

Dear Severns Valley,

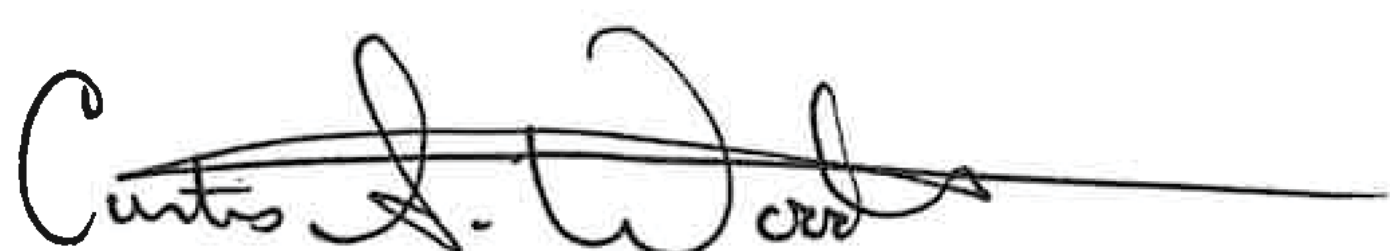
I have spent the past several months contemplating my role as lead pastor of SV. As many of you know, I have had a significant battle with clinical depression among other mental abnormalities that cause me to question my fitness to lead this congregation into a brighter future. I have discovered a lot of things about my personality and spiritual life these past months which will require more intense counseling sessions for an undetermined period, invariably impeding my ability to lead effectively the staff and church.

The Church Council and the congregation as a whole have supported us during these dark days while always keeping the spiritual needs of the SV foremost. Many members have prayed for and undergirded every step that I am making to become more emotionally healthy. There are times when I believe I can take on any challenge before me as a pastor, but unfortunately those moments have become far and few when the curtain of depression and anxiety envelops me.

At this time, the majority of my energy will be spent getting well and being with my family. They have given up so much to follow me here, and I pray that the Lord will multiply their faithfulness in the difficult days ahead.

Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that I must tender my resignation as lead pastor of SV effective immediately.

I do not wish to forestall the churches need to call a new lead pastor search committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis Woods". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Curtis Woods
Lead Pastor