



## Dear Rocky Family,

As many of you heard in this morning's service or via our [online stream](#), our Lead Pastor Shan Moyers announced that he is following God's call to lead Central Christian Church in Phoenix, Arizona.

### **Life is an Adventure.**

When Shan first shared this news, I was truly excited for him. I personally know his passion for people and utmost commitment to following the leading of the Holy Spirit. I firmly believe, as demonstrated time and again throughout the Bible, that each of us (Shan included) have been called to live a life of adventure. Our job as believers is to partner with and follow God as He personally writes each of our stories.

### **Uncertainty and Questions Give Us the Opportunity to Exercise Faith.**

While there is a genuine appreciation for Shan, this chapter of his story at Rocky will come to a close, which can cause feelings of loss and uncertainty. This is normal and healthy. There can also be several questions that come to mind: Who will preach next Sunday? What is the process for selecting a new Lead Pastor? Is Matt Cote a candidate? How long will the selection process take? These are good questions, and I am sure there are others. We can answer some of those questions in the [Rocky Lead Pastor FAQ](#), while others can only be answered as time goes on. The great news is that as we seek answers, we are given the opportunity to exercise and grow corporately in our faith.

### **THREE Principles by Which God Leads His People.**

I encourage all of us to have prayerful hearts and remember the following three principles regarding God and how He leads His people as we look to the future at Rocky.

1. **God's Character** - We know much about God and how He leads from His very name – “YHWH,” or in English “I AM.” The full meaning of His name is better captured by the idea that He is eternally present with us – He was there yesterday, He is here today in this very moment, and He is present tomorrow even though it is yet to come.

Church family, God is with us . . . always has been . . . and always will be. God knows the end from the beginning and already has a plan for Rocky and our future. From my walk as a believer, I can confidently say that God's plan is

always an amazing plan, even though none of us can see what He has in store for the future. The first thing we must do is to keep our eyes on God and rest in his promise that He is here, . . . or as we say here at Rocky, "Keep first things first."

2. **God's Word** - God continually encourages and guides us through His written word. The Psalmist proclaims in Ps. 119:105, "[God's] word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." God promises that He will light our way. We are not promised a well lit, paved Interstate highway with well marked entrance and exit signs. However, we are given a lamp to light the way for our next steps and can be assured we will not stumble if we stay grounded in the principles of His word. As Elders, we are committed to prayer over the next several weeks as we begin the process of selecting and nominating a new Lead Pastor. During this time, Shan and Matt will continue to teach from their series based on John's gospel.
3. **Wise Counselors** - King Solomon penned Proverbs 20:18 from the leadership halls in Jerusalem instructing us that "Plans are established by counsel." Or, as our Rocky values say it – "Go together." Rocky is blessed with a wise group of Elders who shepherd and lead Rocky. It is also blessed with a healthy pastoral team, a Lead Pastor (who by the way is still here and has agreed to help begin the selection process), a founding pastor, Alan Ahlgrim, who is still part of this congregation, and long-time Rocky members. We are tapping each of these resources.

The Elders have been in regular communication since learning of Shan's calling to Central Christian Church in Phoenix, Arizona. We, along with Shan, have met several times and developed a thorough plan for identifying and selecting Rocky's next Lead Pastor as provided in our Bylaws.

Naturally, you may be wondering what the Bylaws say. In summary, the Elders are to present to Rocky the candidate whom they determine meets the qualifications for the Lead Pastor position. Only one candidate at a time may be considered by the congregation, who shall only be called following a two-thirds majority affirmative vote of the congregation.

Finally, as Shan mentioned, the Elders are considering Matt Cote as a candidate to be Rocky's next Lead Pastor. I had the privilege of asking Matt whether he would like to be considered as a candidate. I am pleased to say that he said, "Yes!" We look forward to walking through the interview process with him over the next several weeks.

### **Partner With Rocky in Prayer**

In closing, let us celebrate Shan, his amazing family, and the new chapters being written in all of our lives. Starting now and through the next several weeks join me in prayers of wisdom for our Elders and the leading of the Holy Spirit for Rocky, while remembering that God, the great I AM, has our hand and will be a light unto our path. I will touch base again in the future as the Lead Pastor selection process unfolds. Join me in looking forward to all that lies ahead!

With Deep Regards,

James M. Wittler  
Chair, Elder Board  
Rocky Mountain Christian Church