

## **Billings Vineyard Church Board of Directors Affirming Allen Resigning**

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September 27, 2020

Dear Vineyard family,

We love Allen and Jennie. Two years ago when Allen started talking about resigning we spent time talking and praying with him. We discussed what his thoughts were and listened both to Allen and the Holy Spirit. Over the last year it became more evident Allen was sensing the time to resign was closer than we initially thought. He has felt the grace to pastor lift and it is time to transition the church to Adam's leadership. We, as the Board, spent time praying and confirming what Allen was hearing from the Holy Spirit. To that end, we agree unanimously it is the right time for Allen to resign.

Allen has done nothing wrong. He is not being pushed out by the Board. On the contrary, he has served faithfully. Knowing it is time to resign, he is being obedient to the Lord's direction. This has been an incredibly difficult decision for Allen, but, with the support from Jennie and the Board, he resigns knowing the Father is saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

We know Allen's announcement today has been quite a shock and it may cause confusion and frustration. It may seem quite sudden. We want you to know it is okay. The emotions are real, sadness is legitimate, and change is hard. We are with you on this. It has been hard on us, too. We have thoroughly enjoyed serving with Allen and our board meetings, believe it or not, are a lot of fun. To serve the Billings Vineyard Church with Allen has been a great privilege.

We know the work that began with Allen, as founder and pastor of the Billings Vineyard Church, is God's work. We trust Jesus and know his purpose and mission for the Billings Vineyard Church will continue. We, as the Board, ask you stay true to the mission and purpose of the Billings Vineyard Church, give your full support to Adam and his family, and take the time to tell Allen and Jennie how much you love them and thank them for their faithful service.

In this together,

Tiel, Patti, Brad, and Larry

Board of the Billings Vineyard Church

**Dear Vineyard Family,**

Allen shared today that he will be resigning from his position as the Senior Pastor. We know that change can be difficult and want to make sure you have answers to your questions.

**Why is Allen resigning?**

Allen and his family moved to Billings to plant the Billings Vineyard Church in 2005. Over the years God has given him direction and leading on next steps in the life of this church. Over the last two years Allen has been sensing from the Lord that his time as the Senior Pastor is coming to an end. After much prayer, counsel, and discussion with the Board, Allen and the Board agree that now is the right time.

**Where is Allen going?**

Allen and Jennie plan to stay in Billings while their adult children finish up college. Mercie is in the Seattle area working on her PhD. John and his wife, Hopewell, are now in Minneapolis. Hopewell is working on her PhD in Psychology. So Billings is the perfect middle ground to each of the kids. Their hope is to be closer to their kids someday.

**But there must be something else going on!?**

We recognize that change is difficult and sometimes it is easy to expect fault and blame. But there is truly no problem, no one is at fault, and there is definitely no blame. Allen has sensed that it is time to step down as the Senior Pastor and he is being obedient to that call.

**Is Allen leaving right away?**

No. Allen will continue on staff with the church through the end of the year. He will assist Adam during the transition and he will preach a few more times. We plan to have a celebration for Allen and Jennie on December 29th. After that Allen and Jennie will take six months away from the church to allow the Billings Vineyard Church time to transition to Adam as the Senior Pastor. This is common among churches during the transition of a Senior Pastor.

**So what is the timeline?**

The Board prayerfully and thoughtfully offered the Senior Pastor position to Adam Greenwell. Through prayer, discussion with Jenna and their daughters, and discernment of the Holy Spirit's call, he has accepted the position. We will pray for Adam and his family and install him as our Senior Pastor on October 4th. Allen will continue on the pastoral staff through the end of December.

**What else is going to change?**

Nothing. We will still have service on Sundays, small groups will start in October, we will have the annual Thanksgiving Meal Outreach, and we will celebrate Advent together.

**Who do I call if I need something?**

As usual, you may contact the church office at (406) 259-8463 or send an email to [info@billingsvineyard.org](mailto:info@billingsvineyard.org). We hope that you will reach out to Adam, the board members (Patti Zuck, Tiel Eberly, Brad Hudson, Larry Severa), or ministry leaders if you have questions as well. We also have a team of intercessors and you can send them your prayer requests through our website: [Billingsvineyard.org/connect](http://Billingsvineyard.org/connect).

**Where can I send Allen a note?**

[Allen.hodges.333@gmail.com](mailto:Allen.hodges.333@gmail.com)

**How can we pray?**

- Unity and protection of our church family.
- Encouragement for Allen and Jennie through this transition.
- Courage, strength, and humility for Adam and his family as they take the lead of our church.

In this together,

Tiel, Patti, Brad, and Larry

Board of the Billings Vineyard Church