



CALVARY MEMORIAL

April 19, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We trust that you have already read Pastor Todd's letter to the congregation regarding his Antioch Process. We're writing to you to affirm God's calling on Pastor Todd's life, share a bit of our hearts, suggest how you can be involved in the transition, and outline the next steps for our church.

When we first heard the story of Pastor Todd's Antioch Process at our Elder Retreat in late February, he laid out for us a vision of where he believed God was leading him, but he had made no specific plans and genuinely desired our partnership with him in the process of discernment. We listened carefully and prayerfully to what God was doing in Pastor Todd's life and then engaged in an extended time of prayer, discussion and discernment. Naturally, our immediate response was mixed. On the one hand, we were thrilled—rejoicing in the clear leading of the Lord in Pastor Todd's life. We discerned and affirmed together many of the things that he was seeing. In fact, on the way to the retreat on Friday, many of the Elders had already identified and sensed some of the exact things that Pastor Todd would be discussing with us the next day. The Holy Spirit had already prepared us in advance and most of us were not surprised. On the other hand, we also realized that if God was leading Pastor Todd in the way we had discerned together, we would be without the Senior Pastor we have come to love dearly. Joy, rejoicing, grief, and sadness all rolled into one!

In God's providence, the discussion with the Elders immediately preceded the Lenten season, the time when we as leaders and as a congregation had already committed to prepare and quiet ourselves before God for the 40 days leading up to Easter. Rather than immediately jumping into transition planning, we decided instead to continue to honor the Antioch Process that God had already started in us—refraining from any meaningful discussion about “next steps” during Lent. This time of waiting was not easy for us or for Pastor Todd, but we believe that the commitment to the process allowed us further time to discern, to listen to the voice of God, and to trust the Lord with our future as a church. God blessed that decision!

We love Pastor Todd and are thankful for his faithful and Christ-centered leadership and shepherding for the past 10 years. It has been a challenging and fruitful 10 years—a time of growth and blessing as we have sat under his Spirit-filled teaching and preaching ministry. Many of us have developed deep, personal friendships with Todd, Katie, and the kids (four of whom joined their family during Todd's time at Calvary). We agree wholeheartedly with Pastor Todd that Calvary is in a wonderful place and praise Jesus Christ for the great things he has done in and through Pastor Todd. Looking forward, we are excited to see how God will use the work of The Center for Pastor Theologians (CPT) under Todd's leadership to further his kingdom. There will be opportunity in the days ahead to hear more about the CPT, and we suspect that many of you will want to support that ministry more directly.

As people who also love Pastor Todd and our church, many of you will undoubtedly ask how you can be involved in the transition. Here are some suggestions:

1. Pray for the Elders and Ministry Staff. Transitions (even those that God clearly leads us into) are not easy, so we covet your prayers. Pray for unity, joy, and a clear sense of God's call on us as a church. The Antioch Process does not end here. We are just beginning, and we recognize that this transition is a result of the process, not a detour from the process.
2. Support Pastor Todd and Katie. First, pray that God will encourage and provide for them as they move forward in this new adventure. Next, consider how you might personally encourage them in this huge step of faith. We will be taking an offering later this spring to allow us to give generously to the Wilsons, to thank them for their time at Calvary, and to help with the transition to their new ministry. Would you pray about your participation and contribution?
3. Ask questions. If something is not clear to you, please ask one of the Elders or Pastors. Avoid speculation, gossip, or conspiracy theories. Pastor Todd will be sharing more about his journey in the weeks ahead. Trust that God makes things happen when we ask and listen! Let's celebrate the goodness of God and the unity that comes from his Spirit!
4. Celebrate a decade of faithfulness. Pastor Todd's last day in the pulpit will be Sunday, June 3. We will have a celebration and commissioning service on the evening of June 3, so put that date on your calendar.

So what comes next?

- We are excited to announce that Pastor Gerald will be serving as the Interim Senior Pastor effective upon Pastor Todd's resignation. We thank God for Pastor Gerald's capable, demonstrated leadership in our Body and his love for Calvary. Please be in prayer for him as he takes on extra responsibilities and leads our Ministry Staff.
- Per Calvary's constitution, we will form a Pulpit Committee consisting of four Elders and four members selected by the congregation from a slate presented by the Elder Board. Please plan on attending a short business meeting directly after the 10:45 service on Sunday, May 20th to vote on the congregational members of the Pulpit Committee.

This is a lot for all of us to absorb. We remain thankful to God for his clear leading and are confident that God will provide abundantly for us as a church, even as he provides abundantly for Pastor Todd. We love you and will pray for and with you as we celebrate and grieve and walk forward together. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

Grace and peace to you.

The Calvary Board of Elders