



# MISSION CITY BIBLE CHURCH

BE DISCIPLES. MAKE DISCIPLES.

## STAFFING UPDATE June 2023

About ten months ago, after much prayer and discussion and waiting on the Lord, our elders began a search to fill the vacant Discipleship Pastor position in our church. Since then, we've had extensive conversations with multiple people we thought might have potential for that role. As the discussions progressed, our elders unanimously agreed that we did not have peace that God was giving us freedom to move ahead with any of those people. This was difficult for us because we can clearly see the need for intention, focus, and vision when it comes to our adult discipleship ministries. At the same time, we are not willing to keep moving forward just for the sake of filling a role, no matter how much it may be needed.

While those discussions were happening, our elders were also working through our **TRAINING ~ MULTIPLYING ~ BUILDING** vision for the future that we've been talking about over the past several weeks. We are striving to understand what it means for us as a church to respond to the call of Jesus when he says, "Follow me." In ways we did not see clearly at the time, we now see that the Lord has been weaving those two separate conversations together in a way only He can. We understand the Lord to be showing us a way forward that we not only feel great peace about, but we also feel great excitement, as well.

One of the ways the Lord is leading us forward is through a change in Pastor Jeff's role. Effective immediately, Pastor Jeff is moving into the role of **Lead Pastor of Ministry and Vision** in our church. This means that, over time, Pastor Jeff will move out of his role as our Worship Pastor. If you've been around Mission City long enough to get to know Jeff, you will know that one of the ways the Lord has gifted him is to see the 'big picture' in a way that is helpful to the entire church. As elders, we wholeheartedly affirm that gifting in Jeff. On the flip side, you will also know that Jeff has been a huge blessing from the Lord to our worship ministry since Day 1 of our church. This is what makes a decision like this both easy and hard at the same time.

We want you to know that this is not a decision we have taken lightly. We have prayed, talked, and waited on the Lord. We have also listened as Pastor Jeff has unpacked some of what God has been doing in his life for some time now that has brought him to this point of change. For clarity, this does not mean that Pastor Jeff is now done leading worship at Mission City. He will continue to do so in a transitional capacity until the Lord brings our next Worship Pastor here. Until that happens, please pray with us for God's provision for His church.

When you hear the title, **Lead Pastor of Ministry and Vision**, here's a little of what that means. Pastor Jeff will give leadership and oversight to the ministries of our church, and will work to let the mission, vision, and DNA of Mission City drip into all our ministries in a way that we pray will expand and multiply our kingdom impact as a church, both here at home and across the world, for the glory of God.

This move will also impact Pastor Kevin's role in our church. As Jeff transitions into his new role, Pastor Kevin is now our **Lead Pastor of Preaching and Teaching**. Where much of his time and energy has been given to staff and ministry oversight for the past nine years, that is now moving to Pastor Jeff. Pastor Kevin will give his time and energy to preaching on the weekends, teaching more classes throughout the year, and giving more time and attention to the prayer ministry of our church, as well.

We can tell you, collectively as elders, that not only do we feel a great sense of peace from the Lord about this direction, but we are also very excited for what the Lord has for Mission City Bible Church moving forward. We believe these moves are strategically putting in a position to see God do extraordinary things in this church as we pursue the vision for **TRAINING ~ MULTIPLYING ~ BUILDING** for His glory and fame.

You might be wondering how this solves the problem we set out to address ten months ago. After all, we still need a Discipleship Pastor and now, we need a Worship Pastor, too. That's true. There are some other staff roles that we are still sorting through and praying about. There are still some dominoes the Lord needs to drop before we can talk more openly about those changes. But when we can share that with you, we are very happy to do that and will be glad to tell you how those things are coming together.

The Lord is at work in our midst, and we are seeking to obey him as we walk by faith. Come with us, won't you, as we hear Jesus say, "Follow me."

You are loved,

Your Elders.