

August 21, 2023

Dear Derry Church friends,

It has been a true joy to serve you, our church, these past 5 years. When I joined the staff in August 2018, I had no idea how much my life, and the lives of my family, would be impacted in so many wonderful ways. Not only has my faith grown, I have been blessed to be part of the faith journey with my children, and that is a blessing I will forever cherish.

As our kids are growing older, we are finding their activities and schedules growing as well. It is becoming increasingly harder to fulfill my Sunday and Tuesday & Wednesday evening commitments and still be "the biggest fan" for our kids. I am therefore writing to share that I will be stepping away from my position on our church staff.

Pete and I look forward to having our kids continue to be part of all the programs Derry is blessed to offer. We look forward to volunteering to help in classrooms, in the kitchen, during worship and, honestly, wherever help is needed. Derry Church is a huge part of our lives and we hope it will be able to remain that way.

While we want to stay involved with the church, I also want to respect my successor and offer them the space they need to succeed in their role and not feel limited by my involvement. I will respect their wishes and support them in any way I can so that Derry can continue to be a space where children and families enjoy coming.

I thank you all for giving me an opportunity to grow into my various positions here at the church. Working with all ages and having an active part of so many faith formation experiences has been an absolute joy.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M.E. Steelman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

M.E. Steelman