

“Talking Points” For Q&A Meeting (2:00 p.m.)

1. **Collin, would you share with us a little more about why you are “really” resigning? Some people may be curious about whether there was anything that happened to cause this.**

Collin is leaving to pursue a clear and obvious calling to work in the racial reconciliation and social justice arenas. As Collin has shared, racial reconciliation and social justice work has become a strong passion of his over the last couple years and he feels now is the right time to pursue this passion in a full-time capacity.

2. **Greg, why is Collin still going on sabbatical even after he has announced he is leaving? Are we still going to pay him while he is on sabbatical?**

The sabbatical plan, that the Greenville Oaks Elders established more than 15 years ago, was designed to provide rest and renewal for all full-time ministry staff who have served seven consecutive years. This year marks Collin’s seventh year and we feel it is important to honor his past work, commitment, and ministry to Greenville Oaks. Yes, Collin will continue to be compensated as every minister is compensated during their time of sabbatical. He will not be leaving Greenville Oaks until a month after his sabbatical.

3. **David, if Collin’s last day is September 12, why are we dragging this process out for so long?**

Yes, September 12 will be Collin’s last Sunday as the Lead Minister at Greenville Oaks. We are beginning a thoughtful transition to ensure what is best for both Collin and the church. Collin will complete *The Story* series at the end of April. His planned and earned Sabbatical will run from May through July. In August he will return to help us refocus on our mission and vision. We are planning a special going-away celebration for Collin, Holly, and their kids on September 12.

4. **Steve, we have heard the leadership talk recently about money challenges (due to COVID) over the last year. Does Collin’s leaving have anything to do with money?**

No! Collin’s leaving is not in any way associated with a “lack of giving” or financial concerns. Yes, the past couple of years have been financially challenging, but we continue to trust that God will provide as He always has throughout the life of our church.

5. **Collin, what is your family’s plan, as far as where you will attend church, after your last day on September 12?**

The Packer family is not sure where they will “go-to” church. Collin does feel strongly about giving “space” for the next lead preaching minister to be able to come in and establish himself in that position. For now, they are focused on getting away during the sabbatical and gaining some much-needed rest and rejuvenation as they look to the next chapter in their ministry and lives.

6. Collin and then Greg, who will be filling in for Collin while you are gone on Sabbatical and then after September 12?

Collin and the Governance Team have lined up several strong guest speakers to preach during Collin's sabbatical. They include Randy Harris, Jerry Taylor (from ACU), and Eddie Sharp as well as a couple of our other ministers. Our elders and staff are developing a plan to ensure that high quality teaching/preaching will continue to encourage and challenge our church after Collin leaves. We plan to call on other guest speakers, along with other capable staff members, elders, and other leaders, to preach until we are able to hire a new Lead Minister.

7. David, do the elders anticipate anyone else from the ministry staff leaving?

We have no reason to believe that any other staff members will be leaving directly or indirectly related to Collin's leaving.

8. Greg, in follow-up to that. Are there any concerns (behind the scenes) causing staff to leave or be let go over the last 10 years (Vance, Hillary, David, Marti, Greg, Matt, Mike and now Collin)?

There is no correlation to the reasons any of these people left Greenville Oaks. Each of their situations was unique and was handled on a case-by-case basis. There is no "larger issue" to be concerned about; past or present. Our track record of staff "longevity" is far greater than most churches and we believe that will continue to be the case in the future.

9. David, since Collin will be gone and if we still don't have an Executive Minister, who will be in charge of leading the staff?

The Governance Team and the Elders as a collective leadership will continue to lead as they have. Over the last several months, Greg Coffman has been volunteering on a part-time basis to provide much of the Executive Minister role. Our elders and staff are very grateful for Greg's incredible volunteer work, and that he has agreed to continue. In addition, the elders have asked Matt Mazza (former Greenville Oaks Executive Minister) to serve in a part-time interim role to help Greg during the transition. We feel completely confident that we will be able to continue providing the leadership Greenville Oaks needs.

10. Steve, who is going to be leading (and serving on) the next preacher search committee?

As the Elders have done in the past, they will appoint a member to serve as the chairperson of the search team and that team will be comprised of various individuals and leaders from our church. The elders recognize the urgency of the situation and will begin working to form a search team as soon as possible. Our goal is to have the team in place as soon as possible and to spend the majority of the time while Collin is away on sabbatical working through potential candidates to identify the next lead preaching minister for Greenville Oaks.

11. Steve, what type of a preacher do the elders think we need to hire next?

Great question! What type of preacher do you think we need? The Greenville Oaks leadership will trust the Spirit to lead the search process and bring the right person to help lead our church and serve in the role of Lead Preaching Minister. One of our primary goals will be to find the person who can help us achieve God's mission and vision for Greenville Oaks.

12. Collin and then David, why are you coming back in August after the Sabbatical?

The Greenville Oaks Elders greatly respect and appreciate Collin's leadership and guidance over the years, especially in how we communicate the church's mission and vision. We have asked Collin, and he is excited, to come back and share his encouragement and challenge our church as we refocus on the mission and vision we believe God is calling Greenville Oaks to pursue. Collin's sabbatical and his returning in August will not prevent us from immediately beginning the process to seek a new Lead Minister.