



March 11, 2016

Last Monday evening (March 7) the Elders met together to come to a decision regarding the way forward toward senior pastoral leadership for Christ Church beyond the transition period—the period between now and the full retirement of Pastor Lyle.

We considered the option of not searching outside our current pastoral staff for a new Senior Pastor. In this scenario Pastors Neil, Cheryl, Nathan and Josh would as a team “cover all the bases” of pastoral ministry for Christ Church: preaching, pastoral care, ministry leadership and oversight, etc. Pastor Neil would have the role of being the Team Leader, but he would not be the primary preaching voice. Given that these four pastors are all fully trained and ordained to pastoral ministry, have a great collaborative relationship and strengths that complement each other, we felt that this arrangement could work well. However, we agreed that this should not be the long-term pastoral leadership structure for Christ Church. The traditional model, that of pastoral leadership *under* a Senior Pastor who is both the overall leader of the pastoral staff and also the primary “voice” (through preaching and in other ways) of the leadership to the congregation is the model that will serve the church best in the long run. So this is the direction in which we will go: to search for a successor to Pastor Lyle as Senior Pastor of Christ Church.

We will next turn to the task of forming a Search Team, charged with finding a new Senior Pastor for our church. Our bylaws require that this Team be approved by the congregation at a congregational business meeting, so that meeting will be scheduled when the Team has been chosen. Please keep praying and stay tuned!

Your Christ Church Elders,

Rick Bonin, Lyle Mook, Elaine Romeo, Scott Thurber, Don Yeoman and Don Zeyl (Chair)