



**BIG VALLEY GRACE**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

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September 22, 2019

Dear Church Family,

This letter is a follow-up to the communication that was given in our worship gatherings on the weekend of September 21/22. We encourage you to watch the video of Pastor Rick's weekend message by going to [bigvalleygrace.org/messages](http://bigvalleygrace.org/messages).

At the beginning of 2019, Pastor Rick was in early conversations with then chairman of the Elder Board and executive pastor regarding his desire to transition out of the role of Senior Pastor to another role at the church. In July 2019, Pastor Rick sent a letter to all church members announcing his intention to run for Mayor of Modesto in the 2020 election. In that letter he stated that he intended to remain Senior Pastor of Big Valley Grace, whether or not he won the election. Through continued prayer and much Godly counsel, and with the full support of the entire Elder Board, Pastor Rick has decided to expedite his transition from Senior Pastor into a different role on the pastoral staff, which would include remaining a member of our pastoral teaching team and assisting the new Senior Pastor.

A transition team, appointed by the Elder Board, has been working with professional consultants over the last few months to develop a formal transition plan. Together, they have determined that the search for the next Senior Pastor of Big Valley Grace will begin immediately so that he might be in place as early as June 2021.

Though we do not currently know how long it will take to find our next Senior Pastor, we are committed to updating you when there is more information to share. We anticipate that our next update will occur in early 2020.

God is doing incredible things in and through the people of Big Valley Grace Community Church. We look forward to what He will do in the days, months, and years ahead. We ask that you remain in prayer for our church, for this transition period, and for the selection of our next Senior Pastor.

Blessings,

Pastor Rick & The Elder Board of Big Valley Grace Community Church