To: Summit Church Family
Date: November 15, 2026
Subject: Senior Pastor Transition & Ministry Vision Ahead

Dear Friends,

For nineteen years, it has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to serve alongside you and shepherd this church family partnering in the gospel together. Together, we have walked through seasons of deep joy, hardships, growth, and we have experienced His divine grace and mercy. With you, I have gotten to know Jesus more fully and deeply. The work of God and the lives touched over these two decades are a testimony to God's faithfulness and the shared devotion of this leadership team.

It is Philippians 1:3–7a that tearfully rings truly for me:
I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, 4 always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 I am sure of this, that He who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. 7 Indeed, it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, and you are all partners with me in grace.

I am writing to share news that I know has come as a surprise and carries various emotions. But it is a decision that Angela and I have processed with deep prayer, counsel, and conviction. As we have said for these years, we all must follow the Lord – and that is what we are doing ourselves.

At the end of January, I will be stepping down as your Senior Pastor and we will be relocating to Winston-Salem, North Carolina. I will be going on fulltime ministry with seeJesus ministries (of whom we as a church have been deeply impacted by for the last six years). I will be shifting from a local church to a global church focus, using the gifts and experiences He has equipped me with while I have been with you. My new missionary role will even include ministry not only stateside here, but also to New Zealand and Australia where many of you know we have had a deep love for.

To be clear, this transition is not born out of weariness, conflict, or a problem at Summit, but rather a clear and distinct calling into a new season of ministry for us. You, friends, have been so generous, kind, gracious and loving. You have willingly followed as we sought to know Jesus all the more. What an absolute joy to serve you these many years.

I recognize the weight of this move. After nineteen years of leadership, a change like this naturally brings questions about the future. Friends, a reminder, this is – *and always has been* – the Lord's church. I have simply been the under-shepherd for the time He has had us here. Now as He leads us in a new way in missions, He will bring one who has been prepared for this very time. Your elders are healthy, and they are seeking the Lord knowing that this has not surprised Him.

Thank you church for your unwavering love for Angela and me over these nineteen years. We are deeply humbled and grateful for you, the very ones we love so deeply.

In His Grip,

John Caprine
Senior Pastor

Summit Ridge Church Family,

Today is a difficult and another significant moment in the life of our Summit Ridge Church. We recognize that Pastor John's announcement brings sadness, uncertainty and more questions than we currently have answers for. We want you to know that we are walking through this moment together as a church family.

We are reminded of another significant moment some 20 years ago, when founding pastor, Paul Biggers, also expressed God's will for him to move into more full-time missions and that he would be stepping down as our pastor. This announcement felt the same then as it does today. However, Summit Ridge Church is in a far healthier and better state than 20 years ago. What is true then is true today: God has His hand on our church and is at work in ways we are not fully aware of right now. What encourages us now is that God greatly blessed SRC with John and Angela Caprine 19 years ago and He truly provided then as we trust He will do again.

To coin a phrase from Pastor John, "What do we know!"

1. God has planned this for John & Angela to serve in the seeJesus ministry, and also that He has a senior pastor already preparing to bless us by.
2. We need to come together and pray for both John and Angela and our new Pastor to be.
3. Remind ourselves that God loves us, He cares for us and that the future of SRC is in His hands. We will seek Him for His answers watch Him at work among us.

We, as your Elder Team, need your prayers as we work through the details of how to keep the mission of SRC through this transition. Here are a few things we are currently working on:

1. Working with all Ministry Leads to understand their needs going forward, and prepare for a new senior pastor.
2. Work through the cost related to a new pastor search. That will be reflected in our 2027 budget.
3. Develop the process of finding this God-appointed senior pastor.
4. Working through what is needed to manage Sunday services following January 31st.
5. Providing direction and assistance to our Staff in order for the burdens of the missing person is not overwhelming them.
6. Answer the questions that will be presented to us. We pray God will help us to clearly answer us and to provide truth where it is needed.

We have, from one degree to another, already begun these various tasks and are committed to continue working diligently through them. We know too that we cannot rush through this process but pray and wait upon the Lord who is our Chief Shephard. We have to be patient and listen to what God has for us.

So today, we ask you to pray for Pastor John and Angela, pray too for your elder team and pray for one another. Continue to worship, serve, love and extend grace, all the more as the path forward is not yet fully clear.

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to Pastor John and Angela for the 19 years of faithful service. You have invested in people, prayed with families, celebrated lives changed by God's grace and served this church with love. We honor your ministry and thank you for the difference you have made in our lives and our community. Thank you.

Scripture reminds us that Jesus Christ is the head of the church. Our hope is not rooted in one person or one season, but in His faithfulness. We can honor what God has done through Pastor John and Angela while trusting Him with what lies ahead.

Summit family, we are honored to serve alongside you, and we will move forward together in faith.

By His Grace,
The Elders at Summit Ridge