

I really don't even know how to begin this letter to you, except to say; THANK YOU. Yesterday, on Easter Sunday, the range of emotions I was feeling was off the charts. Knowing that was the last Easter Sermon I will probably ever preach at HLBC, I think it all finally hit me. After more than 16 years as your pastor, it's hard to imagine leaving you dear sweet people. Even though I know God is leading us and you to a new and fresh season in our lives, stepping away is no less painful.

Cheryl, nor I, anticipated the kind act of love you showed to us at the end of our service yesterday. The gifts were beautiful, and we are so grateful, beyond what I could ever express. We shall treasure them for the rest of our lives. Even more, we will keep with us the precious and uncountable memories of your love and support for us through all these years. Your new pastor is going to be so blessed as he and his family experience your genuine, heartfelt love as we have known over our years of work with you.

I will be 68 this November coming. While I have never thought of age as a deciding factor for a pastor's retirement, and still don't, it simply feels to Cheryl and me like the right time for us to move into a new chapter of our lives as God is leading. After all, we can't expect God to write the next chapter in our lives if we don't open the page. Cheryl and I are ready for that next chapter from the Master's pen.

I will be here preaching and ministering a short while longer. I have and will continue to help the Pastors Search Team (PST), in that process. And on that day, when you have either called your new pastor, or the PST and I feel they are far enough along to no longer require my help, I will ultimately step away. Only God knows when that day will come, but we will all know as God directs. I have said I will stay to help—I want to, but no longer than October 31st of this year. Perhaps even well before then, if the PST no longer requires my assistance.

Again, we are thankful for the endless and priceless memories we have made together through the years. We love each of you so very much. I've always said to you and all others: Harbour Lake folks are the best folks in the world. I still believe that and always will.

I encourage you to be praying for the PST and the man and his family that God already knows will be your next pastor. If you welcome him and eagerly follow his leadership the way you have done with me, he will be blessed beyond what he could ever measure.

Finally, I want you to always remember this above all else, while I am moving on, God is staying put. He's not done with you HLBC—not by a long shot. In the words of God's spokesman, Jeremiah: *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."* **(Jeremiah 29:11-13)**

Until All The Nets Are Full,
Pastor Jimmy Fuller