



Frederick

Church of the Brethren

June 13, 2016

Dear Friends In Christ,

The time for my transition from full-time pastoral ministry is fast approaching – and a new season of ministry is unfolding, crafted by the Lord!

My last sermon as Senior Pastor of FCOB will be this Sunday, June 19, 2016. I will be “unpacking” a rich text from John 15:9-17, using the theme: “Forever Friends.” The gist of my message: though my role now changes as your Senior Pastor – our friendship, in Jesus, remains.

On Saturday, June 25, 2016, we will be celebrating “What God Has Done at FCOB Over the Past 20 Years,” from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. More details on that event can be found at www.fcob.net. My last Sunday with you as Senior Pastor will be Sunday, June 26, 2016. As we worship together, we will be blessed by the gifted presence and preaching of Dr. Jeff Carter, President of Bethany Theological Seminary, our denomination’s training center for ministry, in Richmond, IN. After worship, we will gather at the Miller Farm at 2:00 p.m. for our annual outdoor baptism service and all-church picnic. I can think of no better way to conclude my tenure at FCOB than “dunking” new believers in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Many of you are well aware of these transition events, and the season we have entered. Others, I have discovered, such as our newest attendees, are not as aware; still others have additional questions related to my transition. As a way of clarifying the nature of my transition, thus far and the way forward, I have included an FAQ sheet with a number of the questions folks have approached me with.

As we move toward the end of my tenure, I want to express, once again my deep love for the FCOB faith family and to express thanks for the privilege of being your Senior Pastor for 20 years. I also want to express my regret for any way I have failed you or our beloved congregation, asking for your forgiveness and grace -- and most importantly -- the forgiveness and grace of the Lord Jesus.

I am so excited that Gene Heacock has accepted our call to be our Intentional Interim Senior Pastor. Pastor Gene will be beginning his ministry on Monday, June 20, 2016, giving us a week to “run together” -- as we both prepare for the formal “passing of the baton” of Senior Pastor leadership on my last Sunday, June 26, 2016.

In closing, as *all* of us run the race of faith, may we remember the admonition of the writer of Hebrews in Hebrews 12 to “...throw off everything that hinders, and the sin that so easily entangles, and...run with perseverance the race marked out for us...[fixing] our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith...” (Hebrews 12:1-3, emphasis added). The best days for FCOB are before us, if we, indeed, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, whose leadership supersedes the efforts of any other leader. For Jesus is able and Sovereign, worthy of our surrender and trust as He leads us supremely, into His adventurous future.

All Glory To God,



Paul Munday
Senior Pastor

A Place of Welcome