

DAMASCUS ROAD CHURCH

4.25.2010

“Moving Forward”

“Who is in charge?”

A deeply committed and capable group of Elders and Pastor Joe currently operating as the interim lead pastor for DRC and the ministry leadership staff (John Gilmore, Travis & Amy Agnew and Deanna Lokken)

The Elders of Damascus Road Church Are: Bob Zimmerman, Brandon Vincent, Matt Spransy, Patrick Gilbert, Paul Vandervelde, Paul Lackey, Paul Vandenboom, Tony Tucci, Travis Agnew.

We would invite you to keep them all in your prayers as they have invested an incredible amount of time and emotion in seeking to listen where God might be leading us in this next season.

“Who is going to be preaching?”

All of us leaders at DRC love a great Sunday service just like everyone else. We are being very open in this process and considering several options. Shane will be preaching the next two Sunday's and it's just a little early to announce who will be preaching after that. Our primary goal is to continue to have great bible based, DRC style teaching that is real and applicable in our every day lives. Sundays and we will be announcing our plan for interim/guest preachers within 30 days.

“What is the GLBC and what it means for Damascus Road Church?”

In 2009 Damascus Road Church partnered up with the GLBC in order to help bring support and resources to us in our process of a young growing church. We saw that coming under the umbrella of an organization like the GLBC would help to bring greater impact, safety and effectiveness in our mission and goals as a rapidly growing church.

With over 100 partner churches in the great lakes area , the GLBC comes alongside each of her member churches in helping them accomplish Christ's mission in the communities that God has called them to reach. Simply stated, they exist to ensure that churches succeed in reaching communities for Christ. They offer essential ministry services through consultation and systems in church planting, church renewal and pastoral placement. For more information about who and what the GLBC is we encourage you to check out their website: www.glbc.net

GLBC is here to offer their support to Damascus Road Church only as we request. It is important to note that in no way do they dictate who we are or how to operate our Church. They do have many resources, years of experience and advice that has been helpful to us and they have been a great support of us with prayer and consultation.

“What is Damascus Road Church without Pastor Shane being here anymore?”

Whether it was on the bulletin each week or mentioned from the pulpit, from the beginning, the banner statement of Damascus Road Church is “Encounter Jesus, Experience Life”.

Our Pastor and founder for the last two years, Shane Holden, has taught us well that being a believer in Jesus NOT about behaving a certain way, dressing a particular way or about following a certain man. We have been taught that being a believer in Jesus is actually a very real and personal encounter with the living God. As we have this encounter with God, we come face to face with the reality of how He truly see's us and He feels about us. What we find is radically different than what many of us thought...that He is ferociously in love with you, that He delights in you (even in your weaknesses) and that He longs for you to experience real life, freedom, purpose and power.

This message comes from the heart of God and He is still on a mission to convince us of His radical love for us and the freedom that it brings. Though the voice we are used to hearing will have moved on, the life giving message will continue on in other voices and expressions at DRC. As we move forward, we will continue to live out and promote this one statement “Encounter Jesus...Experience Life.”

“Where are we going from here?”

As you may suspect, this is a challenging season and new series of events for us all. As the DRC leadership team, we felt it was incredibly important to do our best not to react, but to respond in a way that was honest, thoughtful and healthy for both the DRC family and Shane and his family. With the help of some of the unique resources available to us from the GLBC, we come up with a preliminary plan to help guide us through this time. We felt that this plan would allow our Church body to go through this uniquely challenging season, but come out growing from it, becoming more united as a church family and overall spiritually and emotionally healthier in the end.

One of the initial steps in this season is to answer the question “Who we are? What is the unique make up and identity of Damascus Road Church? “And also find out who our surrounding community really is and how we can best serve them.” The technical term for this is the “Assessment Process” (for our Church & Community)- In the next two months we are going through a process that is broken down into two main areas of discovery: Congregational and Community Assessments that will be lead by about 3-5 Damascus Road members and a couple of the DRC leadership team.

Another very vital thing we want to do is to continue to foster and encourage growth in the life that is already going on here DRC. What this looks like is continuing on with great Sunday preaching, weekly classes and multiple opportunities to serve within the DRC Family and into our community. This is about building our church together just like we said from day one. Lastly, a critical and extensive process will go underway to discover who God might have in the future for us as a Lead Pastor for Damascus Road Church.

Right now our plan is to have good Sunday preaching/preacher(s) without committing to the process of hiring anyone as a long term pastor, yet. After the assessment phase is completed we will summarize all the results from the assessment research and then consider moving forward to find another pastor who fits the DNA of our church the best. We will be having a lot of discussion as a leadership team before we make any lasting big decisions.

It's very possible that we may come to decide to bring in another pastor. If so, then we will move forward with patience and integrity into a four stage process to determine the right candidate for DRC. The process is broken down as follows:

Assessment / Gathering / Narrowing/ Candidating.

(This four step process broken down in 21 detailed steps that will be uploaded on our website in the next few days if you're interested.)

“Why is Shane leaving (and why so fast)”

It's been extra hard on everyone because of the short time frame for all of us to see how we feel, be heard, come together and have a unified vision for the future. We wanted everyone to know what was going on as soon as possible, but we had little time to pull this all together (as well as ourselves). Your team leaders and pastoral staff came together numerous weekend and night meeting over the past few weeks trying to figure out the best way to share the news of Shane's departure, then come up with a open and yet solid plan for the next few months and that is what lead us to this past Wednesday's meeting and this summary of our family church meeting.

Final Note

We clearly understand that you may have other question and thoughts and we strongly encourage you to connect with us to answer any other questions or concerns you may have. Please contact the us at the office or anyone of the following DRC staff you feel comfortable contacting via email and we will do our very best to respond to you as soon as possible.

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