

MCF Transition FAQ

(updated October, 2021)

During the current pastoral transition process at MCF, there have been several Q&A lunches as well as a number of questions raised in individual conversations with elders. The elders have been grateful for the input and engagement of all those who have asked questions and given their feedback and observations, and we have valued hearing from all of you. We know that not everyone has been able to attend every lunch or meeting. With this in mind, the following Transition FAQ's are here as an attempt to gather all of the recent discussions, questions, and answers into one place in an effort to help keep us all informed about the transition process. Please continue to pray for us and for MCF as we all seek to move forward together following the Lord's leading.

---Your MCF Elders

On April 20, 2021, Pastor Andrew informed the elders that he was feeling called to plant a church in Iowa, but the church wasn't told until August. What took so long?

At the April 20 elder meeting, Pastor Andrew informed the elders of his sense of calling to plant a church in Iowa. He asked specifically that the elders pray to discern and confirm this call. In subsequent meetings, Pastor Andrew also indicated that he felt there were certain men in the congregation who could step into pastoral roles in order to fill the void he would leave, thus forming a pastoral team, rather than engaging in a traditional search for one man from outside the church to replace him. Throughout the month of May, much time was spent in discussion and prayer over these matters. By the time the Bees went on vacation in June, the elders unanimously felt clear confirmation that this call for Pastor Andrew to leave was indeed God's will. Also, after a period of prayerfully seeking God's will, the men suggested for pastoral roles had not yet sensed a clear leading into the roles suggested. By July and August, planned vacations for the elders and their families made fully attended meetings impossible, but it was concluded that the congregation needed to be informed of Pastor Andrew's call to leave for Iowa, even if no firm transition date or plan was yet in place. This resulted in the letters from Pastor Andrew and the MCF Elders which were mailed in mid-August, and the follow-up Q&A Fellowship lunches on August 29, September 12, and September 19.

Are other people leaving MCF to go to Iowa with the Bees to plant their church?

No. Andrew and Eryn and their family are relocating to Lisbon IA on their own. No one has been asked to go with the Bees to be a part of their church plant.

What will be MCF's ongoing commitment to Pastor Bee and the church he plants in Lisbon, Iowa?

The elders have approved the spending of \$4500 from Catch the Wave funds designated for church-planting in order to help Pastor Andrew enter the [StartCHURCH StartRIGHT Service](#). Releasing more money from these same designated funds to help the new church plant, Uncommon Church, has been discussed, but no other financial commitments have been made at this time. While we do consider ourselves to be "sending out" the Bees to plant a church with our love, prayers, and support, the Bees are leaving MCF and independently planting a new church in Iowa which will in no way be under the authority or oversight of MCF.

Who's going to preach after Pastor Andrew leaves?

A preaching team of Mark Barnes, Drew Barnes, Stewart Pattison, and Mark Hoffman has been assembled. These men have been meeting and mapping out the sermon series through the end of the year. They are all committed to sharing the preaching load during this transition as needed.

Have the elders talked to Converge about the pastoral search process?

Yes. The elders met with Bryan Moak, Converge's Vice President of Church Strengthening, on August 31, 2021. He interacted with the elders about the transition and the current state of MCF. He outlined the Converge pastoral search process, which he said usually takes 12-14 months. The process is one that MCF has used before, and includes taking a church-wide survey, hiring an interim pastor, and forming a pastoral search team to evaluate the candidates that Converge provides based on the survey data.

What other options are the elders exploring right now to fill the pastoral position?

In addition to the Converge search process, the elders are continuing to explore other options for MCF as part of our desire to seek after the Lord's leading in this transition. The elders had a meeting in October with pastors from Mission Church, a growing, missionally-minded church in Bloomingdale, in order to learn and explore potential options. We are also having conversations with other men, both from outside and inside the church, about pastoral roles and other possibilities. We continue to explore the options that God places before us, knowing that soon we will be choosing a course of action and moving in that direction. All this being said, the elders feel that right now our priority is not just to simply find a man to fill Andrew's shoes, but to seek the Lord in order to gain clarity about our mission at MCF, and to let the pastoral process be guided by our pursuit of that God-given mission. We are extremely excited about what God is doing, and we desperately need your prayers as we continue to move forward in this together.