

June 1, 2016

Dear friends,

It has been two and a half years since I first joined you here, and what a joy it has been for me to serve the Lord alongside of you. I write now because I want to encourage you to continue faithfully preparing the way for your new Pastor. There are signs that God may be readying us to receive His man to pastor Central in the not-too-distant future. I want to assure you that I remain committed to you as your interim until the next pastor is found. You are stuck with this nostalgic Pirate fan through the transition.

As we wait upon the Lord, the enemy would like nothing more than to see us grow weary, complacent or passive during this time. Now is the time for us to become even more fervent in the life of the church and for the building up of God's kingdom. Toward that end, I ask each of you to commit with me to the following in the weeks ahead as we seek to bring God the glory in our waiting:

1. **Pray.** The Search Committee needs our prayer support. Pray that the Lord would pour out much wisdom and favor upon them in this important phase of their work. Pray that the Lord would be preparing the heart of the next Senior Pastor. Pray for his current congregation, that the Lord would be kind and gracious to them as they enter a time of transition.
2. **Give.** Through your generosity, Central has remained fiscally stable during our time of waiting on the Lord. Thank you! However, giving for the first half of 2016 has been sluggish and our annual budget is falling behind. The Lord's work is ongoing and planned for the coming months. The Lord is blessing our efforts on the mission field and here locally. But those ministries are only possible because of you. In the weeks ahead, we need your help. *Would you please make a special gift to Central in the coming weeks?* Working together, we can put our budget back on track and be a blessing to the future pastor.
3. **Participate.** If you joined us at the Town Hall on May 11, you experienced a wonderful family time together. God is working in us every time we gather, pouring His grace into us. In the coming months, I encourage you to participate more fully in the life our family here. Worship with us on Sunday. Join us for brunch starting on July 3 – the bacon (or fruit) beckons you! Study with us on Wednesday. Serve with us throughout the week. Invite your friends and neighbors. One of the ways God administers His grace is through community. We need this grace!

Friends, the Lord Jesus loves you and has called you to His body at Central. May His love for us move us to passionately **pray, give and participate** in this exciting season of our life together at Central.

With great affection and appreciation for each of you,

Bob

Bob Hopper
Interim Senior Pastor