

July 31, 2017

Dear FBC Columbus Friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I share with you my resignation as Associate Pastor of First Baptist Church. I have accepted the call to be the pastor of the Federated Church of Brookston, IN. For a couple of years now I have felt God tugging me towards small church leadership. It has also been my prayer that if God were to move us, He would bring us closer to Amy's parents in northern Indiana. One of the ways God worked in bringing us was enabling us to be closer to my parents while my mother battled Alzheimer's Disease. God has accomplished both placing me in small church leadership and getting us closer to Amy's parents via this move, so to say He has been at work in this process would be an understatement. God has led me in this process and taught me more than I can begin to express.

Brookston Federated is a church that currently averages around 80 people on Sunday morning. They are dually aligned with two denominations, American Baptist Churches U.S.A. and Presbyterian Churches U.S.A. If you are not familiar with Brookston, it is a small town of around 1500 people around 15 miles north of Lafayette in White County. The church has a desire to make stronger connections and to further reach out to their community and schools. They hope to strengthen their already active youth and children's ministry. They hope to develop stronger Christian leadership in their congregation. They have a desire to grow in their worship ministry and are committed to living out a Biblical understanding of their Christian faith. All of these things about Brookston Federated excite me, and I feel are areas that hit my sweet spot in terms of how God has gifted me in leadership and ministry.

Yet leaving behind our church family here at FBC Columbus is difficult. I feel such a deep gratitude and love for the people of FBC. I have grown in leadership as I have partnered with and been mentored by Dan and Joyce. I hope that I have also been a good partner and teacher to them as well. I have so enjoyed working with Laura, Barry, Jeremy, Dortha, Donna and Carla as well. All of you in the congregation have taught me a great deal and have given me the freedom to be who I am in Christ as a minister and leader. All of this has prepared my family and me for this next exciting chapter. I will miss all of the young adults, youth and children still currently at the church and those who have become older and/or are away at school or have moved on. I will miss the many parents and volunteers who have helped make our ministries ago over the last several years. I will miss other friends and mentors like Dr. Bill Griffith and my partner in ministry and frivolity, Jimmy Collins. Jimmy helped me lead Caring Branches for 3 years along with sharing many a lunch to discuss, vent and pray over life and ministry. I will miss the staff, children and friends at Richards School and the partnership for the sake of children we have built. My hope is the church will keep building this partnership after we are gone. Finally, I will miss my Starbucks on National Ave. Yes I'll miss the coffee, but more importantly, my many friends and acquaintances I have made there.

Our transition plans have not been finalized but my last Sunday with you will tentatively be Aug 27<sup>th</sup>. Our prayers for you go with us as I know you will continue to pray for us as we move to our next chapter in Brookston, IN.

Peace and Grace,

Dave Doles