

April 25th, 2010

Dear Damascus Road Friends and Family

We are encouraged by the responses we've had over the past week following Sunday's announcement of Shane's transition to serve in another church. The Elders and ministry leaders hosted a Family Talk this past Wednesday to address the immediate emotional responses and questions that naturally arise around this sort of moment in the life a church family. We want to share some of that conversation with you that gives guidance to our current process as we seek to honor Shane and give understanding to how we are navigating this transition season.

We also understand that for many of us, this presents opportunity for many feelings and questions to arise that we want to validate and give you a chance to be heard. You should be feeling the things you're feeling, asking the questions you're asking, and getting insight from answers that help you entrust your heart to God in and through the leadership at DRC.

Let me assure you that none of the negative perceptions that come rushing in around why Shane is leaving have any reality in his or our experience together. What you heard him say on Sunday, and what we shared at the family talk on Wednesday night, is us wearing our heart on our sleeve. There's nothing to hide, nor is there any internal disappointment of anything toward DRC from Shane. His decision, in concert with the leadership, was an arduous conversation that had all the right drama of a loving band of friends discussing and discerning a big life decision. We believe, along with Shane, that God is leading him to a situation that will be healthy for him and his family for the next season of their lives and his life work.

We invite you to step in a little closer, let your voice be heard as we go through a process of rediscovering and defining who we are as a church family. Throughout these two years and this past week, this is what we have come to love and know about you, that you are in this for the journey and want to contribute and participate in helping us become the unique family the Father intends us to be.

Thanks for offering us your honesty, your gracious trust, and invested interest in this house's health and future.

On behalf of the Elders and Leadership Team,

Joseph Steinke
Co-Founder and Team Leader
Damascus Road Church