

The following is a text copy of the report that Pastor Shaun gave at the Annual Council meeting on Wednesday, January 25th. This report was given on behalf of the Search Committee for the position of Worship Director.

Good evening. And thanks for the chance to share this evening. I am really excited for 2017 here at Five Forks church and some really great opportunities that lay ahead this year. And I have a chance tonight to share one of those opportunities that I have the privilege of being a part of.

And what I am excited about is that over the next several months we will be looking for someone to take over leadership of our youth ministry.

Everybody is biased, but I will tell you that we have the best youth ministry here at Five Forks...mainly because we have the best teenagers and the most dedicated youth leaders and I've had the privilege of serving in our youth ministry for past 7 years. But with some of the changes in staff, we believe now is the time to begin transitioning me out of youth ministry and into a different role.

And as I have shared with our teens and want to share with you...I think it's important to recognize that for me this has nothing to do with any frustrations in the youth ministry or in feeling burnt out or anything like that. I truly love our teens and our youth ministry. At the same time, I have always felt a call to ministry at Five Forks and have always said I want to serve where I, and we as a church, believe I can best serve the congregation at Five Forks. It seems like now is the time that I can better serve the church in some other ways. So I personally look forward to that.

And also important to me is making sure our teens remain a top priority, this transition as we look for a youth director will not happen overnight. It will take as long as is necessary. I don't want our teens to in any way feel abandoned or anything like that. I will continue to serve in youth ministry until we feel like we have a qualified individual. Someone who is passionate about teenagers, passionate about understanding teen culture, and passionate about Jesus and prepared to take leadership of our youth ministry. And I've continued to emphasize to our teens, I am not going anywhere. My office will still be at the same place and I plan to be around to help acclimate our new youth director whenever that time comes.

A word about the title. You'll notice we are promoting this position as director as opposed to pastor. And we've had some helpful conversations about this. A good case can be made for calling this position either a director or a pastor and some of the personality and gifts of the person we hire will determine the way this person functions. But the main reason is that we recognize moving forward as a congregation if we grow as a church and continuing adding staff we won't call every staff person that we hire a pastor. And so in an effort to continue moving in the direction of specialization...we want our titles to reflect the specialized nature of the roles different staff members are fulfilling. Seems like a good time to clarify this title.

Currently we have a committee of 8 individuals, the majority of them are also part of the youth leadership team and including myself, who are in the process of leading the search for a director of youth ministries. We started meeting a few weeks before Christmas to put together a job description and we began publicly promoting our youth director position the first week in January. At this point we have received about 25 resumes that we are in the process of evaluating. Of those

25 we have done a secondary follow up with about 7 individuals. But at this point still in discussions about the strengths and weaknesses of these candidates and whether they fit what we are looking for.

Best case scenario in our minds would be having someone in place by spring (April/May). But also recognizing that if we don't have the right person by then we will have to be patient and this process could take longer than that.

- Pastor Shaun