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From: Silverton Friends <silvertonfriends@frontier.com>

To: silvertonfriends@frontier.com

Sent: Saturday, April 8, 2017 1:01 PM

Subject: Special Announcement from the Henry Family

April 8, 2017

Dear Friends,

For nearly six years, Sue, our boys, and I have served Silverton Friends Church and the Northwest Yearly Meeting. We have worked to create spaces and processes where people could become conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others and truly make visible the Kingdom of God in our communities and homes. We have been blessed by having the opportunity to celebrate wonderful moments with you, cry with you, and seek God's Spirit for guidance and direction each and every time.

As your pastor, I have been blessed by your willingness to do the hard work of engaging the difficult conversations we have faced over the last six years. I will be the first to admit that they have not always been easy, but you have developed a commendable respect and listening capacity with each other. I was proud at the most recent "family meeting" to see people feel safe to share from their hearts on difficult topics – that only comes through strong relational bonds, patient listening, and faithful presence together. I know there are more difficult conversations ahead, but you have proved to be a people who can weather those and find a positive future for SFC. I am proud to see how far you have come and know with the Spirit's leading, you will find a way forward TOGETHER.

As for our family, we are embarking on a new journey. We are answering God's call to help create new spaces, processes, and conversations with the people of Indianapolis First Friends. Yes, that means we are moving back to Indiana. On Sunday, April 2, First Friends approved me as their next pastor. First Friends is an urban meeting in northeast Indianapolis. As they state, *"First Friends is a loving, inclusive, joyous gathering of people seeking to know Truth under the leadership of God's Holy Spirit."* My start date at First Friends is July 1.

Sue, the boys, and I love each of you and will miss you dearly. I hope we have "let our lives speak" in each moment of our journey at SFC. For you have "let your lives speak" to us. We realized early on, that we needed each of you to help us on this adventure - to make us better people, to mature us, to ground us, to walk with us and give us space as we

attempted the ministry of pastoring SFC. You have touched our lives and we are eternally grateful.

May God bless the next steps in your journey together as you seek to follow and listen to Christ our Present Teacher. Please feel free to ask us any questions and talk with us in person, as we know this will be difficult for many -- including us.

Grace and peace,



Pastor Bob Henry