

Aloha kākou! *Greetings to you all.*

I pray that you have been enjoying these crisp nights and the slow turning of the leaves; God is a God of holy transitions. Before I officially start on **Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**, I wanted to write to you for three different reasons:

- First, to say “***thank you.***” Thank you for entrusting me with this call. Thank you for being patient as I finish at First Church. And, thank you to Pastor Bob, the Consistory, and other leaders who have been working so diligently to prepare for my arrival. I know it has felt like such a long time, but know that I will be with you soon! I’m excited, and I hope you are, too.
- Second, to make a request of you. During an interview a couple months back, the Search Committee wondered what I would do first if I were to pastor here, and I responded that I would take a good and intentionally long-while to get to know you.

And so, Community Reformed Church, for this programmatic year, **I’m asking you to let me get to know you.** Share of God’s work amongst you. Share this place’s stories. Share your own stories. Share the complexities and complications. Share your faith and your doubts. Share what brings you fear and what excites you.

I’ll get to know you interpersonally, and also through committees and programs and events. Also, when I get there, I’ll be working with the Consistory to create intentional “get-to-know-you” times, so look forward to those when they come.

Please also know that this will be a time for you to get to know both me and Cameron, too. (I’ll ask for your forgiveness in advance as we work on learning your names!)

- Third, there are a few things you may like to know:
  1. You can contact me through the office and at my new email address: [treytirpak@crccpastor.org](mailto:treytirpak@crccpastor.org).
  2. I will be taking my Sabbaths on Fridays. Also, over the coming months as I become acquainted with the rhythms of CRCC, I'll figure out what hours would be best for me to go and work on my sermons.
  3. If you're wondering about an Installation Service with the Classis of Albany, that will most likely be in the new year. (My first Sunday with you all will be October 5<sup>th</sup>.)

As a way to get to know me a little bit, I'll share my favorite prayer from the Apostle Paul that comes from Ephesians. It'll be my prayer as I prepare to be with you, and I invite you to join me and pray it, too:

“This is why I kneel before the Father: Every ethnic group in heaven or on earth is recognized by him. I ask that he will strengthen you in your inner selves from the riches of his glory through the Spirit. I ask that Christ will live in your hearts through faith. As a result of having strong roots in love, I ask that you'll have the power to grasp love's width and length, height and depth, together with all believers. I ask that you'll know the love of Christ that is beyond knowledge so that you will be filled entirely with the fullness of God.

Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us; glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus for all generations, forever and always. Amen.”

“A hui hou” *Until I see you again.* – Rev. Trey Tirpak