



March 3, 2022

Mosaic Church Members;
cc: Mosaic Church Local Board of Administration
Northeast District of the Wesleyan Church

My Dearest Friends and Family;

On April 24, 2016, the Cadyville Wesleyan Church voted to invite me to become your lead pastor. I can say with absolute certainty that God brought us to the North Country was a divine appointment. Cadyville was not what I was looking for, but it was what I needed. This church family embraced us with open arms and an eye on the future. This congregation has gone through one metamorphosis after another throughout our time here. From our renewed commitment to investing in our community to our willingness to make bold changes to bring the Good News of the Kingdom of God to the Champlain Valley, I am amazed by what we have done together. Even our decision to embrace a new identity as Mosaic Church demonstrates a willingness to risk that many churches may have avoided. The road hasn't been easy; it has required copious amounts of love, grace, and forgiveness, but God has brought us here together.

The weight of the moment we find ourselves in is lost on few of us. Many of us find ourselves weary when facing a global pandemic, political radicalization, partisan division, significant cultural shifts, and (most recently) the threat of war. This season has been unlike any other, not just in our lifetimes, but in the lifetimes of those who came before us. One unexpected benefit of the COVID era, however, was the gift of time. For some of us, for the first time in our adult lives, we weren't inundated with things to do. We had to stop and regroup. For some of us, it gave us time to question, imagine, and reevaluate.

Through this season, I began to recognize a shift in my spirit. In some ways, I knew it was burnout from the turmoil of our times, but I also recognized a distinctly different development- perhaps it could be called a holy discontentment. I began to consider the trajectory God was taking Jennifer and me, and us as a church family, seeking the path forward. As Mosaic trudged through the challenges of 2021, I began to sense a significant shift in the direction God was leading me. And for the first time in my adult life, I knew that a monumental change was necessary. For many pastors, when they feel God leading them in a new direction, it tends to mean one thing: a relocation. But that isn't the case for us. I am more in love with the North Country now than ever. This is my home. But despite my love for this region and my love for each of you, I am more convinced with each passing day that God is drawing me away from vocational ministry, at least for a season.

This decision is one that I have agonized over for months, hard months spent in prayer, in the wise counsel of godly men and women, and, of course, significant, consistent conversation with my wife. As some of you know, in the Wesleyan Church, your lead pastor is voted on by the congregation members. When you first called me, I was unanimously elected to serve a 2-year term, followed by another unanimous election to a 4-year call. That term is scheduled to end on July 10, 2022, following the guides outlined in the Wesleyan Discipline (our government document).

It is, then, with equal parts of sorrow, gratitude, and hope that I am announcing that I will not be seeking reelection to another term as your lead pastor. I love and value every one of you, and while I distinctly hope that our love for one another can continue and our relationships could flourish beyond my time as your pastor, I also know that when God calls us to move, it would be a most unwise decision to rebel against him (ask a man like Jonah if you don't believe me). I love this congregation too much to rebel against God's unmistakable voice. I love you too much to lead without God's blessing, direction, and anointing. You mean too much to me to selfishly stay.

At least as it currently stands, we plan to remain in the greater Plattsburgh area. We are in the process of buying a home and look forward to putting down deeper roots in the Champlain Valley. I know that God has powerful things to do in this region. I also know that he wants us to be a part of it. However, I know that God is inviting me into a season of sabbatical- of healing, rest, restoration, and redemption. While I am grateful for the generous gift of the sabbatical we enjoyed in January, I realize that this healing journey requires far more than I had anticipated. Ecclesiastes reminds us that life is a series of seasons. Sometimes before we advance, we must first strategically retreat. I recognize this as a season to step back before we step forward into what God has next.

What this means for the church is that our board will begin to consider the next steps in earnest, seeking God's direction and plotting a course forward. With input from our beloved congregation, I am more than confident that the board will make the best decisions needed for the next phase of what God wants to do in and through Mosaic Church. I want to thank Jim Jock, in particular, who has been a constant friend, co-laborer, confidant, and leader from the very beginning (and, might I add, can now add "my realtor" to that laundry list of hats he's worn in our relationship). I also want to thank the leaders, staff, and volunteers of the church. Your investment in my ministry and the Kingdom of God has not and will not go unnoticed or unrewarded. So many of you have impacted our lives in such significant ways, often without realizing it. You've touched us in ways that have and will forever change me. For you, I am eternally grateful.

Know that I intend to lead faithfully until the our time is complete. I want to be able to serve you, inspire you, teach and train you, and empower you through the remaining months we have in this role. Know that this change in position doesn't diminish our significant love for you, nor does it mean that relationships must end. We don't love you because of my position as your pastor. While some things must change, my hope is that the power of our love for one another can transcend the pain of this change.

I'm sure many of you may have questions or concerns, which I am more than willing to spend time working through with you. As we navigate this challenging transition, I hope that you will be willing to continue to seek after Christ and his mission for us. I hope that we can continue to see our people take ownership of this mission and make it our own. I hope that we can continue to see God's will be done in Cadyville, the great Plattsburgh region, Clinton County, New York State, the United States, and on earth as it is in heaven.

We love you. Thank you for who you are, for your love, support, prayers, meals, coffee dates. Thank you for your sacrifice, and service over these last six years. Thank you in advance for walking with us in these uncharted waters that Jennifer and I will be entering over these next months. We know that the One who calls us is faithful, and trust that God will be over all, through all, and in all.

With all the love I have to give,

Rev. Jordon LeBlanc, BA, Mdiv.