



Christ Community Church of Denton  
PO Box 2402  
Denton TX 76202

"Showing the Beauty of Jesus to the heart of Denton"

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When we received the clear call to start a new gospel work in Denton, the Spirit gave Heather and me the faith to follow him into the difficult early days of establishing a church.

For 12 years, through 6 locations, hundreds of people, dozens of baptisms, 540 plus sermons, countless counseling sessions, good ideas, (really) bad ideas, weddings, funerals, exhausting heartbreak, and exhilarating celebration, Jesus has sustained and affirmed that calling every step of the way.

A gospel outpost has been forged and will continue to thrive in the heart of Denton, by His strength alone. All glory to Him!

Now the Spirit is giving us fresh faith to follow him in another direction. In unity with the elders, the counsel of close friends, and the support of my amazing wife and kids, I am resigning as Lead Pastor of C3 Denton. My last day will be Sunday, August 29.

A church planter never intends to be the last Lead Pastor, so I've always held this position with an open hand, continually asking God to make it clear when it was time to step aside.

Three years ago, my wife and I began to consider this question in a new light and with greater urgency, as decades of unaddressed emotional pain combined with the pressures of ministry brought me to a place of crippling depression. We wondered if this was God making it clear.

But instead of leading us away, He led me deeper into his grace, and for the first time, I began to experience the healing power of the Gospel over the destructive shame I'd carried with me for much of my life.

That same grace would enable me to pastor through many difficulties over the past 3 years, including the pandemic and the surrounding turmoil.

And now we have made it through (mostly). C3 is in a healthy place. And God's grace is enabling me to let go.

He wants to continue the work of healing he began three years ago, but some broken bones won't mend under the pressures of pastoral ministry. It's time to get a breather and be a sheep.

It's time to bring in someone else to join our elders in pastoring this amazing church.

Reflecting on 12 years of pastoral ministry, there is a lot to celebrate.

- I celebrate a wife who has carried just as much weight as I have (more if you count the burden of dealing with me), yet after 12 years our marriage is stronger than ever.
- I celebrate children who still love me even as they have had front-row seats to my struggles.
- I celebrate C3 Denton, both past and present, for allowing me the space to grow as a pastor, showing me and my family what a gospel community is really like, and providing for our material needs. The privilege has been 100% mine.
- I celebrate understanding elders, my dearest friends who love me as a brother and shepherd my soul. The unity we have together as I step away is a rare grace these days.
- And more than anything, I celebrate Jesus, my King and my Savior, whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light.

We don't know what's next for us, but as long as He leading, we will be okay.

Much Love,  
Ross