



Ashland  
Presbyterian Church  
The Rev. Shannon Weston, Pastor

September 13, 2022

To Members and Friends of Ashland Presbyterian Church,

After much prayer and discernment, I am writing to submit my resignation to Ashland Presbyterian Church.

The last ten and a half years as your pastor have been some of the most fulfilling and clarifying of my ministry. I believe God has used me well as your leader, but the time has come for me to move on to allow Ashland to succeed in the next phase of her journey. As for me, I will not be taking another church at this time. Our family intends to stay in the area, and I hope to continue my work in Baltimore Presbytery as a colleague in ministry. Over the last year, I have felt a strong call to expand my work as a Leadership Coach and lean into my organizational and leadership development gifts. I will use these gifts to work with pastors, churches, and nonprofits, empowering their leadership and helping them to discern their futures.

God has been working on this decision with me for a while now, and the time has come for me to follow the Spirit. I am not the only one in a time of transition in my call; it has become clear to me in the last few months that Ashland is ready for the “new thing” God is calling you to do. Our leadership is equipped to discern slowly and carefully what is next for Ashland. The presbytery’s committee on ministry will work alongside Ashland in these endeavors, and I trust the Holy Spirit will work through you all as you discern the future.

I will be with you until November 20, 2022, to allow lots of time to celebrate this season of ministry together. I am genuinely sorry for any distress this news might cause. As I often tell people, we are complicated humans with complex emotions. I am simultaneously saddened to be leaving as your pastor and excited for the next phase in both of our lives. You have a special place in my heart, and I will always cherish our time together. Some wise person once said that if you truly love someone, you have to let them go when the time comes, and I love you all dearly.

You will hear from me again soon, and the Session will have more information forthcoming. Until then, we will continue to do Christ’s work together.

Love and Peace to you all,

Pastor Shannon