A conversation about “where we are” and “where we want to go.”

Transition:

There is a *default* transition that happens “no matter what!” Time and change move us forward, and we have truly “transitioned” since April 2019.

There is a deliberate transition that occurs when we try to steer the church towards a goal or destination using the currents and resources at hand.

I came to FBC Marionville to implement a deliberate transition using the SBC transition process as our guide. That process was severely impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. This disruption revealed a lot about our church, but we have held a steady course through an incredibly unique time.

Bottom line, there is no great desire or interest to complete that formal transition process and we have moved forward in many ways despite the pandemic. I do not sense us wanting to look back, but to look forward. And this is great!

My goals have been:

* To understand and appreciate our church as it is and as it can be.
* To stabilize us during this time; to discover the “bedrock” we can build upon and improve administrative processes.
* To focus on significant areas of change for the transition and not deal with minor issues and/or personal preferences only.

But if there is no transition-process, my role as a “consultant” and “bridge,” however, is not needed in the same way. So again, it becomes an integrity issue of, “Am I serving the church in the way you asked?” The answer has become, “No.” And THAT then begs the question, “Moving forward, what IS my role?” Does the church wish to:

* Continue utilizing me as an interim pastor or pulpit supply? Fine, but for how long? What will be the timeline to change?
* Utilize me in the role of a consultant for a Pastor-Search Committee? Wonderful! Is it time to start (!) (?)
* Release me and use existing staff to guide the church forward? Totally your prerogative.
* Call me as a permanent pastor? Not the normal outcome but a possibility. This would require further conversations since I would continue to need flexibility that the church may or may not desire. But conversation is good! This option would require a vote of the church upon your recommendation.
* Other options! And there are many!

The REAL question is, ***“What is best for our church at this time?”***

***I am asking you to pray about this and discuss it with your family and friends. We will work towards a formalized decision after Vacation Bible School.*** Brother Gary