

Dear Friends:

In seeking God's leading for the Reformed Church in America and my own call to ministry, I have discerned the need for a new chapter in the life of the RCA and for me personally. Through much prayer and in submission to the Holy Spirit I believe a new general secretary can best help navigate the current realities we face.

My time as general secretary, which began in 2011, has been both challenging and fulfilling. I have enjoyed the journey together of completing the final steps of Our Call, discerning our next chapter together in Transformed & Transforming, and laying a solid foundation that has helped us move forward in ministry and mission in transformational and impacting ways in the RCA and beyond.

It has been a privilege to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to serve the Reformed Church in America, and to serve you in this ministry and leadership position. It has brought tremendous joy as well as extreme heartache as I have watched the divisions represented among us. The challenge before the RCA will be one of unifying around the transformational mission to which God has called us. It will call for greater love and greater forgiveness toward one another in the future.

I sense God's call to serve in a new leadership role in the future, and have accepted the invitation of the Willow Creek Association to become their President designate, and to assume the role of President and CEO on September 1, 2017. I will continue to serve as general secretary through General Synod 2017, and complete my assignment on June 15, 2017.

The General Synod Council will immediately begin the process of establishing a search committee, according to the provision of its bylaws. It will be an open and transparent process that will affirm God's selection of general secretary for the next steps in the life of the RCA.

I will continue to remain a minister of word and sacrament within the RCA, and am grateful for the opportunity to serve Christ and his Church in this way. My prayers continue for God's will to be done with our life together and with the Spirit's leading into a trusted and transformational future.

Together in the Cause,

Tom De Vries