

The Next Chapter



03.26.23

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to another weekend of The Next Chapter for Prairie Lakes Church! In January, Pastor John introduced us to his succession plan to “switch seats” and make way for a new Lead Pastor to lead PLC into its next chapter of ministry. Remember, “Succession is not retirement.” 😊

This past weekend, Pastor John provided us with an update in the succession process. After several months of intentional interviews, meetings, vetting, and prayer, the Elder Board has voted unanimously and joyfully to recommend PLC’s Executive Pastor, Jesse Tink, as a Lead Pastor candidate. As our church prepares for a Member vote in the coming months, we have another opportunity to examine our own roles within the church and how God is calling us to pray, support, and follow Him into this next chapter.

DISCUSSION

We had a unique opportunity to learn about Pastor Jesse’s story in ministry and at PLC. In each season, there was a theme of recognizing and allowing God to direct and shape his trajectory, even when it wasn’t easy. Take some time to look back on your story answer these questions.

1. When have you experienced unique seasons of direction and development from God? Are there any themes or a direction you can trace?
2. How would you gauge your awareness and obedience to God the previous seasons of your life? Has it changed over time? How so?
3. Revisit and read Galatians 5:22-26. Paul reminds us that by believing in Jesus, we have freedom from our sinful tendencies and access to the Holy Spirit who will lead where God wants us to go. How “in step”, do believe you are with God in your everyday life now?
4. What might God be up to in your story now? How can you consistently position yourself to be more “in step” and aware of God’s direction, even when it isn’t easy?

APPLICATION

Revisit and read Psalm 74:12-17. In every chapter, God is in control. He’s led you and Prairie Lakes Church here and will continue to lead us in the future. As we move forward in this next chapter of succession, Pastor John has provided several specific ways we can support him, Pastor Jesse, and Prairie Lakes Church at-large:

- **Pray at 5:25.** Based on Galatians 5:25, whether in the morning or the evening (or both!) say a prayer for PLC’s succession process. It doesn’t have to be complicated either. “God, continue to guide PLC in your will in the succession process. Amen.”
- **Become a Member.** While becoming a Member will allow you to vote for our Lead Pastor, its primary focus is ownership. If PLC is your home and you’re committed to pursuing the unique mission of our church, Membership is the right step for you. You can start the process by signing up online [here](#).
- **Vote.** If you are a Member, make sure to vote when ballots go live later this year.