

Dear Celebration Family,

February 26th 2021

What a journey we have been on together over the last few years. I feel honoured and humbled to lead you through this process of discernment, asking God if he is inviting us to walk together on a more long-term basis. How did this journey come about some might ask?

In 2015 my family and I heard the call to move to Regina after pastoring extensively in BC and Alberta. At that point I started overseeing Via Regina, a small church plant under the spiritual oversight of Via Apostolica, that just recently became a Missionary District in the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA). In 2017 Pastor Matt Adams asked me if I could see myself become part of the pastoral team of Celebration Church, which I denied, as I was leading the church plant and things went well. Pastor Matt and myself stayed connected and our relationship grew into a mutual friendship with deep honour towards each other and our congregations.

2019 was a year that brought instability to Via Regina due to multiple transitions of Core families and personal crisis. It was hard for me to fully understand what was going on, but I sensed God's invitation to lean into deeper trust and dependence on Him. In this time God invited my family and me to focus our attention to serve the body of Christ in the city and province in a more concerted effort. This was the time when I started serving Celebration church in half-time capacity as well as other churches all across the province. God specifically asked me to entrust Via Regina into His hands, as I put my attention towards the wider church.

In February 2020 I accepted a fulltime position serving Celebration Church as Associate Pastor with a mutual understanding that I will remain an Anglican Priest under Via Apostolica, serving Celebration as a part of the wider body of Christ. I deeply enjoyed working under Pastor Fred and alongside an incredible staff and board team.

In summer 2020 Pastor Fred handed his resignation to the board as a step of obedience towards God's call (see Pastor Fred's letter: <https://redroof.tv/pastoral-transition>). This engaged both Matt and myself into a discernment process listening together to God's leading. A few things stood out to us as we prayerfully engaged in this process.

- We are not to move forward in a Co-leadership structure, but rather one leader for the benefit of Celebration's present needs.
- We were not wanting to engage in a competition for this role but asking for God's guidance.
- The need for an apostolic affiliation for the sake of Celebration's calling to the wider body of Christ felt important to me.

In our process Matt and I felt in unison that at this point it seemed that God is calling myself into this role. I felt humbled and excited about this potential new assignment, yet also the urgency to be honest and upfront with my intentions and sense of purpose.

If I would become the Lead Pastor of Celebration Church, I would lead this congregation under Via Apostolica. My family and I have found a home under Via Apostolica (Missional District under ACNA) that carries a deep love for Jesus and his glorious church as well as the restoration

of the apostolic ways and practises. Further I have experienced an increase of deeper love for Jesus in the embrace of not only the charismatic stream, but also the evangelical and historical ones. This was surprising for me at first, but I realized God's grace and love for His church in this development. These streams are not meant to divide but compliment the body of Christ. Via Apostolica feels called to express themselves in a way that includes all these different streams in a beautiful dance.

I realize that this might bring up many questions for you and understandably so. My intention has been to not push Celebration into a quick decision, but rather an invitation to go on an exploration journey together, to find out if this could be a fit for the future of Celebration Church. We will intentionally walk together exploring teachings, practises and getting to know different leaders and people of Via Apostolica in order to discern God's purpose and way. This might be a 1–2-year exploration process and we are committed to that. We want to give sufficient time and desire to walk in transparency and honesty. My encouragement and hope would be that we can engage in this process with an open and generous heart towards practises that seem foreign or at times different to what we might be used to. May we ask for the Spirit's help for discernment rather than judgement.

My commitment to you as your Interim Lead Pastor is threefold:

1. I commit to leading you first and foremost to the best of my ability into the fullness of what Celebration Church is meant to be. God has called us to be a glorious church that embraces the love and grace of Jesus for ourselves and this world.
2. I commit to inform, educate and expose you to the values, beliefs, practises and leaders of Via Apostolica with the intention that the congregation of Celebration can make an informed decision whether to accept me as a Lead Pastor or not. We have already started this process with the staff and board in order for you to be able to hear other voices of our congregation as well.
3. I commit to leading you according to the example of Jesus in humility and servant leadership like Philippians 2 encourages us.

I would love to hear your questions nico@redroof.tv or you are also able to send any question to info@redroof.tv . Thank you for your prayers and intentional engagement into this process. May we be able to walk through this journey trusting that Jesus has this process in His hands. May He lead us and give us His Spirit who leads us into all truth.

Heavenly Father we commit this process into your hand. May you empower your people with the Spirit of wisdom, revelation and discernment. We ask that you would guide us through this whole process. May you watch over your church and protect us from the influences of the one that came to kill, steal and destroy and grant us your overflowing life (Joh 10:10). May you establish a glorious church in this city, province and country. Above all, we pray that not our will but your will be done, to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

May God's grace and love fill you all.

Pastor Nico+