

Dear Covenant,

It has been a fantastic time working at Covenant but unfortunately on February 20th I have submitted my resignation. I wanted to write something because I know people are going to have questions and my hope is that this will answer many of them. I am sorry that I cannot take time to talk to everyone and explain everything that is going on. I would like everyone to know the reasons behind my resignation but it can often be emotional and draining to answer the same questions over and over again.

For the past two and a half years I have loved getting to know and serving the people at Covenant. There has been so much support from the congregation, parents and staff and for all that I am very grateful.

For the past few years I have made living here work. When I first moved here I found an apartment with fantastic rent but when time came to work as an overnight supervisor at a teen transitional lodge, The Next Door, I moved in and worked in exchange for rent and meals. In December of 2016 They had to close the doors at The Next Door due to funding issues. So I had to find an apartment for Logan, my dog, and myself. After I found a new apartment my car was having mechanical issues—mostly reversing. With an extra burden of car payments my saving for school had dropped significantly.

In June of 2017 I had to leave my apartment and search for a housing situation. This time I found it more difficult to find a new place to live. A member of the church invited me to stay with him until I was able to find a new place to live. While I was living there I was able to find two additional part time jobs to be able to afford an apartment. Since we weren't running many youth programs and Logan was living with my parents it was easy to work anywhere between 60-80 hours a week.

In September I was able to move into a new apartment through people I met at the dog park. Logan moved back in with me and I cut down my hours of work to 60-70. My landlords were very kind and would take care of Logan if I was working more than 8 hours, which was at least twice a week. The apartment was nice, the rent was cheap, I had free dog care but as with anything that nice there was a catch. My landlords warned me that before I moved in they were planning on selling their house so this would only be a temporary solution.

By the time December rolled around I had, had only 6 days off since the beginning of July and it was getting to me. I had no time to do anything I enjoyed and was feeling very anxious and stressed. In mid to late December I broke, I was emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually exhausted. I was able to have a few days off around Christmas advantage of the break to try and recharge my energy. When I got back I felt a little better but still wasn't feeling like myself. I took some time to review 5 areas of my life; health, financial, professional, relationships and spiritual. I felt that in all areas were low compared to where they should be. While I was reviewing these areas of my life my landlord informed me that by mid March I would need to be move out. I searched for apartments but wasn't finding anything that was in my price range that

would allow dogs. To afford a new apartment I would still have to work many hours but wouldn't have someone to take care of Logan.

I decided that instead of scraping by to make ends meet it would make more sense to move back in with my parents—not something I've ever been excited to say. Over this time I will be working on improving the areas of my life I feel are lacking as well as working on my schooling. This will be the first time in six years where I don't have plans to work in ministry for the foreseeable future. In many ways this feels like I'm taking a step back but I'm trying to not focus on the negative parts of it and instead focus on what excites me about it. I am very excited to connect with old friends, I am excited to have days off, I am excited to start school and I am very excited to feel like myself again.

I thank everyone for the prayer and support that I have received over the past few years and ask for prayer and support through this next step in my journey.

Kyle

## FAQs

*What will I miss the most?*

The people at covenant and the students. This is in no way an easy decision for me and I will think of all the amazing people and relationships I've made here. Also the amazing summer activities the area has.

*What will I miss the least?*

Winter, specifically the snow.

*Will I ever see you again?*

Probably. I plan on attending the butter tart festival for as long as it's alive and will most likely visit the Sunday after. Retreats also need volunteers so I would like to help out at those.

*Do I plan to continue working in ministry?*

My plan is to work on getting an undergrad in ministry and continue working in ministry down the line. However, for the first bit I will not be actively looking to work or volunteer in ministry.

*How can you pray for me?*

What I am going to need the most right now is prayer for peace and patience. Even as I am writing this I feel conflicted with my decision.