

January 20, 1989

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with deep regret and sorrow that we must inform you of our separation and impending divorce. The hard decision to separate has evolved over a long period of time after considerable private counseling and prayer. The Bishop has also been a loving pastor to us through these last months.

The balance between vocation and marriage among clergy couples is delicate and fine tuned. We have been unable to keep that balance. Our ordinations, subsequent ministries in the Diocese, and the support system that has grown among all of us did provide the pastoral setting in which we could take a critical look at some long term problems. If it were not because of our unwillingness to take the marriage vows lightly, our devotion to the Bishop and this Diocese, and our love for our children, the decision to divorce would have been made some time ago.

Now we come to you begging your forgiveness and your prayers. We are uncertain about the future. Deployment issues are being negotiated. In the meantime, Karen has moved to Madison, and Stephen remains in Sioux Falls. We continue to dialogue, and the separation is essentially amicable. We are truly sorry for any pain that this decision causes you. Our hope is that as we all struggle with human frailty, the Lord will forever heal and make us whole through his grace and through his love. May he bless all of you with such gifts.

Yours in Christ,



The Rev. Canon Stephen M. Hall



The Very Rev. Karen E. Hall