

Irvine United Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming - Just Peace Congregation
of the United Church of Christ

the Rev. Dr. Paul G. Tellström
Senior Pastor

the Rev. Ernie Fowler,
Consulting Pastor

the Rev. Fred Plumer
Pastor Emeritus

Dr. Robert Istad
Music Director

Robinmarie McClement
Christian Education

Michael Spindle
Administrator

September 2, 2009

Dear Members and Friends of IUCC:

It is with sadness that I report that my dear colleague and friend, Rob Istad, is moving on to two new positions, and will be unable to continue as our music director. In addition to teaching, Rob will become the Artistic Director of the Long Beach Camerata Singers and the Long Beach Bach Festival. Also, Rob will perform increased duties this winter with the Pacific Chorale.

I knew when I first arrived at the church that Rob was on an upward trajectory in his career, and that this would eventually come at a cost to us. Rob told me a long time ago that when he left, it would never be for another church position—that IUCC was his spiritual home and he would keep his ties here.

This has been a hard decision for Rob—he is grateful for the friends and support he has received here, and we are grateful in turn for the incredible gifts that he has brought to us each Sunday. Personally, to have someone of his sensitivity and talent working with me in worship has been a great gift. I admire and respect Rob in every way.

I invite you to join us in saying “Farewell” on his last Sunday, October 4. Rob will be conducting throughout September. I am sorry that my vacation plans will prevent me from being present at two of these Sunday services, but even Rob did not know about this incredible career opportunity until recently. Please come and celebrate these Sundays with Rob in my absence.

Tina Peterson will be taking over as our interim music director through July. She was to have started in January when Rob took the position at the Pacific Chorale, and fortunately, Tina was able to start three months early.

In the not-too-distant future, we will be calling an associate pastor, and the focus will be on welcoming that person into the church. Afterwards, a search committee will be formed to look for a new music director, with a date of less than a year in mind.

Faithfully,



Pastor Paul

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