



October 3, 2023

Dear Congregation of Village Presbyterian Church,

We have long admired the ministry and vibrant community of your congregation. More recently, in our conversations with the Reverend Tom Are Jr., we have seen clearly how so much of who you are and what you do has shaped his ministry and perspectives. We recognize that in our interim season we will be benefiting from that and thus from you. Thank you.

In our hopefulness and joy over Tom's accepting this role of guiding us as our Interim Pastor, we also feel very deeply the grief and sadness that is yours. We wish that our saying hello to Tom and Carol did not have to mean your saying goodbye.

You all are held very close in our prayers, in these days of leave-taking and in the Spirit-led future that lies ahead. We promise to treasure the gift that Tom and Carol are and to do our best to care for them as well as you have.

Know that if your travels bring you to Chicago, there is a warm Fourth Church welcome waiting for you, for as part of Tom and Carol's family, you are now part of ours.

Faithfully,

Allison Youngblood and Jared Light
Co-Clerks of Session
on behalf of the Fourth Church Congregation

The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago

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