



October 2, 2023

Dear Friends of Jesus and Reynoldsburg Community Church,

Greetings in the name of Jesus—the One who has called us in the past and is faithful in the future. I write to share news with you about an upcoming transition in the summer of 2024.

I've been privileged to serve as Lead Pastor of Reynoldsburg Community Church since December 1, 2006. Since that time, we've journeyed together as pastor and congregation through a great number of milestones. You helped me grow and develop as a Christian, pastor, and leader. I've been blessed to baptize and confirm your children—marry couples and bury loved ones and friends—lead and pastor you—and teach and preach the Word of God. I've loved being here with you. There's no place I'd rather serve and no other position to which I've aspired. I've always been sincerely honored to be your pastor, and I'm profoundly grateful God brought us together for this season of our lives.

As you may already know, for the past several years I've been deeply involved in helping to start our new denomination—first as the original chair of the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA), and now for the last three years as a member of the Transitional Leadership Council of the Global Methodist Church (GMC)—each with the blessing and support of our Church Board.

Last September, I was also named President Pro Tempore of the Allegheny West Provisional Annual Conference of the GMC—which is our church's Conference in the new denomination. During the last year, together with dozens of other volunteers, we've been working to establish the systems and structures necessary to launch our new Conference last April 1. As the Conference grows—we're now 547 churches strong—it's become evident more and more time and focus are required. I love each of the different roles and responsibilities I have, but I'm finding the pace is not sustainable in the long run.

At our upcoming Annual Conference business meeting taking place in our Worship Center on October 13, the Allegheny West delegates will vote on legislation to make the role of President Pro Tempore a full-time, salaried position effective July 1, 2024. While this position is not official until formally approved at Annual Conference, I anticipate its passage and wanted to share this information with you prior to the vote. With this impending change in one of my roles, I need to share that I will be leaving my position as your lead pastor effective June 30, 2024.

This decision—this transition—follows much prayer, discernment, and discussion between Beth and me—and consultation with our Church Board and executive leadership. Our original plan would've been to make this transition and “retire” from ministry at the end of June 2025. In some respects, the “easier” decision would be to stay at Reynoldsburg for the next year and a half and retire—but that decision wouldn't be obedient on my part. I believe God is calling us to step away from our role at Reynoldsburg—not in retirement, but to continue serving for a necessary and critical season of providing leadership for our denomination.

While Beth and I are both grateful for everything God's doing in the new denomination, this decision is

a bittersweet one for us. We love you. You're our family. This is our home. We've lived here longer than any other place we've ever served. While this is a very difficult choice, we do believe it's centered in the call of God for our lives. We wanted you to know we're leaving—not for any negative reason or out of disappointment—but because we sense God's calling and need to commit to help further establish and develop the Conference in its early stages.

We also know Reynoldsburg Community Church is strong and thriving. I've recently said more than once I believe our church is in the strongest and healthiest position it's been during my 18 years here. The Holy Spirit is active in our midst—and we're serving our community, leading ministries for all generations, and making and growing disciples. I have absolute confidence this will continue, and I believe with all my heart our church will continue to be a community where people meet Jesus and where we make disciples who make disciples who make disciples.

You likely have good questions about what's next. Let me address a few key items to assure you there's a plan, there's time, and—most important—God's in control:

- First, I'll be sharing a few words with you in person during worship services this Sunday. This letter has been difficult for me to write, and the words are even more difficult to speak out loud—not because I have one bit of doubt about the decision, it's just difficult to say this time is coming. This decision represents significant, personal change for Beth and me regarding life "after Reynoldsburg." I say that so you know in advance that, while my words may not be long or even eloquent, they will be sincere and heartfelt.
- Second, enclosed you'll find a letter from Kevin Gallagher, the chair of our Church Board. I've worked closely with the Board and executive leadership regarding a transition and succession plan since January. I'm proud of the work our Board has accomplished, and I'm supremely confident—with the help of God—in the plan for new leadership moving forward.
- Third, I will still be your Lead Pastor through June 30. This letter is not my eulogy. Please don't act as though my tenure is through yet. I'll continue to be your pastor—until I'm not. And while I'm here, I will be present to continue shepherding this flock until then. When the time comes, I will step into my new full-time role and allow unaffected relationships to develop between you and the next Lead Pastor.
- Fourth, I'm confident our church will be guided by capable, caring, and theologically sound pastoral and lay leadership after I step aside. This church—this congregation—has a strong foundation in scripture, sound doctrine, and passion for sharing the Gospel. God will continue to respond to our obedience with His faithfulness.
- Fifth, I have every bit of confidence in you, our church family. I trust our congregation to move through this transition with steady faithfulness, continued energy and passion, and dedicated support for meaningful ministries and community outreach. I continue to believe the best is yet to come.

Thank you for your part in making Reynoldsburg Community Church a church where we love Jesus and make Jesus known. So long as He remains the focus, and we all remain obedient to His Lordship, all will be well.

Beth and I are grateful for you, and I can't adequately express to you how fulfilling it's been to serve this church. I look forward to my remaining months here—and you will have my complete and ongoing support as the leader of our Annual Conference.

As always, I'm deeply honored to be your pastor.



Jeff Greenway
Lead Pastor