



*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8*

Dear Followers of Jesus in The Village Church,

I'm writing today to let you know that Session has recently decided that it is time for us to begin a search for our next Associate Pastor.

As you know, Jan Cook has been serving for nearly two years as our Interim Associate Pastor. We have come to love her and to appreciate her many gifts and contributions through her pastoral care, staff leadership, preaching, teaching, and prayers. Jan actually retired from ministry several years ago, but then felt the call from God to come and serve with us for a limited time. We are grateful. And now, we need to move on to discover who God has in mind to serve with us in the next season of ministry and life as our permanent, Associate Pastor. Jan is fully aware of this decision and completely in support, as she states in a companion letter to this one.

A search process takes prayer, time, and the considerable investment of many people's time and energy. I am confident this process will be transparent, deliberate, and conducted according to the highest standards and practices. For many months, Session has benefitted from the counsel of a highly regarded group, Center Consulting, to help us prepare for this transition. Our staff is also fully apprised of this decision and fully in support.

Our staffing plan for the past few years (and for years to come, we believe) will include leadership from a Pastor, Associate Pastor, and many Directors, as well as others. We are blessed with highly committed and competent individuals filling these positions. Our Associate Pastor provides support for the Pastor in all areas of ministry, with a special focus on leading the Staff and managing the vast array of ministries that our congregation enjoys. Yours Truly now focuses on preaching, teaching, pastoral ministry, and overall organizational leadership.

I encourage you to continue visiting this website to read more about the search process. Many, if not all, of your questions, will be answered. In the coming weeks and months, we will create an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, and in about 12-15 months, we'll expect to welcome our new Associate.

While transition of any kind can be difficult, it is also part and parcel of life, and an opportunity for us to grow and to walk further down the pathway of following where the Lord leads us. I am eager to learn how God will bless us as we welcome a new Associate, and I am confident that you will be in prayer as we enter this season of church life together.

Blessings,

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