

Senior Pastor Annual Report 2022

Introduction

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I write to share with you the various ways that I have sought to faithfully execute my office of Senior Pastor here at CBC in 2022. I've broken this annual report into four different sections: personal, preaching/teaching, shepherding, and administration.

Personal

This year brought unique challenges for me. Specifically, during the late summer, I experienced increased levels of depression and anxiety. Encroaching fears would come out of nowhere, and I didn't want to get out of bed many mornings. Once I started to talk to others about it, I realized that this soul sickness had been building for months. I trace these symptoms to spiritual exhaustion. I was running on fumes for many months and didn't know it. We simply cannot pour out unless the Lord fills our cup. My cup was empty, and I was feeling it. By the grace of God, I'm doing much better. I've adjusted my schedule so that I spend the mornings at home where I read and pray. This has worked wonders for my soul.

My verse of the year has been Jas 1:5: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." Many pastoral situations arise in which I do not know how to respond. So often I tell the Lord, "Help me, Lord. I'm not sure what to do." I have meditated a lot this year on Jas 1:5. If you think of me, please pray this passage for me.

Prayer has been a greater solace to me this year than in years past. I think the difficulties of life along with our study of the Psalms have led me more to prayer. This book of the Bible is basically a compilation of prayers. That was a big takeaway I had. Psalms give us the freedom to pour our hearts out to the Lord. There's nothing more therapeutic than raw, honest prayer to our Sovereign King. Through prayer, God heals our souls. I've experienced that soul-healing.

Preaching/Teaching

My main responsibility continues to be preaching and teaching. My plan for the rest of the fall is to continue in Acts. For 10/30, I plan on preaching a sermon that the Reformation. I like to do this every year at the end of October. I may break up the Acts series again with a short study (one to two months) on the attributes of God. This year I taught two Sunday school classes: one on spiritual gifts and another on church membership. I plan to teach a Sunday School class in the new quarter on the book *Strange New World* by Carl Trueman. If there is one extra-biblical book Christians *need* to read right now, it's this one. Trueman unpacks how we arrived at our LGBTQ+ moment in our culture. This should be required reading for Christians. Caleb Nordquist (big thanks to him) and I have led Senior High AWANA for the past two years. We're currently teaching worldview. I lead the Thursday morning women's Bible study. We are investigating the book of Revelation. This has been a wonderful study for me personally. I've learned a lot. Also, I've been able to connect more with the wise *sheologians* who are in that

study. I continue writing the “From Pulpit and Paper” handouts. I enjoy writing these, and I hope they bless you. Along with my teaching schedule, I spend one to two hours per day reading and studying the Bible and other material that informs my faith.

Shepherding

Meeting with members and non-members over lunch hour continues to be a staple of my weekly schedule. I spend more time with certain men in our church to disciple them toward the path of leadership in our church. I’m convinced that one of the most pressing needs of our church is for godly male leadership. We need more men shepherding, teaching, and counseling. I spend a lot of my pastoral time thinking, praying, and addressing this need in our church. Hospitality remains an effective avenue for ministry. The Lord has opened my eyes more to the importance of having members over for dinner and fellowship. There’s no substitute for hospitality. Counseling has become more of a responsibility for me since Pastor Jesse’s departure. The Lord has granted me good counseling opportunities that I’ve seen Him work through—in both my life and in the lives of others.

Administration

My administration duties consist of the various day-to-day, week-to-week matters (writing/responding to e-mails, participating in staff and elder meetings). Since Jesse’s departure, much of the increased administrative duties have fallen on Virginia, Jenn, and Roxanne. They have shouldered these new responsibilities very well. Our staff do a phenomenal job assisting and helping me.

Conclusion

I am a sinner in daily need of the grace of God. I am an imperfect man with many, many flaws. Pastoral ministry has a way of making a pastor very aware of those flaws. And yet God chooses flawed, sinful pastors to accomplish His glorious purposes in and through the local church. As Paul says, “We have this treasure in jars of clay to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us” (2 Cor 4:7). That is who I am—a jar of clay. I thank you for the opportunity you have given me, a man with many shortcomings, to pastor CBC. God is moving and working in our midst. I see that every day.

For the glory of God,
Pastor Chance