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April 4, 2023

Dear FCC family!

I am writing this letter to announce a change in my role with the church. I will continue serving as an elder but not as the Senior Minister. My new role will be Discipleship Minister.

I have been thinking and praying about this for several months trying to discern God's will. I am not making this change due to any conflict, problem or stress. I still maintain the same passion for Christ and for His Kingdom as I did nearly 10 years ago when I was called to Neoga, and I am really looking forward to the next chapter of my ministry.

As most of you know, Keith has stepped up over the last year when I was on Sabbatical and recently when I had to take a leave from most ministry responsibilities. Keith has been responsible for the day to day ministry opportunities and has grown in his leadership abilities. The elders and I have growing confidence in his ability to lead, serve, and make good decisions. As a result, we are officially adding these responsibilities to go along with his new position as Preaching Minister. The elders have chosen to hold off filling the Senior Minister role for the time being. We want to allow some time for everyone to adjust and grow with the new leadership structure and dynamic before going through a formalized search/calling process.

As you can imagine, we have been discussing this at length over the last few months or more. The elders, Keith and I feel great peace at the direction God has led us.

Please pray for myself, Keith, and the elders, and be prepared to extend us a lot of grace. It is our prayerful hope this transition will be smooth as God leads and the Holy Spirit enables.

Lastly, I want to make a couple comments on my role. I've been asked, "What will you be doing as Discipleship Minister?" To answer this question, let me start by saying, every follower of Christ is called to grow in their relationship with Jesus, mature in that relationship and help others do the same. Ultimately, my role as Discipleship Minister will be to encourage everyone who desires to grow in Christ, become a mature follower who makes disciples.

In order to accomplish this, I expect to create groups, classes, or other opportunities that will help people grow. Everyone is on a spiritual journey and everyone is at a different place in their walk. Ideally, we will have a place for everyone to plug-in and take the next step. So, that is a short explanation of my new role. I plan to continue preaching at least monthly, teaching Sunday school, Discover class, and continue with my current discipleship groups.

Personally, I have great peace about the direction God is leading me. This position and ministry is where I have felt called long before God opened the door for me to serve in full-time ministry. I am very thankful for the increased opportunity God has given me to pursue His mission for the church.

If you have any questions, please contact me, Keith or one of the elders.

Thank you! Make it a blessed week of prayer!

Mel