



593 Walnut Bottom Road | Shippensburg, PA 17257 | 717-532-5495 | firstwesleyanship.org

May 4, 2014

To our Shippensburg First Wesleyan Church family,

Last Sunday afternoon, in a meeting with our Local Board of Administration, I submitted my resignation as Pastor of the Shippensburg First Wesleyan Church. My resignation was prepared after much prayer, counsel, and direction-seeking. While I am certain this is God's direction for my personal calling as a minister and am certain this is His will and direction for our family at this stage of life together, I must admit to you this morning that I still experience a heavy heart and a wide range of emotions.

Please know first that God is truly at work in this. I must assure you that as your pastor that Jessica and I had a recent renewal of purpose in leading here at Shippensburg First Wesleyan. We were hard at work brainstorming our family's next steps in solving some of our unique situations involving housing, income, and health insurance. Our prayer has been that God would truly direct our steps, make our path straight, and provide in ways we hadn't yet imagined.

As He often does, God answered our prayers in a way we hadn't expected. Even without knowing exactly what we were praying for - with an attitude of "*sticktoitiveness*" and in this Season of our life together as a family - God clearly spoke and He has overwhelmed us with an opportunity that we can only attribute to His perfect leading and His perfect timing.

The idea of leaving Shippensburg First Wesleyan Church, its leaders, families, friends and this community we have grown to love – and have been overwhelmingly loved by - has not been an easy one to accept. When we moved to Shippensburg just four years ago we recognized that we had the opportunity - like never before in our family's ministry together - to plant ourselves with deep roots into a community and church family we had been called by God to live and lead. We have truly sought to do just that.

By announcing my resignation to you – our church family – today, I want to also ask that you continue to pray for our family. We have plans to transition to our new ministry opportunity at Hyde Wesleyan Church around the middle of July where I will serve as the Assistant Pastor of Leadership Development. This transition will uproot our family from our home for the past 4-years – a home that our two children have known for the longest timeframe of either of their lives!

We love our Shippensburg First Wesleyan family – it truly has been an honor and privilege to serve with you these past four years.

Continuing to Love God and Love People together for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stevan Sheets".

Rev. Stevan Sheets