



June 15, 2026

Dear Friends,

After 24 years as one of your pastors, I've sensed a call to ministry outside our church. A new chapter opens before me. What a privilege it's been for me to work among you over these years: first as your Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation and Discipleship (for 13 years), and then as your Pastor for Congregational Care, and finally as Senior Associate Pastor for Engagement and Congregational Care.

I have relished preaching and leading in worship, guiding our Good Friday services, and most of all teaching. I think of our Early Risers classes and Men's Life, New Members classes, and expositional Bible studies, leading Spiritual Formation weekends with visiting speakers and helping shepherd our Templeton-funded program exploring science and faith. It's been a joy for me to teach adult Sunday School classes regularly, exploring topics ranging from biblical justice to issues in the Holy Land, civil discourse in contentious political seasons, and much more. Your eagerness to learn, to ask hard questions, and grapple with challenging issues has inspired and motivated me.

More recently, I've been delighted to reach out to our wider Boulder community, too: partnering with CU's Center for Humanities and the Arts to offer our annual "Difficult Dialogues" series at the church; participating and moderating panel discussions and film talk-backs at CU and the Dairy Arts Center on topics ranging from peacemaking in the Middle East to Freud and C.S. Lewis; and meeting with interfaith clergy for fellowship, discussion, and solidarity as we've responded to violence in our city.

I have been so honored to join you in painful, difficult seasons in your lives: at hospital bedsides, helping you navigate tough decisions about end-of-life issues, walking with you through grief and leading memorial services for your loved ones. This has meant more to me than words can express. Thank you for welcoming me into these tender places.

As some of you know, I'm about to publish a new book, *Finding Our Way Home: Rebuilding Faith and Hope After the Marshall Fire*. Later this fall it will be available on *Amazon.com* and elsewhere. Please join me for a book signing at Boulder Bookstore Wednesday, December 2 at 6:30pm! The book chronicles the loss of our home and its rebuilding, setting our personal story alongside the sweeping biblical story of God's homecoming among us. I intend to share this book and teaching ministry with those in our community and elsewhere who've lost their homes. Going forward, my teaching and writing will be expressed in a variety of forms: leading Zoom classes, guest lecturing in the community and other churches, possibly podcasting, writing a Substack, and more.

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Finally, some of you know that after a year of training at Denver Seminary, I'm now certified as a spiritual director. This precursor of modern counseling is an ancient Christian practice that helps disciples discern and attend to God's movement in their lives. I'm excited to develop this practice. For more on my new book, my teaching, and spiritual direction ministry, please visit me online at carlhofmann.com.

Some of you may be asking if I'm still available to lead memorial services. Sadly, no. PC(USA) denominational requirements for departing pastors prohibit this. For these requests, Grace Commons covenant partners will need to consult church leadership for assistance.

Over the years, I've become more convinced than ever that the greatest strength of our congregation is its people. Your love for Jesus, your desire to serve one another, to reach out to Boulder and our world, your gifts and talents, your generosity, your passion and heart—these are the most valuable assets of Grace Commons Church. What an honor it's been for me to live and serve among you!

I'm scheduled to preach a last sermon on Sunday, June 21 and on Sunday, June 28 there will be a chance to say good-bye over coffee and treats after the service. I hope you can join us!

With much love and affection in Christ,

Carl S. Hofmann