



October 12, 2026

Dear friends,

We understand that the news of Martin Pruitt's resignation was sudden and unexpected and that Martin's departure has been difficult and painful for many in our Covenant faith community, especially for many of our young people. We grieve the moment we find ourselves in. We know that you do, too.

In an effort to promote healing and understanding, I write to invite you to a listening session, hosted by Covenant's Personnel Committee, to take place on **Monday, October 19 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall**. A number of interested members of our congregation have requested an opportunity to hear directly from church leadership, to ask questions, and to express frustrations. Candidly, it is not our practice to discuss personnel matters or answer questions about specific personnel decisions. Out of respect for everyone involved, the Personnel Committee works hard to respect and maintain the confidentiality of employment matters involving church staff. But recent weeks have produced unfounded rumors and speculation that have caused damage, resentment and pain. For the good of our entire church community, and especially those invested in our high school youth group, we have decided we must offer an opportunity to come together so we can share some information with you and you can have an opportunity to be heard. I hope you will join us.

We anticipate we will hear a number of questions and concerns from you at our listening session, and we look forward to hearing from you. Please understand that we likely will not be able to answer all of your questions, but perhaps we can answer some of them and provide some context that makes this difficult situation a bit easier to understand. In the meantime, we feel compelled to dispel a few rumors that are entirely false.

First, Martin Pruitt's resignation from Covenant in no way involved conduct that harmed a child. Covenant received no reports or allegations of conduct by Martin that caused harm to a child or youth in our program. This rumor is false.

Second, some have suggested that a current associate minister played a role in Martin's resignation. This, too, is not the case. Matters concerning Martin's employment, consistent with practice, were handled by the Personnel Committee. Martin communicated his decision to the Personnel Committee, and the Personnel Committee then informed the ministers of Martin's decision. The very next day, Martin's resignation was shared with the high school youth and their families.

Please join us at our listening session on October 19 if you can. We ask that you come ready to engage respectfully and with an open mind, and we will do the same. Through respectful conversation, we hope to heal division and move towards reconciliation and mutual trust.

Sincerely,

John Beyer
Chair, Personnel Committee