



February 19, 2008

Dear Calvary Family,

Our entire family is so grateful for your prayers as we have walked through the candidating process at College Park Church. The last thirteen days have been a very intense time of soul-searching, dialogue, prayer, answering questions, and seeking God's will. Your prayers have been an important part of that process.

Last Sunday, after eight Q/A times, three Fresh Encounter Services, two full Sundays, and multiple one-on-one meetings, College Park held their congregational meeting to officially vote on my candidacy for Lead Pastor. The auditorium was packed beyond capacity with over 1,000 members in attendance, and the result was a 99.2% affirmative call. The vote confirmed the overwhelming momentum that developed in the last two weeks. The congregation clearly sensed what the Search Team, Elders, and we felt.

Based upon the Lord's leading in our hearts and the near unanimity of the congregation, Sarah and I have accepted the call for me to become the Lead Pastor of College Park Church.

It is hard for me to capture the gut-wrenching paradox of emotions that we feel right now. On the one hand, it was a beautiful moment to see the church family of College Park break into a massive celebration of God's faithfulness, provision, and the completion of a testing season. On the other hand, I could not help but think of you and the pain that our decision would create. Without a deep trust in God's sovereign plan, the paradox of one church's joy and another's pain would have sunk my heart. Today I simply cling to the belief that God's clear leading at College Park will open a door for God's clear leading at Calvary.

This week our Executive Staff and Executive Committee of the Leadership Council are meeting to identify an interim leadership plan and to begin constructing the search process. Further, we are also discussing when our official ministry at Calvary will be completed. These items were graciously deferred until the final decision was made so that we could focus on discerning God's will. We will give you an update on all of this on Sunday.

In the meantime, please continue to pray for God to guide and direct all of us. Ministry at Calvary continued marvelously while I was in Indianapolis, and it will continue through this entire transition. Calvary, you are in good hands with the leadership of our Pastors and Deacons.

Thanks again for praying for our family. We love you very much, and we are trusting God to be very real to all of us during these days.

Clinging to Christ,

Mark