

January 20, 2021

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, Celebration Church held a special meeting of the membership at which those participating were asked to share their concerns and hopes for Celebration Church as we move through a period of transition. Fred Hill's resignation as Pastoral Lead necessitated Celebration Church choosing a new Interim Pastoral Lead to help us through this transition period.

We are blessed to have two of our senior pastoral staff, Matt Adams and Nico Deschner, who are willing to take an expanded leadership role during this transition period. What a blessing to have such a great team of leaders!

The Board/Elders have engaged with Fred, Nico and Matt over a period of several months. Together we asked questions, prayed, and listened to God. The result was that at the two-day Board/Staff Retreat on January 8-9, 2021, the entire board and staff agreed that we heard God's voice and that Nico Deschner was to take on this important role for our congregation. The Board of Directors/Elders of Celebration Church, having the sole discretion to do so under the bylaws of Celebration Church, then voted unanimously to invite Nico Deschner into the role of Interim Pastoral Lead to lead and walk beside the members of Celebration as we listen to God's voice and follow His leading.

We are delighted that Nico has agreed to take on this additional responsibility. His contract as Interim Pastoral Lead begins February 1, 2021. Nico's commitment is to help Celebration grow into the fullness of who God intended this body of believers to be. He is excited to take on this leadership role and would be honored, should God reveal it to the congregation of Celebration, to commit to a long-term relationship of walking together.

The intent of the interim contract is for it to continue without interruption until the call for a permanent Pastoral Lead is made. The congregation has authority to call the pastoral lead and define the length of the interim period. Our initial thoughts are that we should all be prepared for this process to potentially take up to one or two years.

You may ask why the one to two-year process? Nico is currently affiliated with Via Apostolica. Nico is being transparent that should he become our permanent lead pastor his intention would be to lead us to join Via Apostolica. It is our intention to allow sufficient time to corporate exploration of our history and future plans for Celebration Church as well as come to a better understanding of the history and future of Via Apostolica before convening a call committee to help this body in the selection of a

permanent Pastoral Lead. It is our goal to be clear and open in our communication throughout this process to allow the congregation to understand Via Apostolica and make an informed decision.

During this interim period, we ask that you continue engaging, praying and discerning the will of God for this congregation. Please contact Fred, Nico, Matt, or Shawn at any time. We also encourage you to send questions to info@redroof.tv.

Our prayer for all of you is that our God, who loves us beyond understanding, will become more real to you each day, and that the knowledge of this love will motivate us to share His love with the world.

Blessings,

Shawn Lamb

Celebration Board of Directors Chair

Lisa Korchinski

Celebration Board of Directors Vice Chair