

# NEXUS CHURCH

Hi friends, members, and well-wishers of Nexus Church, 🎉

What a winter we have been having! It was hard last week not to be in person, and we missed our church family. I want to let you in on a recent development that I shared with our church board. A pastor and I recently began talking about the potential of exploring the idea of coming together as churches.

## **Ministry Partnership Exploration:**

The idea of ministry partnership is an exploration that we go on; a journey to discern if we, who are two congregations, might come together and become one. Our board was very interested in getting this information into your hands ASAP as we explore it. It's going to be important over the next few Sundays that you attend in person at Nexus as we create space for the conversation. Our Nexus vision has always been to be a strong congregation with senior saints, families, young adults, youth, a strong kids ministry, and outreach ministries, out of which we can plant more churches, do more evangelism, and meet the needs of families in our cities.

There are strengths that they have as a church, and there are strengths that we have as a church. There are a lot of opportunities. There are also many unknowns yet to be discovered for all of us, myself and the other pastor included.

## **Prayer and Fasting Request**

I need you to pray about and fast with us as we explore this possibility. We need time to do the work of discernment. Here's some information I can give you today: They are a mature and solid group of believers. They are a missions-minded church. They have a nice leased facility with classrooms and dedicated spaces for different age groups.

If it seems good to the congregations and the Holy Spirit, there would be a season where there would be two pastors, but Pastor Dave would eventually become the lead pastor for the one congregation, and their current pastor would transition into a pastor emeritus role. We would honor the pastor (a wonderful pastor) and the other church in the process, regardless of the outcome of our exploration.

Over the next few weeks, we will talk about this as a congregation. We will also ask our church to pray with this in mind during our **Wednesday, 7:45 p.m. prayer calls**. I would also like you to fast a meal or the whole day on each of the four Wednesdays in February. Then I'll be inviting you to come with our family when I preach and minister there on **an upcoming Sunday in the month of March**. This is an invitation for both congregations to meet one another. If we move forward, there will be other steps to take as well.

We would still carry our Nexus vision with us, but we would also need to think about the hopes of the other congregation as we maintain our vision. I also want you to express excitement or

concerns you might have as we explore. I want you to know that this is just exploration at this point, but we will explore it all together. I am intentionally not sharing the name and location of the church yet. I will soon. Their church also needs time to process and pray about this potential as well. We love you, and we are believing for God's provision, His promise, and His presence.

So we too lift our eyes to the Lord who has carried us, provided for us, and remains faithful in every season.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Dave Pafford