

20 Deerfield Road
Wyckoff, N.J. 07481
August 24, 1977

Highway Tabernacle
Church Board
% Ruth Muir, Secretary
18th and Spring Garden St.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Brethren and Sisters:

Greetings from Oklahoma!

Some weeks ago you and your congregation conferred upon me a high honor when you elected me to become your pastor. When I think of the great men who have served your church in the past (men such as Ernest S. Williams, Flen Van Meter, Wallace S. Bragg, Wesley R. Steelberg, W. Howard Roberson), I feel unworthy to be included among that number. I am grateful for your confidence.

Since coming to the General Council here in Oklahoma, I have been doing some heavy thinking. Gradually I have been coming to the conclusion that I will not be able to fulfill all that will be required of a pastor in the tremendous task ahead, administratively, in your relocation plans. This is a long, arduous task of leadership, and at my age will be a great strain. Therefore, in all honesty, and in fairness to you, I cannot come to be your pastor.

In good faith I accepted your call a few weeks ago. And, while conscious of the magnitude of the task ahead, I have had every intention of assuming the duties of your pastorate in these ensuing weeks. But during these past few days I have come to this decision. Sister Christiansen and I have no complaints pertaining to the terms of our relationship with you. We have not been offered another pastorate during these days in Oklahoma. I ask your forgiveness for the inconvenience this causes you. Your first reaction will be one of surprise, but in the days ahead you will come to appreciate my candor toward you. I know God has great days ahead for Highway Tabernacle. Sister Christiansen and I are fond of you as a Board. Your church has a wonderful future under God.

In Christian love,

Lloyd Christiansen
Lloyd and Vivian Christiansen