

An Important Update From Vaughn Forest Church

Dear Vaughn Forest Family,

As many of you know, this past weekend was our Pastor Affirmation Sunday for Rob Singleton to be the next Lead Pastor here at VFC. Through the process of affirmation and in the subsequent days, many questions regarding the vision and future of Vaughn Forest Church arose. We want you to know that we hear and understand your questions and concerns regarding this path for our church.

In discussions between the church leadership and Rob regarding these details and questions, it soon became apparent to all involved that even though through much prayer and fasting that God had led us to this point, Rob is not the right individual to be our next Lead Pastor. This decision is mutual between our leadership and Rob.

We, the Governance Board, fully acknowledge that our communication to the congregation regarding the lead up to the affirmation Sunday, information about Rob, and the affirmation vote itself were all not done as they should have been. In an effort to honor Rob's request to keep the information quiet until his church was fully informed, there was a feeling of unintended secrecy surrounding this process. The Governance Board takes full responsibility for this and we as a leadership team profusely apologize for these oversights.

We hope that you, the VFC congregation, will accept our apology for the lack of transparency and the hurt and confusion that was caused by it. It was never our intention to appear secretive but we know that is how things came across. We are taking steps to ensure clear communication in the future and promise to you that we will learn from this experience and communicate intentionally moving forward.

A few things we have learned from all of this:

1. The people of Vaughn Forest Church are excited and want to accept the challenge of a big vision from God.
2. The people of Vaughn Forest Church will choose God's purpose over their own preference.
3. The people of Vaughn Forest Church love our church and our community.
4. That we as a Governance Board need to and will communicate better moving forward.
5. Just because Rob isn't our next Lead Pastor doesn't mean that God took us, and Rob as well, down this path for no reason. God always has a plan and we will trust in it.

So where do we go from here?

-In accordance with our bylaws, we will continue the pastor search process. This search will be for a leader that will guide us and take us all together into the incredible future that God has for Vaughn Forest Church.

-Also in accordance with our bylaws, the Governance Board has asked one of our own, Jeff McFarland, to be our pulpit supply for the next few weeks. Many of you know Jeff and his incredible heart. We feel that he is the right individual to preach and will bring consistent, great teaching on the weekends.

-Please join us this Sunday morning at either 9:30 or 11:00 AM to hear more from our church leadership including the Governance Board, Staff Directional Team, and Jeff McFarland.

In closing, we truly believe that the best days of Vaughn Forest Church are ahead of us. As we said earlier, we don't always understand why God takes us down the paths He does, but we will always choose to trust even when we can't see the full picture. God is in control and always will be. We look forward to seeing you this Sunday and will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."

-Psalm 25:4-5

-The VFC Governance Board