



March 13, 2023
Northern Seminary
Attn. Wyatt Hoch
410 Warrenville Road Suite 300
Lisle, Illinois 60532

Dear Wyatt and the Board of Trustees,

Seven years ago, my family and I accepted your invitation to move from a place and a position we knew and loved well to a “land we knew not of.” During this time, we journeyed together from a residential model of seminary education into a biblical, church-focused mission. We now deliver a multi-denominational educational experience that is international, interracial, and intercultural to prepare women and men called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to advance and nurture the ministries of the Church. Thank you for the honor and privilege to be a part of God's work in this chapter of Northern's 110-year history.

After thoughtful prayer and discernment, I have decided to pursue new opportunities to serve in God's kingdom and entrust this sacred mission of Northern to new leadership. When I offered to take a leave of absence on February 18, I wanted to make room for every voice to be heard, to give the Board time to work through the seminary's process for resolving conflicts and grievances, and to make myself available for listening, mediation, and reconciliation. The publicity around this process during my time away has hindered Northern's mission and prevented my ability to lead the institution into the future. Therefore, I am resigning effective March 13, 2023.

As President and Professor of Pastoral Theology and Preaching, I have stewarded the authority the board entrusted to me; carried out the board's directives faithfully; guarded the flock under my care; and served our staff, givers, students, churches, alumni, and faculty. I have done everything in my power to prevent the kind of abuse of authority that has been publicly alleged about my character and leadership. I am very grateful that in January, the Board's independent investigator concluded that there have been no financial improprieties or grounds for claims of-misogyny, racism, or discrimination. My family and I are also profoundly grateful for the outpouring of support that we have received from current and former students and work colleagues and from the churches and staff we have served. As the apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 3:2-3, “You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.”

A new President will steward this treasure and guide our dedicated faculty, staff, students, and alumni into a new chapter. I commit to praying for the Northern community, supporting our new leader, and being a friend and advocate for the seminary.

Sincerely,

William D. Shiell
President and Professor of Pastoral Theology and Preaching