**Attached Addendum** to letter of June 9, 2019

June 16, 2019

Greetings Park Avenue family,

To provide additional context surrounding my announcement last week, I am attaching this addendum to my original statement. It is my hope that this note provides clarity and addresses possible questions surrounding the timing of my epiphany of identity, and perceived ‘impulsivity’ regarding my nuptials.

God sent a friend into my life thirteen years ago to walk alongside me and my children during the challenging times after my divorce. Her presence and help in rearing my children is such a gift and a testament to God’s faithfulness and love for me.

Years ago, I questioned not only my identity but also whether my connection with my friend involved a deeper “**eros**” (Greek = “deep love”) vs. a “**philía**” (Greek = friendly, ‘affectionate regard’ love). With my previous belief that God didn’t love – or like – people who loved in “different” ways, I did not explore my identity or pursue those feelings.

The epiphany of my identity and my love for my longtime friend were simultaneous in April; the next step to marriage was an obvious one.  I am blessed by God’s continued grace and presence in these next sacred steps in my life which include prayer, family counseling, and Christ-centered premarital counseling prior to my nuptials next summer.

Faithfully,

Rev. Jia Starr Brown

\*\*Please note: All are encouraged to attend one of the Listening Sessions - Wednesday, June 19 at 6:30 OR Sunday, June 23 following worship service at 11:30am. SPRC will be guiding this session; pastors will not be present.