

## LEADERSHIP CHANGE AT IMMANUEL'S CHURCH

Welcome to Immanuel's Church (IC), a place where the Spirit of God dwells. These are exciting times at Immanuel's Church! God is doing a new thing with and through his people. Immanuel's Church has undergone and continues to undergo changes in administration that, we believe, will only help to uplift the name of our Lord and put renewed emphasis on the phrase "God With Us".

Moving forward in a Godly way, Immanuel's Church has elected to put forward this statement to correct and clarify any misinformation that may have been spread and to share factual information on the breakdown of senior leadership last fall.

In November of 2016 a disclosure was made to the Board of Trustees of actions by the founding pastor that were contrary to biblical leadership. As a result, the Board of Trustees asked and received a signed resignation letter from the founding pastor immediately thereafter. In order to ensure that the Board was acting on complete information and to ensure transparency and impartiality, the Church hired an outside, Christian consulting firm and a separate Christian attorney to conduct a comprehensive, independent review and assessment of the violations as well as to ensure legality of all actions, all within a Christian framework with emphasis on forgiveness and reconciliation. The assessment was completed in May 2017.

After the completion of the assessment and legal review, the Church, acting in the Christian tradition, extended an opportunity to the founding pastor and his wife to undergo personal examination, confession, and to make restitution so that their fellowship could be restored. However, they expressly chose not to walk the path of reconciliation and restoration as outlined by the Church. The Church was then left with no choice other than to rescind the membership of the founding pastor and his wife. Consequently, both of them are no longer affiliated with IC.

We are saddened that we had to implement the course of action delineated below and pray continuously for the founding pastor and his entire family.

***Both the founding pastor and his wife are expressly forbidden from visiting the Church campus, from attending any function held on Church property and from holding themselves out as representing Immanuel's Church in any and all activities, public or private. In addition, both individuals are to refrain from referring to or representing Immanuel's Church in public communication, including preaching, teaching, writing, blogs, or any other social media correspondence. Further, the use of IC property, including congregational database, letterheads, and any other materials that would suggest a relationship with IC, is expressly forbidden.***

Our God is a forgiving God and he commands us to be like him and forgive others their trespasses. We as a Church have extended the hand of forgiveness to both the founding pastor and his wife and have left the door open for them to be reconciled to the Church and the wider Christian community once they submit to the reconciliation and restoration process presented to them. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will speak to their hearts and convince them to walk the road of reconciliation and restoration and re-establish fellowship.

In keeping with the spirit of the recommendations of the Christian consulting firm, the Holy Spirit has sent Pastor Michael McDermott to be IC's Intentional Interim Pastor (IIP) after a brief but thorough search process. His primary role as IIP is to lead the Church through this current period of transition. Pastor Mike and Pastor Becki, his wife of 36 years, have an apostolic calling on their ministry. They have been involved with training other churches and leaders and have played intervention roles in several troubled ministries.

Pastor Mike currently serves on the Board of the European Theological Seminary in Germany, is Chair of the Church Planting Board in Central Europe and the Balkans, and is a member of the Board of the Multi-Cultural Prayer Movement in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Pastor Mike has a conferred Doctor of Divinity degree from Central Christian University.

Pastor Becki is a product of American missionary educators, a talented musician, a devoted prayer warrior, and a gifted administrator who will bring all her talents and gifts to bear during this transition. Pastors Mike and Becki have three adult children all of whom are also in ministry.

The Church welcomes Pastors Mike and Becki and stands with them as they implement God's will, purpose and plan for the Church.