

October 10, 2018

Dear Restoration Covenant Church,

I am stepping down as Students Director & Strategic Development Coordinator. It has been my joy to be with you these last two years. Not only were you truly welcoming faces when I first came, but you quickly grew to have a special place in my heart.

I have accepted a role as a full-time programming specialist for an engineering company. For some of you that may sound like a weird place for a students director to go. For me, some of my untapped passions are living out the desire to develop systems, build from scratch, design and imagine, and always have more to learn. It is an opportunity I am incredibly excited for and hope to make a great career out of.

Just some of the things I will miss and treasure from my time at Restoration: that one day staff all wore mustard yellow clothing to the office by chance; that other time they all wore maroon; working hard with Chrystine Vilhauer to have the latest and greatest decorations on a colleague's desk; being gifted a whole closet worth of outfits for my Storm Trooper by some very special students; one day when a student sent me a whole poster they made of the Bible verse from our teaching; seeing first-hand how talented our students are at their various sports competitions or performances; January 16, 2018 when Matthew Goerdt agreed to high five me every Tuesday thereafter at precisely 1pm; Tuesdays at 1pm; receiving a special invite to be the grumpy old man at VBS; the lock-in event with students and pulling an all-nighter; the way our prayer team encouraged me; having a boss as caring, uplifting and eccentric as Pastor Rob; snow-mageddon Sunday 2018; the day our students lesson turned into a drawing of Egyptian sand lizards; having countless wonderful conversations and time with students and student leaders, and so much more.

I hope the impressions I leave behind are good ones—both on each person I knew and the ministry I had the privilege to lead. I believe each leader comes with unique gifts, and whoever comes after me will help Restoration continue to thrive. More than that, I hope those who care to hear these words from me will continue to live their life into God's design, make a kingdom-sized difference and become the person God wants you to be.

Thank you again for the opportunity it was to be at Restoration!

Sincerely,

Derek Wassell