

## Update Letter to Congregation: Fall 2017

1. **Pastor Dave's role as Senior Pastor and Transition to new role.** The council believes that after 35 years of service, it is time for Pastor Dave to go through a gradual period of transition. That transition means that he will do less up front leadership (preaching and worship leading) and more behind the scenes mentoring and leadership development.

*Note: we are using the term 'transition' instead of 'retirement' because retirement is not a biblical concept. Pastor Dave is transitioning from a role as Senior Pastor of Madison into a new role in the kingdom.*

### **Preaching and Multi-site Visits:**

Preach once a month at Square Campus in the morning service.

Preach once or twice a month in evening service at Square Campus.

Preach as needed at North and Ford sites while visiting each site monthly.

### **Leadership Development:**

Continue to facilitate preaching team in weekly meetings

Meet with each campus pastor in mentoring relationship each week

Attend and be part of Council, elders, Executive Committee and some committees of council.

Mentor Allen Pontarelli, Ricardo Tavarez (church plant pastors 'mothered' by Madison), and Elaine May and Nick Hopkins (CRC Pastors in other churches)

Mentor seven seminary students and assist Calvin Seminary in their development of the mentoring of students.

Classis GR East Leadership Development Team

Supervise Worship Leaders Director (Eric Nykamp/Antioch Ministry)

**Pastoral Care:** Do some pastoral care (visits assigned by Pastor Darrell) along with some weddings and funerals.

**Other leadership responsibilities:** Help the church develop good plans for the 415 project (see below) and chair the board of Hole In My Heart Ministries a ministry led by Madison Ford members (but not a ministry of our church, it is a separate non-profit) and continue to serve in developing leaders as opportunities arise.

Pastor Dave's transition (retirement) date: September 2020. It could come earlier depending on how the transition plan develops and whether other ministry roles are expanded (e.g. Teaching more at Calvin Seminary)

2. **415 Franklin Update:**

Site-Lab has successfully wrapped up its fall events in the building, with all showings of Detroit '67 by Ebony Road players sold-out. The City approved the special land use application for three uses: multi-family housing, religious institution, and social service offices. ICCF has submitted their Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) application and should hear about the results in January. While we are awaiting the results of ICCF's application, we have been exploring

partnerships for weekday daytime use on the first floor, including using our children's ministry space for early childhood opportunities. And as the master-plan for the building solidifies, we are beginning to move towards developing a fundraising team and strategy.

**3. What 'wilderness experience' are we going through right now?**

On Sunday, November 5 Pastor Dave made a passing reference to a 'wilderness experience' that we are going through. Here is the some background: on Sunday, Oct. 29 we had a congregational meeting which included recommendations by the council to consider selling the Engedi Center and also a proposal as to how to use the 320K gift that we received. Because of the feedback from that meeting from congregants we are stepping back to discern how we need to learn from some mistakes and create better communication and make improved recommendations. Furthermore, it is clear that we have to assess how to be a more authentic multi-cultural church (*who* makes decisions and *how* are they made) and also do a better job to make sure that people from all three sites are involved more. We are now considering how we may call the church to a time of prayer and fasting for good discernment about our next steps. In the wilderness we learn how to depend more upon our good God.

**4. Re-structure of our council:** We have discovered that governing a Multi-site church takes some adjustments and creativity along the way. We do not relate to each other as "franchises" of one church but more like a "collective" of three churches which share much and also have unique ministries and locations. We do, however, have a common governance board (council). We recently have made adjustments to our governance structure to work toward greater prayer, collaboration between elders and deacons, and also greater sharing and care for each other as sites. That new structure means, among other things, that we meet together every third Tuesday for:

-a meal from 6:00-6:30

-vision and large group decision making from 6:30-7:30

-split up into sites (every other month) for site-specific concerns from 7:30-9:00

-split up into elders meeting and deacons (every other month) for all-site concerns, 7:30-9:00

We will reassess this new arrangement in the fall of 2018. This will also mean making significant changes to our 'Governance Documents' which are guidelines for how our church is run.

For the council,

Senior Pastor David Beelen (dbeelen@madisonsquarechurch.org)

Co-chairs of council: Lisa Kirby and Tom Hoeksema