

Pathways Church Family,

We want to take this opportunity to communicate with you about the journey our church has been walking through together.

On May 14, 2023, the Elder Board became aware of certain challenges that Pastor Adam was facing.

In response, we made the decision to place Pastor Adam on leave to provide him with the space and support he needed to address these issues. Recognizing the significance of this moment, we structured a restoration plan grounded in scripture, with the intention of facilitating healing, accountability, and transformation.

During this journey, we have discerned that Pastor Adam's healing requires deeper work. Our approach has been informed by extensive study of God's word, consultation with experienced pastors, counsel from other church boards, and insights from professionals in ministry. We have also engaged with many members of our congregation and established milestones to guide Pastor Adam's return as a healthier pastor for our church.

As we navigate this complex situation, we remain grounded in our mission as a board: To serve the Pathways Church congregation and the mission of the church. Pathways exists to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus. Over the past few months, the health of our church has been under attack. Uncertainty and doubt have led to gossip, rumors, and accusations. These acts have turned the focus away from a growing relationship with Jesus. We have a desire to refocus on the certainty of Jesus and the consistency of our God. We know that He is working His plan, even when we cannot see the immediate results of His work.

We have received questions concerning the resignation of Pastor Michael. While there are many details that cannot be shared due to HR restrictions, what can be shared is that he was not asked to leave, but voluntarily submitted his resignation on August 24, 2023, due to theological differences. There have also been questions as to why Pastor Michael's resignation was not announced during a service. When staff members voluntarily leave Pathways, they are given the option of whether or not they choose to address the congregation from the stage. Pastor Michael chose not to do so. We are grateful for the time and impact he made at Pathways and pray the best for the Liebelt family.

We acknowledge the diverse perspectives within our congregation, each of which brings valid concerns and insights. In fact, these diverse perspectives are what make Pathways the unique and strong church that it is. In these times of trial, we call upon our church family to stand united. Our trust lies in the divine plan for Pathways Church. We recognize that the enemy seeks to divide us, but we are determined to remain steadfast in God's purpose. "The wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere." - James 3:17. Trials are an intrinsic part of our faith journey, and as we draw closer to God, we may encounter valleys of difficulty.

Nevertheless, we remain confident that the path we tread is one that leads to spiritual growth and abundant blessings.

Throughout this process, our decisions have been grounded in prayer, reflection, and a careful consideration of the guidance we find in scripture. It is inevitable that this situation has caused hurt and even led some to leave our community. We acknowledge this pain and disruption and recognize that these outcomes, though challenging, are part of navigating such a sensitive issue. We ask for your continued understanding, support, and unity during this period. As a church, we are called to weather these challenges together, growing through adversity and relying on the divine plan that is unfolding before us.

We want to emphasize that God loves each and every member of our congregation and His desire is for us to heal together. We too are a part of this congregation, and we are devoted to you and to the larger community that forms the body of Pathways Church. We are committed to the divine movement that God is orchestrating through our congregation, both here and beyond.

We are here for you, to listen to your questions, and to hear your thoughts. Feel free to reach out to us so that your insights can contribute to our ongoing discernment. To do so, you can continue to email elderboard@pathwayschurch.us.

Pathways Church Elder Board