

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
306 NW 3rd
Madison, South Dakota 57042

The Very Rev. Karen E. Hall, Vicar Church: 256-2325 Home: 256-9440

February 9, 1989

To: The Bishop Committees of Grace Church, Madison, and St. Mary's/
 OBR, Flandreau

From: Mo. Karen *Karen*

I have struggled for some time on how to share what is happening to me. Some of you have counseled me to share nothing; others have opted for some sort of announcement, but when and where is a question. So ultimately it has been left up to me to make the decision.

The accompanying letter is one that was sent to all the clergy in the Diocese. This came as a result of the Bishop's request of Stephen and me. The letter has been received with love and support from the clergy.

However, my personal trauma will directly affect all of you since it is Church policy that in the event of a divorce the clergy are relocated. I have, therefore, two options to consider. One is to return to seminary to finish my M. Div., and the other is to submit my name to another position in the Diocese. In either event I will be leaving as early as June, 1989. We have plenty of time to reflect on the future of the ministry in our congregations and we need to take what time we have to be thoughtful and prayerful about that future.

To assist us in our deliberations, the Bishop and Fr. Genereux will be in Madison on February 26 for the Bishop's Annual Visitation. If possible we would like to meet with both Bishop Committees after that service. There will be a potluck and a time of question/answers. Following those events the Committees will meet. I would hope that all of you will be available for that meeting so that we together might forge the future in the Wider Area Ministries. If any congregational members wish to be part of that meeting, they are most welcome. A note to the Flandreau congregation: You are welcome to share in the service, potluck and time of sharing with the Bishop before our schedule Committee meeting. Please mark this time on your calendar and plan to be there.

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.

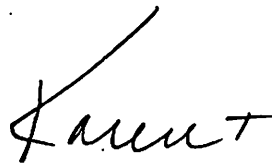
The balance between vocation and marriage among clergy couples is delicate and fine tuned. We have been unable to keep that balance. Our ordinations, subsequent ministries in the Diocese, and the support system that has grown among all of us did provide the pastoral setting in which we could take a critical 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