



MIKE LUMPKIN
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Dear Church Family,

It is with a great deal of sadness, but confidence, that I tender my resignation as Senior Pastor of UBC.

About a year ago the elders began a process of serious evaluation (due, in large part, to concerns voiced by current and former members and decline in attendance). From that, concerns regarding my leadership and "fit" for this season of the church were brought forward. Shortly thereafter, a consensus of the elders stated the belief that we should part ways.

During this year, including the sabbatical season, I prayerfully submitted my name to other churches. While some interest has been expressed, we have not sensed a call away at this time. After patiently waiting, praying, and seeking much counsel we've come to the conclusion that it is time for me to resign for the good of my family and the good of UBC.

I know I've made mistakes and missteps. The elders affirm they have too. The elders and Jan would also testify that I have not disqualified myself in any way from ministry. Together, we have sought to avoid sin, and none of this has anything to do with a cover up of some secret or gross sin. I can tell you that the elders have done what they felt was best with what felt like mounting evidence that this decision was in the best interest for UBC. We remain friends, and have sought to approach each Lord's Supper with a clear conscience.

I hope that some of what the Lord has done through me and my family, will serve UBC in the long run. In the mean time, pray for us as we seek the Lord as to what's next. We're unsure about the future, but God has proven faithful time and time again.

I do thank you for allowing me to be your pastor for nearly 8 years. You have made UBC the one church home we've known more than any other. I thank you for loving my kids by teaching them and caring for them faithfully. Thank you for not putting unreasonable expectations on my wife and allowing her to use her gifts as she saw fit. Thanks for being our friends, particularly the kind who are willing to say hard things, but never giving up on us. We do love you.

I do exhort you to seek to actively encourage and support your future pastor and elders. It is no support to simply NOT speak negatively or to remain silent while you have concerns. Talk with your leaders and pray for them. Joyfully follow their lead.

We (my family and the elders) trust this to be the will of God. So, I commend you to the Lord and the leadership of the elders. I pray for your health and the advancement of the gospel in your homes and Fayetteville.

In Christ Alone,

Pastor Mike