



Dear EBF Family,

May 2, 2022

Over the past months, the Elders have been discussing with you all the possibilities of either pursuing a new pastor search or merging with another local church body. We have been diligently seeking the Lord's direction and praying over what direction is His will for us. We are grateful for all your very helpful feedback and questions. As we've sought the Lord, He has made things very clear in His provision and how He's guided circumstances.

So, we're excited to announce that on June 5, 2022, EBF will join together with the University Fellowship Church to become one family. UFC's doctrinal position, leadership structure, and culture are very similar to EBF—so much so that several former EBF families found their new church home at UFC. The name of our new family will be University Fellowship Church, Emerald Campus. We felt this name was the best way to leverage the reputation UFC has developed for being the hands and feet of Jesus but also respect and honor the EBF's legacy of impacting the community for Christ.

While there will be some sadness in the identity change, we believe this joining together is the best way for both churches to most faithfully steward the gifts and resources the Lord has provided. UFC brings many young families; strong, Godly leadership; and momentum in accomplishing the Kingdom's work. What they lack to be more effective in God's work is what EBF brings to the table—a known location, a community connection point, and the facilities that will enable more family-oriented ministry activities.

The road ahead brings exciting possibilities for ministry, but it won't be without some growing pains and challenges. Let's welcome our new family members with open arms, grace, and patience as we work through some of the necessary adjustments.

We recognize there inevitably will be some questions that we can't answer in this letter. So in addition to the all-church gatherings we held Sunday May 1st, there will be another one on Sunday May 8th at 11:30. In addition, the UFC pastor, Brett Gilchrist, will be preaching at EBF in the service on May 15th. That evening at 6:00, we will host the entire UFC leadership team for a catered dinner (provided by UFC) so we all can have the chance to get to know one another. Childcare will be provided. Please make every effort to make it to these events.

As always, your Elders want to hear from you. So, if you have questions or would like to discuss this with any of us, please don't hesitate to contact one of us.

In Service to our Lord, Jesus Christ,

Your EBF Elders

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