

SPRC Personnel Announcement – May 13, 2007

I come before you today, as SPRC chair, to deliver an important announcement to the many members and friends of this great congregation. In the life of every church, there are people, both lay and clergy, who take us to spiritual heights beyond our imagination. For over 3 decades, Eileen Guenther has served as one of Foundry's prominent spiritual beacons...leading us to new heights of religious expression through her musical talents at the organ, through direction of the choirs, and through the blending of orchestral instruments on special occasions of worship.

It is with deep regret and profound respect that I announce the resignation of Dr. Eileen Guenther as Minister of Music and Liturgy at Foundry effective June 30. Eileen has made the decision, after prayerful consideration, to shift the focus of her ministry to do more teaching and apply her talents in other domains both locally and internationally. Eileen's reputation as a noted musical educator was most recently demonstrated in her trip to East Africa...where she taught worship and music to African clergy and students for the past 10 days.

As Eileen transitions to the next phase of her ministry, SPRC will be planning a celebration on Sunday, June 24, and providing an opportunity for Foundry members and friends to honor her ministry through testimony and by contributing to a gift of "love" from Foundry. Eileen will continue her musical direction for the next 3 Sundays and then focus on transitioning her work, which involves the big job of organizing the numerous artifacts of her tenure with us. While it is impossible for Eileen to personally reach out to everyone at once, she has prepared a special message to the Foundry fellowship, which will be distributed after the service and posted on our web site.

There are never adequate words to convey the magnitude of our appreciation. We feel extreme joy and gratitude for the enormous blessing of Eileen's ministry. She has offered her incredible skills and been a good friend to the choir members as well as this congregation. In the midst of contemplating what our church life will be without her, I am reminded of the Bible lesson from 2 Sundays ago - Romans 8:28 which reads: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." Eileen was called to service at Foundry 31 years ago, and has received a new calling for God's purpose. I ask each person in the congregation to seek ways to show love and support for Eileen, for the members of Foundry's choirs, our pastors and each other. In advance of our celebration on June 24, I invite you to stand as you are able to affirm our love and appreciation for Eileen's many years of service and her new calling.

Paula B. Blair
Chair, SPRC