



meadows christian FELLOWSHIP

Dear Meadows Family,

In May of 2007, I walked into an Elders meeting with a letter in my hand. A month earlier, God led me to ask the Elders for a job at the church. I was an Elder at the time. Pastor Dave MacKinnon had moved to a new church. God laid it on my heart that I was to step into the gap. I had a good job, had not been a pastor, and we weren't looking to hire someone at that time. It was an odd request. Yet, God was clear, so I stepped out believing that He would lead the way. In that meeting, the elders said "no."

First reactions are often not the final word. God speaks and confirms as we seek him. I asked if we could talk about the proposal once more at our next meeting two weeks later. I also asked them to pray and assured them that I would gladly let the thought go if they did not feel God leading. I was trusting God would confirm His call on my life through the elders. Two weeks later, they unanimously agreed God was moving this way, and I became the Temporary Director of Transition, then Associate Pastor, and in 2011 the Senior Pastor.

On April 20, 2021, I walked into the Elders' meeting with another letter, another uncommon request, and the belief that God would confirm through the Elders. In that letter and conversation, I shared that God had laid another calling firmly on my heart. I shared that I believe God is leading me to go and plant a new church in Lisbon, IA, and I requested the Elders consider sending me intentionally as a church planter from Meadows.

I can only guess at the thoughts and emotions that are running through your mind right now. Be assured you would not be reading this if the Elders did not sense God in this after much prayer and conversation. Sending your Senior Pastor out to plant a new church is certainly unusual. There will be many questions, and we don't have all the answers right now. Over the next several weeks, we want to pray and process this together as a Fellowship. We will hold various gatherings for questions and ongoing conversations beginning at our Family Fellowship Luncheon, August 29.

For this moment, please try to believe that Eryn and I love you, and we love Meadows. It continues to be an honor to serve here, and the only reason we've even considered this transition is that God has been leading clearly and in ways that communicate His desire to bring about good for two churches. More than that, please believe that God loves you and loves Meadows. We can trust Him and believe He has good intentions for all of us in this.

We are praying for you all. I know an "elephant" will be in the room Sunday, so we will start processing this together in prayer. Until then, you can begin hearing more of the story via video at meadowsfamily.org/transition.

Grace and Peace,
(I don't use these words lightly, this is what we need and what I'm praying for)

— Pastor Andrew

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