



June 1, 2014

To my brothers and sisters in Christ at Oakton Church of the Brethren:

*Grace to you and peace from God our Father.*

Today I accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Manassas Church of the Brethren beginning September, 2014.

I was not seeking a new call nor did I feel any need to leave Oakton. Sherry and I have been blessed by you and our ministry here has been rewarding. Yet through months of daily prayers, formal and informal interviews, and a unanimous call by the search committee, Sherry and I determined that this calling is real and right.

Oakton Church of the Brethren is an amazing congregation---resilient and strong! It has been blessed with wonderful new families and individuals who are quickly and fully adopted into the church. Our worship is vibrant and there is a true sense of love and appreciation for one another here. The church has diverse theological perspectives and yet a united desire to follow Jesus.

Our office manager is exceptional, the children's program is well cared for, and our music ministry is gifted and strong. The church entered the Vital Ministry Journey with an eye to the future and intentionality toward community. The Spirit is stirring and the future looks bright. I am sad not to be entering it with you.

My decision to resign was not made lightly. Over the past decade of ministry here, Sherry and I have made many friendships and have been richly blessed. It will be difficult to part, yet we are excited to embrace this new calling.

Over the next three months I will continue to serve as your pastor with devotion and purpose. Sherry and I ask for your prayers and support during this time of transition just as we promise to support and pray for you.

Grace and Peace in Christ,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Chris Bowman".

Chris Bowman