

Dear Countryside,

Just three short months ago, we conveyed the sad news that our Senior Minister, Eric Elnes, was leaving Countryside Community Church to take a call in his native state of Oregon. Now we must bring you the sad news that our Associate Minister, Chris Alexander, has also turned in her resignation.

First, let us express our deep thanks to Chris for her gifts and for accepting the call to step into the associate minister role for Countryside in December of 2010. Over the past 10 years, we have benefited from her presence and her ministry with us, and we are grateful for Chris's service and leadership with our church. This was a hard decision for her, but she felt that the direction the church has charted for our future is not a direction that she wishes to follow. She has, accordingly, decided that her best course forward is to leave Countryside.

On Wednesday, December 2, Council accepted her letter of resignation. While her last day in the Countryside offices is December 5, she remains our Associate Minister until December 31 and will be leading worship through Christmas Eve.

The Transitional Leadership Committee is aware of her resignation and will immediately begin the process of seeking an interim replacement for Chris, as well as for Eric. The Transitional Leadership Committee has started receiving inquiries and resumes of clergy interested in our open position and they will continue to receive more in the coming days and weeks.

The current plan is to review potential candidates and expand our search to include openings for both the Interim Associate Minister of Congregational Care and Worship and the Interim Associate Minister of Engagement and Formation. Since Chris's skills and abilities were key to current job descriptions, they may be modified as needed.

It bears repeating what was said in the letter sent announcing Eric's departure. Countryside holds a special place in all of our hearts. We continue to seek the Spirit's grace and guidance as we discern what the future holds for us. Above all, please give Chris all your love and blessings as she moves forward into God's promised future.

Sincerely,

Russ Schertz, Moderator
Tracey Halvorson, Vice Moderator
Aubrey Fitzke, Vice Moderator Elect