



CELEBRATION CHURCH
NORTHERN IRELAND

To the Celebration Church Northern Ireland members and congregants,

Over the past several years Celebration Church Northern Ireland has had the privilege, honour, and opportunity of serving the community of Craigavon and surrounding areas. During these years we were blessed to see many positive results, lives changed, and families encouraged. The sacrifice, diligence, faithfulness, and hard work of many individuals are what made all that possible. Many people in this very room today have been a tremendous blessing to the work of the Lord here at Celebration Church. A mere “thank you” simply does not seem a strong enough word to adequately honour and recognise all those who have poured their lives into helping build this local church. We are forever grateful.

Over the past several weeks our church has been going through what may best be described as a season of transition and change. Through these several weeks there have been many conversations amongst the senior leadership, pastors, presbyters, Board of Directors, and others discussing some issues that have been harbouring and effecting many people for awhile now. There have been counselling sessions, Biblical guidance, team meetings, and many conversations that have been had to address the issues and concerns surrounding many of these complexities and challenges.

And after due diligence in speaking to all those who have been involved closely with the issues at hand; we have come to the conclusion that a significant transition is needed at this time for Celebration Church Northern Ireland.

Though there has been no moral failures amongst the leadership; it is the unified understanding and decision of the Presbyters, Board of Directors, Senior Leadership Team, and our Global Senior Pastor, Stovall Weems, that there is, at hand, irreconcilable leadership issues that are unable to be resolved in our church's current state.

It is our belief and conviction that the congregation and people of this local church should be given every opportunity to move forward as a local body; however, in the days ahead it will no longer be under the banner of "Celebration Church". Today will mark the end of several incredible years of service to this community as Celebration Church. We thank God for the opportunities He has given this church, and the many people who have formed genuine, live-giving relationships as a result of serving Jesus alongside one another. Even though this is the conclusion of this season for all of us, we hold fast to the acknowledgement and faith that God is in ultimate control and that He will continue to lead and guide every person and family represented in this congregation for years to come.

Through these last days of this transition and discussions amongst the leadership, we have been blessed by the care and counsel of several other thriving local churches, such as Pastor Jeff Wright at Green Pastures, Pastor Jamie Corcoran at Lighthouse Church, and Pastor Philip Emerson and Pastor Ally Emerson at Emmanuel Church in Lurgan.

And in a specific effort to come alongside us with care for people and congregants during this change, Pastor Philip Emerson & Ally Emerson have graciously offered Emmanuel Church to be a place where people can transition, if they so wish, to continue to be a part of a weekly local church body and continue to receive care. Emmanuel Church is a thriving church in Lurgan, and has been for many years now. They have a genuine heart to reach the community of Lurgan, Craigavon, and beyond with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. They have been incredibly gracious and kind to the leadership of Celebration Church as we have walked through these difficult weeks

recently, and we have found Pastor Philip Emerson and Pastor Ally Emerson to be men of Godly character, integrity, and with true shepherd's hearts for people. It is with the highest recommendation that we would encourage the families and individuals of Celebration Church Northern Ireland to consider making Emmanuel Church their future home and place of weekly worship.

The Psalmist said it well in chapter 62 when he declared, *“On God my salvation and my glory rest; He is my rock of unyielding strength, my refuge is in God. **Trust confidently in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him. God is a refuge for us all.**”*

Seasons of transition are never easy and rarely ever planned or expected. But we never have to fear the future when we know the One who holds it. We thank our God for Jesus and His Holy Spirit, especially during times of change. He is our comforter, our strength, our reward, our sure foundation, and the solid rock. In the end, His church will prevail in the earth, and we all continue to have the opportunity to join in the efforts of building His kingdom.

The senior leadership and pastors of Celebration Church continue to pray God's richest blessings over all of you, that you and you loved ones will continue to thrive in your relationships with the Lord, and may the best days of your life be ahead of you in Jesus name.

With love and many blessings,

The Senior Leadership of Celebration Church