

June 21, 2015
Let no Division Arise!

Read 1 Corinthians 1: 10 – *I appeal to you brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you united in the same mind and the same judgment.*

I know that some of us are very “concerned” that we are losing our organist. David has been a very faithful servant of Christ for our wonderful church, and I wish that he could stay, but it is his right and decision to step down. We will respect that decision. So, we thank David for his faithful service and the resources he has provided in helping find someone to fill the position of the organist.

David’s retirement brings up a couple of concerns that I need to address. First, the loss of such a wonderful servant can lead to a lot of confusion in the church. Questions as to why he is leaving, questions as to whether the church will have to change its look and feel and many other questions come up. These considerations can lead to further confusion of facts, misunderstanding and division in the church. Please, let me take this time to encourage you not to be wrongly upset at David’s decision or to come to wrong conclusion about how our services will be conducted. If you have questions or concerns please come to me with them. Please do not assume anything. That can be very dangerous in this type of situation where emotions are high and hearts are confused.

Second, let me reveal to you the plan as to how our church will proceed. We have already begun looking for someone who can play the organ

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for us. We even have some solid leads, at least for the interim, while we look for a more permanent

servant. Further, I believe we will be forming a search committee to handle this on behalf of the church. So, if you have any information or wish to help us find an organist please see me or *your* elder to let us know. I would like to get that committee up and running as soon as possible.

With that in mind, I hope that you can see that it is my intention, along with the intention of the church leadership, to continue to conduct our services as I/we always have here and as is familiar to all y’all. We will do everything we can to make sure our services continue to look and feel familiar to you. But, I also want to make it quite clear to you that finding an organist, and especially one of similar caliber to David is extremely difficult. As has been said among the elders, calling a pastor is near infinitely easier than finding an organist. Because of the difficulty in filling such a position, it may happen that we have to improvise or change up our style for a couple services here and there. Please know that this IS NOT and WILL NOT be our goal. We will only do what we need to in order to move forward, and that may mean compromising occasionally on the style of music played at some of our services. We can do that.

Also, though it is a sad and hard thing, I encourage you to respect David’s wishes in this matter. He has been a faithful servant and a wonderful blessing to *Tree of Life*. We should not

sour that wonderful blessing at the end of his time here by allowing division to spring up because of that decision.

I want to draw your attention now to the Apostle Paul's thoughts. As he states in the verses that follow the one I had you read today, the church follows Christ. David has done so faithfully, and so will we even in David's absence. And so, we are grateful to God for the blessing that David has been to us, and look now to God who provided him for us to provide another faithful servant to fill the organist role in our church. Thankfully, our church is not ruled by any sinful human being, whether a pastor, an elder, a president, a musician or anyone else. Our church's head is Christ Jesus. And now in our time of need, as in any time of need, we look to him for all good and needful things. He is enough for us.

Finally, I once again encourage you to direct your questions and concerns to me, instead of worrying or assuming. Though we are sad to see David leave, we can and will continue to preach the Word of God in its truth and purity. From there our forgiveness and life comes to us. Trusting in God's sure promise for us, we will prevail even in the face of Hell, let alone while seeking an organist. Do not be divided, for Christ is not divided. God bless you.

Pastor  