



October 18, 2022

Dear WestPark Family,

I want to share a transition coming into our family's life that I shared publicly in all the language services last Sunday.

We came to Canada from the US almost 9 years ago to serve as Lead Pastor here. This year I turn 68. And in the last year I've had cancer surgery and had a heart blip. The old body is beginning to feel its age a bit. 😊

When we arrived almost 9 years ago I shared with the board that I felt like I had another 10 years, plus or minus, to lead WP at my best. Well, next March that time comes to an end as I plan to retire with our last Sunday being March 26 of 2023.

Our time here has been our most rich and fulfilling ministry in our 42 years of ministries.

We've prayed and thought much about this and shared this with the board and staff and we are confident this is the right timing to transition and slow down a bit.

Our Elder Board is fully and prayerfully engaged, and I have the fullest confidence in their ability to successfully lead the succession process. We have a gifted and competent staff whose ability to minister remarkably well was evident during my sabbatical earlier this year. The church didn't miss a beat.

The church has rebounded quite well from covid and we sense a renewed excitement and engagement from the congregation.

Late next March we will retire to Laurel, Mississippi, where Sherryl grew up and where her sister currently lives. Living close to her will allow us to help her in her later years.

I'm not quitting ministry, only retiring from a Lead Pastor role to slow down a bit. I plan to coach leaders and consult in both the church and the business world, write more, do some fill-in preaching, and hopefully teach as an adjunct professor in some seminaries as I plan to finish my PhD in a few months.

The board is designing an excellent process to find my successor and to keep you informed as well. We've created a list of the top 10 questions with answers that you may have about this transition. I've included it in this mailing.

Sherryl, Tiffany, and I love you very much and we believe the best is in store for WestPark. Feel free to catch me on a Sunday if you have questions because we'll be around a few more months.

Also, if you have questions for the elders during this transition, you can email them at elders@westparkchurch.ca

God bless,

Charles

Enclosure"