



Leadership Update
11-25-2022

Hey Church Family,

As you might have heard, pastor Brian Jump and his family are going in view of a call to serve at a sister church in Joplin, Missouri. This news has probably left you saddened, disheartened, and with many unanswered questions. We just want to say from the outset that we believe our Pastor is a godly and faithful man who seeks the Lord in everything He does, and right now, he is sensing a call to go and start a new work in Joplin. This is something he has been sensing for months, and while we might not understand it right now, we can trust that God is in it.

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Church, we would be wise to rest in these truths; that even though we might not understand God's will, it is perfectly for His glory and our good. We can trust that God has great plans for both the Jumps in Joplin and for us here at FBC. Our prayer is that as we give ourselves time and space to grieve over this tough news, when all the dust settles, we would allow God to cultivate in us a hopeful heart; a heart that is excited for what is next at FBC Clever.

Now, a lot of you are probably wondering who is going to fill Brian's shoes. Right now, our deacon body, which is an already existing team of godly and reputable men within the church, are searching and praying for an interim pastor, and have started the process of searching for an eventual new lead pastor. This team is already praying, fasting, making lots of connections and seeking open doors for both these positions.

Our current staff will also continue to lead out through this season. Drew's job will likely be changing slightly to include more pastoral ministry opportunities and he will also continue to lead worship at our services. Tyler will continue to lead and disciple our students, Brent will continue to develop and lead our life groups and assimilation teams, and Chelsea will continue to maintain a fun and nourishing environment in our children's ministry. We can assure you that through this next season, we are committed to maintaining and further developing these areas of ministry.

You might also be wondering what our building campaign looks like through this season. We can assure you that God is moving in that area as well. We have many reasons to be thankful for the financial position we are in at the moment. We have zero debt AND our Forward In Faith fund is growing and nearing our

goal to break ground. We are also hoping to share some more news at the beginning of 2023. Despite all this, just remember that God doesn't need a brand new building to save souls and minister to people. Though it's not a shiny new facility, our current campus has and will continue to allow us to do ministry here in our community. No matter what happens, the mission is still the same; to know Christ and share Him with our community.

Church, we know that this news is hard, but we need to trust that Pastor Brian is being obedient to the Lord's calling on his life. We also need to be excited about what is next at FBC Clever. God's hand is still upon His church and we know that He has great plans in store. You might have been tempted to think that our best days are behind us, or thought about and stressed over all the changes that might be coming, but our encouragement to you is this: be prayerful, hopeful, and excited about what is to come.

We wholeheartedly believe that FBC Clever's best days are ahead of us. How do we know that? It's because we know that the Church is not ultimately built upon any one person or personality, but Christ's church is built upon the gospel. If we remember this and stay on mission, God will continue to build His church.

-FBC Leadership