in the ministry of The Reverend Richard C. Davenport who has a wonderful gift of building bonds between the parishes. He is the Lord's Servant providing an Episcopal / Lutheran presence in Claremont. We are stronger together than we can be separately. Richard can address difficult issues common to everyone, including himself. He lightens the topic with a wry sense of humor, and smiles break out across the congregation. Richard's sermons teach the social, cultural, and geographic backgrounds of the weekly Bible readings and then connects the message to our lives today.

In March, at our last indoor church service, Richard explained that he has been living with depression, PTSD, and much physical pain from injuries sustained while serving as a mechanical engineer on a nuclear submarine. Richard told us he was ready to try electric shock treatments at the VA as there was a chance it could help him. Richard went on short term medical leave about seven months ago and now has entered long term medical leave. As those who have been worshipping on ZOOM are aware, recovery has been slow, and has not been as effective as Richard hoped. Richard appreciates all the cards, thoughts and prayers he has received from the congregations as well as the broader church.

Richard met with the joint vestries of Union / St. Luke's and Trinity / Prince of Peace on Sunday. It is with sadness and a heavy heart that we share with our congregations that Richard has made the decision to resign as Rector and Pastor. It is not a decision he made lightly. He loves us, but he doesn't feel he is up to the task of Rector. Richard has been assured that he is very much loved by the parishes, and we will continue praying for him. He will be greatly missed. Richard shared that the decision to resign was made easier for him because he can see Rev. Susan Eibner is carrying on the work he began. Richard is staying in the area and remains a Priest in good standing with the Diocese. It is very important for Richard to take this time to work on his health and well-being. Reluctantly, the joint vestries accepted with regret the resignation of The Rev. Richard C. Davenport.

We will be planning a celebration of Richard's ministry with us on Sunday, November 15. More details will be sent after a celebration committee of all parishes completes the plans.

Fortunately, Rev. Susan Eibner will stay on as Interim Vicar for at least the next two years. Rev. Susan Eibner is a highly trained Interim Specialist who will lead us through the process necessary to call the next Rector.

Sincerely,

Jacquelyn Hall, Warden of Trinity;

Dan Richmond, Warden of Union/St. Luke's;

William Quinn, President of Prince of Peace,

And the joint Vestries of Trinity / Prince of Peace and Union/ St. Luke's