

**And for all these things we give God praise!** – If we were to take a stroll across “Cornerstone Kingdom” we would realize that things are going well. While there is always a scrub here and a bristly rub there, the overall atmosphere is very positive and ministry potential is ever-present. The staff continues to pray for “the unity of the Spirit which manifests the bond of peace” and God is honoring our prayer. And for all these things we give God praise!

**A few shout outs are in order!**

1. The children's teachers are second to none.
2. The youth, their parents, and Newbs are out of this world!
3. The worship team is like the fresh breath of God!
4. The pastoral and church staff are fantastic!
5. The LT is on top of many things that most people don't even know exist!
6. Our remodeled building, location, and presence downtown continues to draw folks in the doors!
7. The faithful people of Cornerstone are our main magnetism!
8. Cornerstone's use of creative avenues of ministry allows us to connect with God and others in unique ways!

\* And for all these things (along with others too numerous to cite) we give God praise!

**Let's talk about moving forward** into the promises God has for us as a Church. When God called Moses to lead the people into the promised land the first time, things didn't go so well. After forty years, Moses got things back in order and God's people were ready for the potential and blessings awaiting them in the promised land.

God called Moses in his tent and said that the first strategic battle would be Jericho. God then said, “Moses, you're not going to lead the troops this time. Joshua will be My instrument from now on. Through him I will conquer the promised land.” Moses realized that while he had a significant role earlier, the strength of the younger warrior Joshua was what was needed now.

**Application** – Mark and Kathy haven't journeyed around Red Wing for 40 years like Moses did, but they only missed it by a few years. They both sense that their ministry at Cornerstone in Red Wing has come to an end. It is time for a Joshua to move the church into God's next chapter.

Mark and Kathy are committed to the ministry up through the end of the year. If a replacement is found before that, they will step aside. The church is in great condition and position to move ahead with vision and blessing. And for all of these things we give God praise!

Mark will be stepping away from full-time ministry for about a year. He needs to take that time to re-think his convictions and find "True North." Mark and Kathy must make sure they are running God's race as they move into the next, and possibly, last lap of ministry and life. Paul said in Galatians 2:2, "I went to see Peter, James and John. I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. *I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain.*"

Thirty-three years ago, God called the Kalbs into ministry at Cornerstone (First Baptist then). Now He is calling them away from ministry at Cornerstone. It's been a great journey! And for all of these things we give God praise!

Cornerstone can move forward because this is God's movement and not our own. He has brought us to a good place! From here we can move forward into His intended purposes for us.

### **Revisiting our Core Values**

As we continue to move forward, it would be good to re-emphasize the core values of our ministry (Cornerstone's DNA).

1. We must stay committed to our vision statement to connect with God and one another on a deeper level.
2. Cornerstone must continue to use creative avenues of ministry that allow us to connect with God and others in unique ways!
3. Children and youth must be a priority at Cornerstone.
4. The faithful people of Cornerstone are our main magnetism and treasure!

5. It's not about one pastor's dream, but a Leadership Team giving direction for the church.
6. We desire to facilitate people's passion and gifting and not have a top down approach to ministry.
7. We must be who God wants us to **be** as we pursue what God wants us to **do**.
8. Worship is a non-negotiable. It is like the fresh breath of God!
9. The Bible must be the basis of our teaching and instruction in all ages.
10. Pursuit of the Kingdom of God supersedes pursuit of denomination.
11. Our building, location, and presence downtown continue to draw folks in the doors!

**These core values keep us on track as we move ahead.**

So, with these in place let's consider what we know now.

1. It was only a week ago that Mark revealed his intentions to the LT. That means we are in the preliminary phase and there isn't a lot to report at this time.
2. Article III Section 3: "When necessary, the Leadership Team will seek qualified candidates to fill pastoral positions. In order for a pastoral candidate to be considered, a unanimous vote of the Leadership Team will be required. Further, confirmation by the Church body will also be required."
3. We have started an initial gathering of contact information for possible candidates.
4. LT will ask other churches/pastors for their experiences (what worked well and what did not work well in the pastoral search process).
5. Questions/ thoughts can be directed to anyone on LT (Sandy Deschand, Roger Dosedall, Dave Farrar, Abbey Glenna, Jonathan Grider, or Erika Jacobson).