

November 15, 2017

I was looking out my office window, taking a little break from the task at hand. My attention was drawn to the trees that line the hillside next to our building. I watched the branches swaying in the breeze and noticed the leaves beginning to fall. It became very clear that things are changing outside.

In the same way, things are changing in the Eastern Regional Conference. After listening to many of the pastors and leaders in our region, we have developed the framework for a new Strategic Plan. It's a plan that I personally feel very good about. I realize I'm a little biased since I was on the team tasked with designing this new plan. Nevertheless, I believe this plan, if properly implemented, can lead to the next season of fruitful ministry in our region.

As you are probably aware, Dr. Kevin Richardson will no longer be serving as Executive Director. This decision was not made quickly or lightly. After an extensive evaluation process involving the members of the Transition team, the Administrative Counsel, the conference staff members and much prayer, the conclusion was that while Kevin's character was above reproach, it was clear he was not right person to continue leading us forward. We have tried to honor Kevin's years of service with a generous severance package and we are confident that God will use him moving forward.

Maybe you're wondering, "What's next?" Well...as I mentioned earlier, I believe very strongly in the Strategic Plan we are trying to implement in the region, so much so that I am resigning my role as President of the Conference to assume the position of Interim Executive Director. The reason is simple. Were we to hire someone for this position who was unfamiliar with the plan, it would take four to six months to get them up to speed. That person would need to become familiar with the information gleaned during our listening sessions, understand how our objectives address the stated needs, recognize how the various strategies being implemented work together to bring health and wholeness to the body; all of this while at the same time getting to know the people and the churches he/she would be working with. In other words, just about the time they were adequately prepared to help implement the plan, their term of service would be finished. (At least, as long as things go well with the upcoming search process. But that's another story!) It only makes sense that our Interim be someone familiar with the Strategic Plan so we can continue to move forward. And that's where I come in. I was on the Strategic Planning team. I happen to live fairly close to the conference office. Next thing I know, someone is saying, "You're it." Just to be clear, I didn't go seeking the job. And I won't be staying in the job any longer than necessary. I will not be a candidate for our next Executive Director. I will be filling in on a part-time basis while continuing to serve the people of Eberly's Mill. When the next director is hired, I will resume my normal duties as a pastor.

Perhaps, you're still saying to yourself, "Okay, I get that part. But...why resign as president?" The short answer is...to avoid even the appearance of impropriety. To have the same person serve as President of the Conference and Interim Executive Director could be perceived as an abuse of power. As

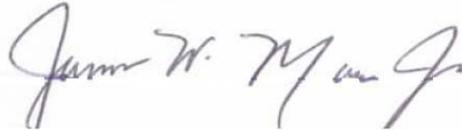
you may have gathered, that's not my intention at all. I simply want to see God's kingdom advanced through the coordinated efforts of our conference. It seemed a choice needed to be made, and I feel so strongly about the potential of this new Strategic Plan that I decided to invest my time and energy into the Interim role so the plan can move forward. I'm not worried about our conference leadership. Tom Myers, who has been our conference vice president, will be assuming the role as the president of the conference. I have the utmost confidence in Tom. He is a humble, faithful and capable servant of Christ who will continue to lead us well.

Hopefully this explains why you are hearing from me, and how I ended up with the title of 'Interim Executive Director.'

So, where do we go from here? Well, I would like to announce a special meeting of 'Conference in session' on Saturday, January 6, 2018, with a snow date of January 13th. The meeting will be held at the Carlisle Church of God. At this gathering we will address the constitutional issues that might arise as we begin to implement our new plan. We will also provide opportunity for feedback on the Strategic Plan. We want to hear from you. Our goal is to provide you with the resources that will enable you to develop a healthy, life-giving church in your neighborhood.

We look forward to what God has in store for us in the coming days. Please remember me and our conference staff in prayer so we might continue to advance the cause of God's kingdom.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James W. Moss, Jr." The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

James W. Moss, Jr.,
Interim Executive Director

JWM/bah

