

Dear Church Family,

On Sunday, January 24, we had announced that the Senior Pastor candidate we were going to introduce to the congregation withdrew himself from consideration at the last moment. Be assured that there was nothing surprising or concerning that came out about the candidate late in the process. Likewise, there were no problems that the candidate had with Wheaton Bible Church. In fact, it was quite the opposite.

What it came down to was this: The candidate just could not bring himself to leave his current congregation. The Elders did not have a problem with his reason for withdrawing; however, we were surprised and disappointed by the timing. But that was beyond our control.

In light of our situation, the Elders will increase the number of times we meet each month in order to pray, to discuss, and to formulate our thoughts and decisions. Looking ahead, the Elders will take the month of February to pray and deliberate. Already, we have outlined key questions and issues we must address. In early March, we will bring a high-level update to the congregation. After Easter, we hope to have more concrete plans to share.

I believe that, as a church, we have an opportunity to grow in our dependance upon the Lord and in our unity with one another. We are confident in our Lord's ongoing provision for our church and would ask for your prayers as we plan next steps.

I hope you find comfort in the words of Romans 15:5.

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

In Christ, **John Walker** Elder Board Chairman