



Dear Wellspring Family,

It has been a privilege to lead Wellspring for the last 4 years. When I accepted this position, I did so because I loved and cared for this community. I also knew that my care and ability paled in comparison to our Lord's. We have overcome challenges and grown in many ways only through His help. Many have seen a glimpse of the family that God creates in a new light through Wellspring church.

It is with sadness that I inform you that as of July 1st I will no longer be serving as pastor of Wellspring Church. I have recommended to the elders the dissolution of Wellspring Church in tandem with my resignation. I am resigning because I have not and cannot lead our elder team in a manner that sustainably promotes the mission of Wellspring or models the vision of Wellspring to our congregation and the community at large. As a team, the elders agree that the dissolution of Wellspring would be the best course of action.

I have not changed my commitment to our core theological beliefs or our guiding statements. This is not a result of some disqualifying sin. I am a sinner, and one of my goals has been to be more transparent, specifically when it comes to Christian leaders being sinful and dependent on the grace of God and the help of the church for forgiveness and growth in righteousness. You will never go to a church where the pastor or elders don't need your help to love and follow Jesus. To expect something different is against Scripture and only serves to cultivate an atmosphere where leadership failings fester and grow rather than being dealt with by the confronting, cleansing, and restorative power of the gospel.

An announcement like this cannot answer every question that it prompts, and the temptation to fill in blanks and come up with your own answers may be great. Please resist this temptation by reaching out to me or any of the elders to ask your questions. I would be more than happy to answer your questions in a forthright manner.

Regarding the validity of God's past, present, and future work in and through Wellspring. There may be a temptation to question if that work was real, meaningful, or of God at all. Consider this, the active ministry of Christ incarnate only lasted for about three years before he ascended into heaven. Was that ministry worth it? I would surely say so. God works in us and through us, not to establish long-lasting institutions but to do his will and to bring people into his eternal kingdom. I have heard from people in the community and many of you how God has worked in your life through this church family.

We all could have done something different that maybe would have led Wellspring down a different path. I certainly know that I could. But this is life; we could always have had more faith, tried harder, and been braver. The gospel response to this is not to live in regret nor is it to bury our heads in the sand, but to bring all of our sins and failures, real or imagined, to the cross of Jesus. His cross takes our shame and turns it into a proclamation of his love for us. He knew all of our shame and the great cost he would have to pay, and he did it as Hebrews 12:2 tells us, "for the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame..." The joy before him was claiming you and me as his sons and daughters! The gospel makes our shame an opportunity for us to say, "Jesus loves me more than my shame." and it also tells us that God uses the broken, small, and foolish things of the world to usher in his kingdom. He used Wellspring and you all in many ways. I know I will be reflecting on these things for years to come.

Matt



Dear Wellspring,

After much discussion and prayer, the Elders have decided for the best interest of the members and attenders of Wellspring, that we should vote and recommend the members vote to cease operations and dissolve our organization effective June 30th. We would continue operating as we have been through May 4th and then in a limited capacity until June 8th. We would use the remainder of the month of June to distribute our remaining resources and assets and begin the dissolution process. The Elders feel that continuing to operate Wellspring beyond that point, would be a disservice to not only the people attending Wellspring, but also to the greater Church. While we have not specifically heard from God that we are to shut down, we also have not received any prompting of the Holy Spirit that we should continue, except for the reality that the size of the church continued to decrease over the last month or so. While our measure of success has always been in the depth of our members' and attender's relationships with God and with one another, the fact is that we will be surpassing a minimum level of people involved in our fellowship after the Graduation of several of our regular attenders in May and the general seasonality trend of summer time in State College. Rather than continue to consume resources and people's efforts, it is our opinion that it would be better to choose to end Wellspring and disperse our people and gifts from God to other Christian Fellowships that may benefit from the unique giftings God has blessed us with, while also providing more opportunity for growth and maturing as the new trusted shepherds over us.

We want to be clear, while there were certainly failures and issues that existed within Wellspring's leadership as we strove to love and care for the people God entrusted us to lead, we do not believe that God has ended our Christian Fellowship because of these flaws. While we can't know for sure why God has not seen it fit to entrust us with more, we have seen his providence and grace to allow us to continue to this point. Now we want to celebrate Wellspring's life and mission, rather than waiting until Wellspring runs out of people or money. We feel that ending now would allow us to be faithful stewards of the remaining talents He has entrusted to us.

We also want to make it clear that we do not view Wellspring as a failure, as we have seen people grow in their love of Jesus while walking alongside us and each of you. We do not think that the ending of Wellspring is due to a lack of commitment or effort on the part of the people still here, or the people that have left, but see it as the natural conclusion of Wellspring's role in the Body of Christ. We love and will miss dearly the people that called Wellspring home, but are excited to see the work that Jesus has in store for each of us as we seek our new place in His Bride.

We would be happy to answer any questions that you may have and ask that you consider our recommendation when considering your vote.

Mark and Dan