



On Monday morning, I received a call offering me the opportunity to become the senior pastor of the Foley United Methodist Church in my home state of Alabama. Susanna and I have accepted this new appointment and will be leaving WordServe Church and relocating to the suburbs of Gulf Shores, AL, this June.

This decision has been really challenging and is not one we've made lightly. However, it has become clear to me that God's hand is in this and that this is the next right step for WordServe and for my family.

At the end of last summer, I told the congregation that I believed with my whole heart that WordServe was standing at the beginning of the greatest season that the church has ever known. When I said those words, I had no idea that part of the transition the church would go through would include a change in pastoral leadership. Yet, over these last few months, it has become clear that after seven-plus years my season of leading WordServe is done, and it is time for a change. Receiving the call offering me a new appointment in Alabama was just the final confirmation.

The great news in this is that the mission of WordServe goes on. If WordServe was built on me or dependent on me, then we've never really had a church. What makes WordServe great is you and your commitment to guiding people to grow as joyful servants of Jesus. I know that God has great plans for WordServe, and as you continue your commitment to him and the mission of WordServe, God will do even greater things in and through this church and in our community.

Last night our District Superintendent, Rev. Jay Jackson, met with members of our Church Council to share with them information about my departure and the process by which the church will receive a new pastor. The Texas Annual Conference is deeply committed to WordServe, and as a testimony to what God has done here and your faithfulness, they have committed to send the absolute best pastor possible to continue leading WordServe forward. They believe that what has begun here has the potential to be even greater, and they are doing what they can to advance it. (In the United Methodist Church, pastors are assigned by our bishop to congregations using the biblical model of Titus 1 and Acts 15.) In the coming weeks, we look forward to announcing who the bishop will send as WordServe's new lead pastor.

I am still 100% convinced that the greatest season of WordServe's life is ahead of her. With new leadership and new vision, I believe that the mission of WordServe will go on and will flourish in ways that are bigger and better than we can imagine. It is hard to imagine that Susanna and our kids won't be a part of the future of WordServe, but we know that God is faithful and we trust what he is doing in and through WordServe and where he is leading us.

Serving with you and launching WordServe together has been one of the greatest joys of my life. I so value and love each and every one of you. I look forward to our remaining months together and to sharing in the work of preparing WordServe for the next glorious chapter that God has in store.

Joyfully,
Nolan