

November 3, 2003

Dear College Park Members,

In preparation for this weekend, I would like for all of us to pray -- pray that we are truly doing God's will in calling Jeff Allen as our new Associate Pastor of Students & Families. Your Search Committee and I are convinced that this is indeed the case, but we need to continue to pray for God's guidance! Secondly I would ask that you be in attendance for morning worship this Sunday, if at all possible. This is going to be a wonderful time of worship as we remember our Veterans, share in the baptism of four precious children, share communion together, and welcome Jeff and Jennifer to College Park!

Sunday afternoon, beginning at 4:00 p.m., parents of children (children are welcome too) and parents of youth will have an informal time of question/answer/visit with Jeff and Jennifer in the Adult One area. At 5:30, Jeff and Jennifer will eat supper with our youth, and then share with the youth during the Discipleship hour (6:00-7:00 p.m.). Beginning at 7:00 p.m., we will have a church-wide "dessert fellowship" in Smith Hall. This is a time when all of us can extend a warm hand of greeting to this wonderful young couple.

In accordance to our constitution, we will actually wait until the following Sunday, November 16, to vote regarding the call of Jeff Allen. We will do this at the beginning of the service during the Welcome and Ministry Highlights time. If the vote is affirmative, then we will issue a call to Jeff Allen as our new Associate Pastor of Students & Families. Upon his acceptance of this call, we will then have a chance to identify a starting date!

In conclusion, let me just say a personal word of thanks to our Search Committee. This group did a wonderful job of exploring a large number of candidates from around the world (literally) who applied for this position of service. I am convinced that God has brought us together with Jeff at this point in our church history so that we can expand our children's ministry, continue to explore new ways of reaching youth, and investigate new ways to reach out to the college students in our area. He has the gifts and desire to help lead us in these areas, and I am looking forward to his arrival at 1701 Polo Road!

Sincerely, Ramon Smith

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