

“Deciding What’s Next”

As most of you know by now I tendered my resignation at the January Board Meeting effective February 1, 2012. I did so neither under duress nor in anger. I did so because what God sent me here to do has been accomplished; and, it is time for me to leave so the pastor God has to carry this church forward into its next season can come forth. Also it is time for me to return to Colorado to be with my son.

When I began my ministry at Central in September of 2010, I did so knowing it would be transitional—my job being two-fold: awaken this church to its potential and challenge it to grow so it will be ready to serve Marion and the surrounding area participating fully in what God has.

Being much more prophetic than pastoral, I have ruffled the feathers of some and dislodged the comfortable but with a purpose—to make ready for the Lord a people prepared (Luke 1:17). All the while I have done so with love and affection in my heart toward all. As I ready myself and this church for my departure, I believe God has given me wisdom that will help in your deciding what’s next.

For several years Central Christian Church and First UCC has entered into shared ministry. I believe God intends such ministry to merge and become central for both congregations. With this in mind, I want to share what I believe God wants.

Instead of Central Christian Church going through another interim process that will curtail its momentum while another Search and Call takes place I believe God has been readying both Central and First UCC to enter into one of two joint ministry configurations.

- Shared ministry at one location or campus with one designated pastor.
- Merged ministry at one location or campus with one full time pastor.

It is my recommendation that both congregations enter into serious discussion—discernment—decision-making concerning this without getting bogged down in denominational interim ship and search and call.

As outgoing pastor of Central Christian Church, I believe I have “earned” the trust of those I have pastored to offer this strategy as more than personal opinion but as spiritually discerned wisdom. Still what you do with it is up to you. But knowing you as I do, I trust you will follow God’s leading just as you did when you called me as your transitional pastor. God bless you and thank you for allowing me to lead you these months in readiness for what God is about to do.

Pastor Bud