

Open Letter to the Congregation of Celebration Church for the Board of Directors/Elders  
November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Friends;

Many of you may have already heard the news that Fred shared with us at the AGM yesterday morning. Fred believes that his time as Lead Pastor at Celebration is finished. He believes he is honouring the timeline that God spoke to him when he entered the position. Between now and April 30, 2021, he will begin a slow transition away from this position, while helping the congregation, Board and staff shape a succession plan. We stand with him as he begins this new chapter of his life.

Naturally, this news raises a number of questions – the biggest of which is, who will lead us as we move forward?

The last few years have been transformational ones at Celebration. We have begun a corporate journey of listening, hearing God, and moving forward in empowered discipleship to do the work He has planned for us. We want to grow stronger in our journey of embracing the wonderful gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:7 tells us that, “He has given some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some shepherds and teachers”. We believe and embrace the truth that we are all called to grow in these gifts. Now is such an important time for each of us to walk in the gifts God has given us and especially to be in prayer – for Fred, for each staff and Board member, and for the congregation of Celebration. We all want to be exactly where God wants us. We ask that you listen as you pray and that you share what you hear with the Celebration Elders.

We are such a privileged congregation, with a depth of spiritual leadership including two of our more senior pastors – Matt Adams and Nico Deschner – whose gifts of leadership in apostleship, prophecy, evangelism, shepherding, and teaching augments and complements each other working alongside each of us as we grow in our spiritual giftings.

As per our by-laws the Board will appoint an Interim Pastoral Lead to continue building on the wonderful foundation that the Lord has laid at Celebration. To keep continuity in our journey, the board and Fred will work with Matt and Nico to develop an Interim plan for Senior Leadership at Celebration. The timeframe is not set for this decision but our goal is to do this as soon as possible to allow for the transfer of duties in a timely and effective manner.

On January 17, 2021, we are planning a congregational round table meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to provide each person the opportunity to share what they have heard in prayer and to corporately commit Celebration and this transition to God. God has gone before us to prepare the way and lay the groundwork for our journey.

We do not want to preclude we know what that way is – rather we want to listen together and follow God. The Board has already started this prayer journey and is overwhelmingly filled with PEACE – knowing that God has an amazing plan for us!

In January 2021, we are planning to form a “call committee” consisting of Board and members from the congregation. This committee’s role will be to hear from the congregation and develop a list of attributes and giftings we are looking for in the Pastoral Lead role. They will then begin the search for a permanent Pastoral Lead. Each of you has a role to play in helping decide who will lead us, and as per our by-laws the members of Celebration will vote on and decide who our next Lead Pastor will be. Again, the timeframe of this vote is unclear at this point but we will aim to keep the body informed regarding the progress of this important matter.

We will invite our pastors interested in this role to apply for this position and will also be open to the Spirit’s leading regarding persons outside our current leadership to fulfill this position.

On behalf of the Board of Celebration, I want to assure you that each Elder is eager to speak with you, to hear any concerns and questions you have, and to pray with you as we begin this exciting journey together. Please reach out to us anytime.

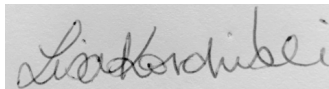
Blessings on each of you today. May God’s peace, which passes understanding guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Your Servants in Christ,



Shawn Lamb

Celebration Board of Directors Chair



Lisa Korchinski

Celebration Board of Directors Vice Chair