



McLean Bible Church

THURSDAY, SEPT 15

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY,

Although I have been serving as one of your MBC elders for some time now, I want to let you know – in my own hand – that I am privileged to have recently assumed the role as elder board chairman from my predecessor, Larry Cooper. While we will formally honor both Larry and Wayne Fujito for their faithful service later this fall, I want to personally thank Larry for his years of steadfast leadership and his thoughtful transition to me over the last few weeks.

ABOUT ME

My family and I joined MBC about 8 years ago after I completed a 30-year career as a Navy pilot. By God's providence, Janet and I met when I was 5 years old, and we were married the day after my Naval Academy graduation, which means this amazing lady did every day of that military career with me. (May God bless military spouses!) Four kids and 23 moves later, we landed in Rockville, MD, to begin a second career as a defense specialist, where I focus on internal professional development. We've recently joined the coveted "grandparent" club with three little ones that are ages one to four. After serving in a variety of roles in churches all over the world, we are thrilled to have been in one location this long, and feel blessed and privileged to be a part of the MBC family.

MOVE FORWARD

I am confident that I can speak for our Vice Chairman, Jim Burris, as well as Patrick Lee, Ken Tucker, Hooman Gharai, Sasha Varghese, and Pastor David, when I say that our elders are excited for our church to move forward on mission. We are here "to glorify God by making disciples and multiplying churches among all the nations, beginning in greater Washington, D.C." Especially as we walk through a series this fall on why we need a biblical church, we believe God has put significant things on our hearts for the future of our church, and we look forward to sharing these things with you in the months ahead.

As we emerge from a difficult period in our nation, I think we're all ready to get back to a measure of "normalcy." However, as we navigated the period of the pandemic, the world changed before our eyes. The accelerated adoption of technology has fundamentally changed the way we work, connect, and even socialize. There is a new expectation for expanded ACCESS to information and connection, and we must be agile enough to adapt our processes to be more inclusive. Since beginning to host Congregational Meetings online, many more of our members have had access to ministry updates in the church and have been able to participate in church votes. [As one example, when we looked at data comparing Congregational Meetings in 2019 (pre-Covid) with 2022 (post-Covid), our meetings in 2022 had between two and five times more members participating than in 2019.] For this reason, we plan to continue Congregational Meetings online, and our next meeting will be Thursday, September 29, at 7 pm at mcleanbible.org/congregationalmeeting. Congregational Booklets will be available for members on Sunday, September 25, at all of our locations.

At the same time, there is also a critical need for face-to-face interaction and ENGAGEMENT, and we're excited to add a new style of Elder Forums that we will host at our church locations for members of our church family to dialogue with church leaders. During our Congregational Meeting, we will share how you can be a part of one of these Elder Forums, if you would like.

I'm excited to move forward with this increase in both access and engagement as we make every effort to edify one another and shepherd well in the Body of Christ.

EARNEST DESIRE

Our Lord modeled servant leadership when he stated plainly, “I have come to serve, not to be served.” By God’s grace, I have endeavored to pattern my own leadership after the model of Christ for many years—in my home, the military, the corporate world, and His church. I am truly honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve our Lord and you, and I eagerly look forward to all He has in store for our church family in the days ahead!

In Christ Alone,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chuck Hollingsworth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "C".

Chuck Hollingsworth

On Behalf of MBC Elders, Lead Pastors, Location Pastors, and Central Ministry Directors