



April 12, 2015

Dear Temple Family,

In the past month or so I have been aware of a prompting that Pastor Dom and Bev have been praying about. Below, you will find a letter addressed to the church family from Pastor Dom.

Sincerely,

David Lawrence (*Elder Board Chair*)



Dear Temple Family,

Over the past few months Bev and I have been trying to discern a prompting from God's Spirit calling us to serve Him in Quebec. As you might imagine this was somewhat unexpected for us. We love our Temple family and have been so blessed by how God has been at work here in Sarnia.

At first we were unsure what this prompting might mean. As a result, we sought wise counsel and continued to seek clarity as to whether this was something for us to consider at this time.

After much reflection and prayerful discussion Bev and I sensed God confirming a call for us to take a step of faith and trust Him in going to Montréal to plant a church. God's response to our prayers came with both moments of affirmation and deep sadness, knowing what we had to leave behind. Also, we knew that this was a call to sacrifice the stability of our present context for a season of uncertainty. While this is a difficult step to take, we feel a profound responsibility to be faithful in responding to God's prompting at this time.

On Tuesday, March 31st I shared this news with our Elder's Board. While the exact date for our transition has not been set, we anticipate that our boys will begin school in Montreal this coming September. In the meantime, I am committed to serving alongside our staff and be available to our Elders who are seeking God's wisdom on next steps for Temple. It is such an honor to serve alongside such faithful men of God who have cared for us as a family and who love Temple so dearly.

Please keep us all in your prayers as we try to honor God in this season of transition and anticipate the exciting things He has in store for us and the Temple family.

Pastor Dom Ruso, PhD

Lead Pastor

P.S. On the reverse side of the letter we have included some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) that may be helpful to you.

PASTORAL TRANSITION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. What does Pastor Dom's transition mean for *Temple Baptist Church*?

Although a change in pastoral leadership can be unsettling, we anticipate and trust that God has great plans for *Temple Baptist Church*. Our staff and elders are working together collaboratively to support the church through this leadership transition.

2. How will staff be involved during this transition?

Pastor Dom Ruso will continue leading the church through the end of August maintaining high communications with the *Elders Board* and regularly teaching on weekends. All staff will remain in their present positions. Our *Executive Pastor*, James Bekkers, will provide leadership upon Pastor Dom's departure until a new *Lead Pastor* has been chosen and begins his ministry at *Temple*.

3. What is the anticipated timeline for the process?

While every pastoral search process is unique and ultimately dependent on God's timing, we hope to have a new *Lead Pastor* in the next 9-12 months. While this period may seem lengthy, good transitions take time.

4. What is the process for finding a new *Lead Pastor* for our church?

The model that *Temple Baptist Church* follows is based on a *membership call* which involves a vote of our membership according to our by-laws. The elders will appoint a search committee that will prayerfully seek a candidate God would have us call. This committee is made up a diverse group of leaders from our church family and reports directly to the *Elders Board*. Practical steps going forward include refining our present *Lead Pastor* job description, screening and interviewing candidates, and the hosting of a possible candidate.

5. How can the congregation help at this time?

At this time we would deeply appreciate your prayers for wisdom as we go forward. Also please keep our staff, elders and deacons in your prayers as transitions like this often can bring with them additional responsibilities. Finally, it is important that we stay unified and committed to seeing the process through.

6. How might this impact our existing staff?

Our existing staff are a valuable and integral part of our church family. We believe that they are well positioned for the upcoming season of ministry here at *Temple* and are excited to see how God will continue to use them.

7. What does this transition mean for our church's current mission and vision?

We continue to affirm our church's core values and our 3M's (Maturity, Missional and Multiply). We do this by living biblically, ministering holistically, embracing diversity, walking relationally and engaging globally. We want to encourage everyone in the Sarnia area and beyond to find wholeness in Jesus Christ. While these things have been very important to us over the last number of years, we anticipate that the next *Lead Pastor* will bring new ideas and fresh experiences to our church and seek to remain open for what God may have in store for us.

8. Who are our present elders?

Temple Baptist Church's Elders Board is made up of the following men: Dave Lawrence (Chair), Terry Babbey (Vice Chair), Rob Raiger, Don Dafoe, Clive Hamilton, Ross McKay, Rob Nieuwland, Joe Chan and Hugh Brignell.