

February 24, 2016

Dear Bethel Community, Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

This is to share with you that I have been offered an ELCA Global Mission position as seminary professor at Henry Martyn Institute in Hyderabad, India. As a long-term ELCA missionary, I will be teaching church history and Christian theology in a stimulating interfaith context.

During the period of discernment, Frederick Buechner's words that "the place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet" have guided my thoughts and prayers.

Hence, it is with confidence in God's grace and guidance and in deep gratitude to the church-at-large I have accepted this offer to teach church history and theology in an interfaith context and am resigning my position as Pastor of Worship and Discipleship, effective early Summer 2016, in consultation with the council.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve for the past five years as pastor to the Bethel church and school communities and to collaborate with so many highly motivated and talented staff members. I have met many wonderful individuals at Bethel who are dedicated to serving Christ's church and their neighbor and I have grown professionally.

As to my family, we are looking forward to the ministry opportunities that God has provided to us. This new call will give me not only an opportunity to draw on my academic training in church history, but to also be much nearer to family and friends.

We are committing to a four-year term of service in India, with the possibility of extending this call upon completing the first term. Our daughters, most likely, will attend one of the international schools in Hyderabad, so that they can attend a British or U.S. college upon their high school graduation.

As this new position will bring with it many changes for our family, I ask that you hold my family and me in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Dr. Gabriele Schroeder  
Pastor of Worship & Discipleship

