

# LETTER FROM PASTOR MATT

*Dear Hope Church Family,*

*It was almost 25 years ago that the Collins family moved from New York to Dubuque. What a ride, thrilling, sad, unexpected, joyful, rough, amazing and fulfilling. I want to thank you for your love and support over the years. Hope has been so good to our family. Thank you for being such a blessing to us.*

*Over four years ago, God placed it on my heart that it was time for me to transition out of senior leadership at Hope. I have prayed about the timing of this transition for a number of years and have discussed it with Carol. At one point, I approached the Elder Board and expressed my desire for Hope to find a younger Pastor who could reach the next generations. I am not tired, burned out or depressed. However, I feel that Hope needs someone with a new vision for reaching the lost generations of this community.*

*I believe God has answered my prayers and conversations with Him. I am pleased to affirm Ross Harrison as the next Senior Pastor of the Hope Church Community. Ross has been through a rigorous process meeting with an outside search firm, our own search team, as well as the Elders and staff. He has made himself vulnerable and humble throughout the whole process. He is warm, caring and thoughtful. I have great confidence with the vetting process that Ross has gone through while continuing his regular work load. He has done a great job since he arrived. He has great chemistry with our Staff, Elders and youth team leaders. He understands Dubuque and the tri-state area, the Hope community and he affirms our vision.*

*Hope Church, as a whole, is in a good place. We have a healthy Elder Board. We have a great staff and committed leaders. Ross will be leading a healthy church. I believe that he has been an important addition to Hope and he will lead with wisdom and humility.*

*After much prayer and consideration, God is opening a new chapter for Carol and me. We are looking to become a part of a new-to-us ministry. We love Hope and know that it will be a challenging step for us to leave and start something new. As we take next steps, I want you to know that I fully support the Senior Pastor search process and believe that Ross will make an excellent Senior Pastor at Hope Church.*

*I love you all,*

*Pastor Matt*