



May 2011

Dear Parents,

Since joining the GBCC staff in 1993, I have served our church family in several roles. I recently began serving in a new role - Family Life Pastor. As Family Life Pastor, I have the privilege to serve you and your family and work with the staff and volunteers within Family Life (birth-college).

For the last 8 weeks, the Family Life Team has been meeting together to create a transition plan that will unite KidsQuest (birth – grade 5), Expressway (grades 6 – 8), and CAM (college age) under a common vision, common values, and common strategy, while remaining distinct in their approach to the specific age group they serve. In this letter, I'd like to provide you with a brief update on our discussion so far.

As we've talked, prayed, and researched, we've determined our Family Life:

- Vision is to see a church family investing across generations to make disciples.
- Values are Families, Life Application, Intentional Shepherding, Christ-Centered Teaching, and an Age-Targeted Environment.
- Strategy is to provide a family-empowered ministry model that offers age-specific activities, empowers parents as the primary spiritual developers of their children, and provides opportunities for interaction between generations.

Our team will continue to work toward refining the plan and look forward to inviting you to parent meetings later in the summer to detail the vision, values and strategy. In the meantime, please contact me with questions.

To our parents of Middle and High School students:

- Our team has discussed our response to Brian Martin's June departure from GBCC staff (see reverse side). We celebrate his investment in the lives of our students and our staff, and we will miss him! We also continue to discuss the best way to address the "hole" he leaves in Family Life. In the short-term, I will play a large leadership role in our Student Ministries (and recruit more volunteers), and in the long-term, we seek to increase the Family Life staff.
- I would like to invite you to get involved! If you would like to find your place in Family Life, please call or email me to talk more about serving.

Thanks so much for your time reading this letter. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

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To My Beloved Student Ministries Families:

As you know by now, my transition to Minnesota is quickly approaching. Our target date for departure is July 1. Just to update you on our journey, I am in the midst of applying for some jobs, and I am hoping that one in particular works out (for which I am in a final interview). We have found a great house to rent in St. Louis Park (a western suburb) and we are getting connected to family and friends in the area again. While going back to school was originally a part of the plan, that portion has taken a back-burner to finding a job and getting established. I may or may not pursue that in the future.

Something about our culture makes us love conspiracy theories, and the church doesn't seem immune to that. I assure you there is no secret here. I am not being asked to leave, and I am not leaving angry or disenfranchised. I still love this place and the people I work with. I have a great deal of respect for the leadership of this church, and I look forward to seeing how God will continue to move in this Body. It is time, however, for me to move on and for my family to reestablish ourselves in a new place. We feel called to the Twin Cities and we are honored and excited to answer that call.

Your kids are important to this church. As I step away, I can say with confidence that I believe in the team of paid and unpaid staff working diligently to strategize, recruit, and plan for the future of youth ministry here at Community. Under Pete App's leadership, I expect the ministry to grow and flourish. He is a man of great character and has a huge heart for families. It is a privilege to have him in this role.

Leaving is difficult and emotional for me. I love the students and families I have come to know over these last several years and saying good-bye to that is challenging. I can say with honesty and sincerity that it has been an incredible joy to serve with you and beside you over these last six years. As I move on to the next chapter in my life, know that I will always love this place for everything I have experienced and everyone who has touched my heart.

With the greatest love and sincerity,

Brian Martin
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