

Good morning, Fellowship! I am Bob Grove, one of the Elders, and this is Tim Carty, Elder Board Chair. We are here to share a few things as we continue the work God has called us to do.

God is good all the time; we are His people, and He is watching over and guiding us.

Over the past few years, our lead pastor, Rick Dunn, and the Elders have poured into the next generation of pastors and leaders at Fellowship Church. One of the primary reasons for training up these leaders is so that, one day, as Rick nears retirement, he could pass on the Lead Pastor role to someone who has our Fellowship DNA and can faithfully sustain our culture and values for years to come.

Today, Rick and the Elders believe we are ready to begin the process of calling this new lead pastor.

Ok, there it is. As Elders, we understand that calling a new lead pastor is a great responsibility. We want you to know that we have been and will continue to seek the Father during this time.

Take a breath and let it out. Now another ... and let it out.

God is good, all the time. God has been and continues to shape us as Fellowship Church, a new people in a new family on a new mission.

Here are a few points of clarity about this transition:

1. God has been moving Rick and the elders in this direction for many years. Now is simply the time to fearlessly take the next steps God has prepared.
2. Rick will remain on staff and actively engaged in ministry for several years. He will continue to walk alongside the new Lead Pastor and other emerging leaders. The transition will be purposeful and gradual to ensure our culture and mission remain strong, resilient, and uninterrupted.
3. We believe God has already placed our next lead pastor on our staff, and God has been shaping him to lead. Please allow me to be clear; that does not mean we have already chosen the next lead pastor. Instead, it is our time to discern and discover whom God has prepared in advance. Unless God leads otherwise, the new lead pastor will be called from within our staff.
4. While we do not have a specific timeline, at some future time, the elders will present to you a candidate for Lead Pastor for a membership vote. In the meantime, we commit to providing monthly updates.

Ok, I realize this has been a lot to take in. Now, here's what the Elders are calling you to do:

1. We are calling you to Continue the work of the Kingdom God has prepared for you to do! There is no cause for a pause; God calls us to boldly share the gospel and prepare disciples. Let us all continue to press into what God has for us.
2. We are calling you to engage with us in a process of preparation and discernment through prayer and fasting, grounded in our truth-practicing community.

We will hold loosely, allowing God to shape our process and timing. We will communicate with you as we determine specific steps and timelines. There is no urgency to the transition. Instead, we submit to God's timing while also moving expeditiously.

Speculation on "who will be the next Lead Pastor" is normal. However, speculation is not particularly helpful.

We are in a season of discernment with the Spirit. It is God's voice, not our own, that we seek to hear.

To wrap up, please join me in praying for the Elders, for Rick, for the pastoral and staff leadership, for those in whom God is stirring a response to the call for the lead pastor role, and for all of us as members and worshippers in this family that we call Fellowship Church.

God is good. All the time! We are His. He is watching over us and He has more for us!