

27 October, 2009

The Rev. Keith Geiselman, Pastor
First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti
300 North Washington Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Dear Pastor Keith,

I am writing to give you 9 weeks' notice of my resignation from the post of Organist and Choir Director of the First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti. My last service will be on Sunday, December 27, 2009. A number of factors led me to make this decision, which I have tried to elucidate transparently, below. In short, I do not feel that I, as a church musician, am a good fit for this parish, and hope that my successor will be able to minister more effectively to the People.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity during these past two and a half years to share my passion for church music with the congregation. Many parishioners have treated me lovingly, and it will be sad to not be with them in worship weekly anymore. The experience garnered over these past few years will be invaluable to me.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Tan', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Aaron Tan

Things that brought about this decision:

- a personal need for a higher, well-planned liturgy in worship
- the distracting lack of solemnity and reverence during services
- a clear sense that the musical offerings proposed by me are generally not in the spirit of the congregation's mode of worship (i.e. we don't speak/sing to God in the same ways)
- a need for more time to focus on my engineering work
- not much interest in dealing with administrative choral matters such as section lead instability, etc.

Things that made this decision difficult:

- relishing the opportunity to serve a congregation musically from week to week
- appreciation expressed from a few parishioners
- working with a pastor who is open to new ideas, and who appreciates quality sacred music
- having a fairly good instrument to use and to share music with the community via the YPOF
- choral directing experience

Things that did not affect this decision:

- money
- conflicts with parishioners or staff