

CONTINUING TESTAMENT
EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME
CHANGING LIVES

August 14, 2014

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



Dear Colleagues and Co-workers:

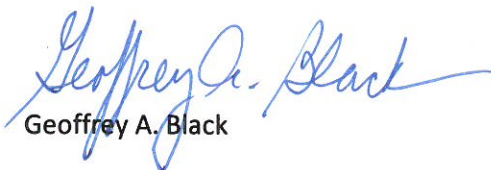
It is with a deep sense of gratitude for having had the opportunity to serve the United Church of Christ as General Minister and President that I write to share my decision to retire following the conclusion of the 30th General Synod in June 2015. Over the years that I have served, the United Church of Christ has experienced significant changes in its national setting. It has been a challenge and a privilege to work with others to lead and guide through this time of transition. However, I believe that we will soon arrive at a juncture where the transition in governance, ministry alignment and missional direction will be complete. I have reached the conclusion that this will be the appropriate time for me to retire making way for new leadership to begin to serve.

My decision to announce my intention to retire at this time will allow time for the United Church of Christ Board to fully engage a process of selection and nomination over the coming months. This will make it possible for the Church to elect a new General Minister and President at the General Synod in 2015. Given the fact that God has blessed the United Church of Christ with such a rich and diverse array of very capable and inspired leaders, I am confident that there is someone in our midst who will respond to God's call to serve as our next General Minister and President.

With this announcement, I am also very aware that the months ahead leading to next June and General Synod will be filled with important work and decisions that must be attended to with all of the energy, creativity and diligence that we as leaders in the United Church of Christ can muster. I am committed to being fully engaged in these endeavors. My hope and expectation is that you will join with me in that engagement, with the awareness that my tenure as General Minister and President will end next year, but with an even greater awareness that there is much to be accomplished before then.

My prayer is that God will continue to bless and guide and inspire the ministry that we do in Jesus' name.

Peace and blessings,


Geoffrey A. Black

COLLEGIUM OF OFFICERS
Rev. Geoffrey A. Black
GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT

Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo
JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES

Rev. J. Bennett Guess
LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

Rev. James A. Moos
WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES