

## Letter to Nashville First Baptist Church

Church family, I love you. Each of you has played a part in making this local expression of the Church feel like home for our family. My family has been a blessed inheritor of your encouragement, support, care, provision, and love. I pray we have been able to reciprocate that to you in some measure. The Lord very clearly called us to Nashville First Baptist Church to serve students and their families. It has been my joy and privilege to live out that calling over these past four years. I am grateful that God in His kindness and sovereignty has allowed my family to be a part of this church family. We are incredibly excited for the days ahead at Nashville First.

As Meredith and I have continued seeking and following the Lord where He leads, He is undeniably guiding us toward a new ministry assignment. With this, I am resigning from my role at Nashville First as Minister to Students and Recreation. I have accepted the call from Church at the Oaks in Tuscaloosa, Alabama to serve as their Associate Pastor of City Engagement and Next Generations. The Oaks is a three-year-old church plant in The Well Church Network affiliated with NAMB's Send City Network. Since being contacted by their Elders and search team, the Lord has been gracious and kind to guide us with clarity and wisdom about this decision. On one hand, we are eager for the Lord to use us for His glory and the good of those around us. On the other hand, the thought of leaving you aches us. You are family to us, in every sense of the word, and we deeply love you. We know the Lord has brought Pastor Thomas and his family to Nashville First. Meredith and I are incredibly excited about how God will work through this local body of believers.

My final day will be Sunday, July 14. We will have some time to be with you, reminisce, dream, and share our eager expectation and hope for how Christ will be honored here in this surely coming season of harvest. I will have a chance to spend time with the students in camp and other activities in my final days at Nashville First. Your students are so precious to me, and it has been an honor to be their minister. I am already praying for the person God has prepared to be their next minister. We are grateful to God that you are the church family that will be sending us out.

Though we will be stepping away soon, we are running the same race and striving for the sake of the same Mission. It is in that spirit that I want to close with these words from Jesus in Matthew 9: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

Thank you. I love you.

For His Glory Alone,

Caleb Cummings