2022-06-29

To: PCOG Elders / Staff / Faith Family

Re: Notice of Lead Pastor Resignation

It is with a heavy and broken heart that I write this letter of resignation to the Elders and our extended family of faith at the Pendleton Church of God. Sheryl and I have had the privilege and honor of serving GOD and you as His local church and ministry at PCOG for nearly 8 years, and it has been one of the greatest Kingdom assignments of our lives thus far. We love PCOG, its leadership, the people, and everything GOD has done - in and through each of us – together and individually these past 8 years.

Sheryl and I have entered a season that only GOD knew was coming, and HE lovingly began a few months ago to speak to our hearts about what HE was changing in us – what HE was preparing us for – and what HE was about to lead us to. We both baulked pretty hard initially, refusing to even pray about anything HE might be telling us .. if it involved leaving PCOG.

Fast forward a few short months .. my father (83 in Sept) has declined in his health and living conditions exponentially and undeniably. We really thought we had lost him this past month. My Mother turns 80 in Aug, and though she seems to have recovered nicely from her recent surgery – she and her husband too are noticeably losing their health and strength it seems. Couple all this with our miracle grandson Mr. Leo, who is doing great today (PtL!), but now is requiring a pacemaker be put in (they do less than 20 per year in the USA on kids his age). God has made us acutely aware of life changes and urgent needs now before us, that HE is clearly calling us to be a present help for.

Though not our timing or plan, God has surely called us to honor my parents, and live out our next chapters as a voice and testimony to our family that would point them all to HIM.

We believe beyond a doubt, regardless of our will, wants, and plans, that God is asking us to (1) be more present, honoring, and financially supportive of my aging and very ill parent(s), (2) be more intentionally present and engaged and a part of our kids & grandkids’ lives spiritually, (3) be available to help as needed for Leo and his parents as they navigate the coming chapters ahead for him, and (4) continue to live and serve CHRIST all-in and live and share His Kingdom Good News every day .. ALL of which for a season will not be in the same capacity and role that I have known and enjoyed for so long now.

What does any or all of this look like exactly? We have no clue. But we know who does, and we are absolutely having to trust Him through it. God has made it abundantly clear that HE has US, and our journey ahead, well in hand. HE is not worried or nervous, and all HE has asked of us is to trust and obey Him .. and follow His lead once again. We know HE is faithful.

I can testify to the amazing things God has used PCOG to make possible for me (and several others now) through 3DM. It has been life-changing, and I am eternally grateful. I don’t know what the coming weeks and months look like for me – but I know what God has poured into me has changed me and I will be sharing it with every breath God gives me going forward. I am confident that those already in the mix will be able to carry this gift forward throughout the church, as God leads and opens up hearts.

We are not leaving PCOG to pastor a different church or to serve in a new position. God has only given us what HE can trust us with thus far. We have no plan yet – other than to focus and step obediently forward in what He has given us to date. God is NOT done with Sheryl and I – and HE is nowhere near done with our PCOG family and ministry! We humbly ask that you please pray for Sheryl and I, as we follow JESUS forward .. and know that we will be standing with you all in prayer daily – with great expectations for all that GOD has ahead for us all.

If we were writing our storyline, we would selfishly extend our time for a few months, but when we pray, it feels like what GOD is asking of us has some urgency to it. So in alignment with my pastoral obligations, I humbly submit this letter of resignation as my notice of same, making my last day of PCOG employment effectively July 31, 2022. I have complete faith and confidence in the men of God who serve and preach and teach for PCOG, as they love JESUS and His WORD, and they are faithful to preach it without wavering.

Sheryl and I want to thank you all for your love, prayers, kindness, support, care, compassion, shown to us .. and most of all that you for your faithful love for the LORD, and for serving JESUS so faithfully alongside us! We are so honored to have had this blessed opportunity to serve with and for you. Please continue what GOD has begun in you .. keep loving His WORD .. and keep trusting in His Holy Spirit to save and transform lives, one at a time. May God continue to pour out His blessings and power through each of us – as we relentlessly follow our Savior!

Respectfully,

Nate Jackson

**lead pastor**

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**CHURCH OF GOD**

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