

Staff,

I'm aware May is naturally a month of transitions. Winter gives way to spring. Seniors graduate. Kids go from days of structure and school to summer activities. It tends to be a season for change and our staff team is no exception.

First, there are three external transitions which are impacting our administrative team in particular.

- The first is the anticipation of Pastor Jonny starting with us. We've known he will office primarily out of the Bridge and we will need someone on site to provide hospitality and administrative support for our team there.
- Nichole Kelderman has understandably decided to focus on her family and life in Sioux Center. A couple weeks ago she graciously gave her notice and will be wrapping up her work with us by mid to late June. Obviously her person and her talent will be missed!
- Finally, we anticipate transitioning to a new church management system this summer, which we believe will be easier for everyone to work with.

These anticipated transitions led to two strategic decisions.

- The first was to create a full-time Communications and Graphic Design position. For our effectiveness in outreach and communication across multiple sites, we believe it is important to have a dedicated team member with high levels of expertise who can take our message across multiple platforms, providing a coherent look and strategy.
- Two administrative positions have been created:
 - A full time Administrative position at the Meredith Drive campus will oversee the migration of the church management software, provide administrative support to staff and manage the office.
 - A part time Admin at the Bridge admin will provide support to Bridge staff, coordinate facility requests and assist with administrative overflow.

These decisions have obviously had ramifications for our current staff. Jane Fletcher has made the decision to retire after years of valuable service. Her final day is tentatively scheduled to be June 6th, although she may assist us with projects through the transition. In addition, Beth Draheim will take the Admin position for Meredith Drive, bringing her substantive skills and history with MDRC to bear in this new capacity.

While this wasn't exactly the timing we would have chosen, we do believe it provides the best support for MDRC as a whole. I would ask for your patience and grace as we walk our way through these changes. We look forward to celebrating Jane and welcoming new members to our team. A pastor I admire used to say, "You never know what God is doing next, but you can always be sure of His heart." We do indeed continue to trust in God's faithfulness.

Blessings,
Suzanne