

May 3, 2011

Dear Church Family,

At the services on May 1, 2011, I gave the following announcement on some family business about a couple of changes we are in the process of making as a church.

I want you to know that I'm pretty excited about where God has us and is taking us. In my mind, these are changes that are going to help us, on a number of levels, be more effective in fulfilling our mission to *Live and Share the Transforming Love of Jesus*. So, I know that change can be hard, change can be difficult, and change can be especially difficult for churches. However, I also believe change that moves us towards our mission is ultimately a good thing.

The biggest and most significant part of this change is a shift in the responsibilities for two of our Pastors—Pastors Mike Sherrow and Josh Nordgren.

First of all, I've asked Pastor Josh to shift into leading worship full-time at both our 9:30 and 11:00 services. This means a couple of things. It means that we are in the process of looking for someone to fill Josh's role with our students. That is a very important role and a high priority for us as a church and I'm happy to say that that process is already underway and is going very well.

The second big area that is going to be impacted is obviously our 9:30 worship. You are probably wondering, "What does this mean for Pastor Mike?" For quite some time now, we have been looking for someone to oversee our Technical and Production ministry at VMC. A big part of that ministry is all that happens in our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings, but it also includes responsibilities that extend all over our campus throughout the week. Pastor Mike will be taking that job. We think that with Mike's unique blend of creativity and organization, along with his tremendous gifts of building and empowering teams, that he will really help us as a church to get to the next level. In addition to his technical and production responsibilities, Mike will continue to lead the worship at our 8:00 Traditional Service. That service is actually one of our growing services and we are excited to continue to offer and even expand it to be a more robust traditional experience.

Let me be real clear here—this is NOT a demotion for Pastor Mike in any way, shape or form. Mike will continue to be one of the pastors of this church (hopefully, for many years to come) and I believe he is going to have a tremendous impact on our success as a congregation through this new role.

I now want to talk about what this means and does not mean for our worship, primarily at 9:30. This does not mean we are moving away from three styles of worship. One thing that has defined our church and, I believe, has enabled us to truly be a multi-generational community, is the fact that we offer three distinct musical styles of worship

on Sunday mornings. In other words, Pastor Josh is NOT going to duplicate what he does at 11:00 for the 9:30 worship. We will continue to have a Traditional service at 8:00, a Contemporary service at 9:30, and a Modern service at 11:00. The style of the 8:00 worship will not change. The style of the 11:00 worship will not change. The style of the 9:30 worship will change a little. Again, 9:30 will not be just like 11:00. The lighting, volume and even the songs will vary from the songs we sing at 11:00. However, the 9:30 worship is going to shift. It's not going to be just like it has been under Mike's leadership. The 9:30 worship will fall someplace in between where we are currently for 9:30 and where we are currently for 11:00.

I want to say that after talking with Mike, Josh and our 9:30 team extensively about these changes, I'm really excited about what we are putting together for worship here for the 9:30 service. I think it's going to be something unique, fresh and not something that a lot of churches are offering.

So, what does this mean for VMC'ers? I am asking and praying that you will:

First, be appreciative and supportive of Pastors Mike and Josh in this transition.

Mike is transitioning out of something he has poured 21 years of his life into, and that's not easy. So, pray for Mike and encourage him. Because Mike is moving into a new role with new challenges and opportunities, he needs your support. Likewise, Pastor Josh is also leaving behind a ministry that is near to his heart and stepping into a role where he is going to have to fill some pretty big shoes. So, both of these men need your support and encouragement.

The second thing I'm asking of you is to be positive and give this change a chance.

I anticipate that for most of you this change will be easy. However, some of you aren't real sure right now if this is a change you like. I'm asking you to trust me and try it before you decide you don't like it. We've scheduled this transition to happen sometime in mid-July. I think the most difficult period for some of you is going to be between now and then because this is the period where there is uncertainty. Again, I'm asking you (especially during this time) to be positive and give this change a chance because I believe there are great days ahead for this church. I believe God is at work and I believe people in the city are being drawn to God like never before. I also believe that God is going to continue to use VMC to advance His Kingdom in this world.

Pastor Dave Teixeira