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Dear Church Family,

Two years ago Mario and Angela Pauley started attending our church. At that time, we were beginning to seek God's will and blessing on our student ministry and the person He would call to lead it. After a few months we had interviewed a couple potential candidates, but were not any closer to finding our next student ministry leader. We were dedicated to prayer and patience. I happened to strike up a conversation with Mario at the VBS pool party, and it became evident that he might be the person God was preparing to lead our students. As the search committee continued to pray and discuss what we needed, Mario became the candidate we were most interested in and excited about. And to make a long story short, he was hired.

Over the last 17 months Mario has served the Lord faithfully at FBC as our Student Ministry Director. We are grateful for God's plan and provision. He has brought stability and strength to the ministry and to the staff. And so, it is with sadness that we must inform you that he has decided not to continue in that role.

Over the last several months Mario has been in much prayer about his calling, seeking to discern whether or not this call to serve as student ministry director is unquestionably the focus of his life and work. In the end, he concluded that, while he would love to serve as a volunteer in the student ministry, the primary role of leading it wasn't his unique and special calling. In the end we are extremely grateful and glad. Not only have we enjoyed Mario's ministry over the last year, but we are blessed that he will continue to volunteer in the Student Ministry as time and opportunity allow.

Mario came to this decision earlier in the year. He had announced his upcoming transition to his youth leaders in early March, and we were planning on sending the church body a letter after I returned from El Salvador. However, because of the changes that the Covid Crisis brought, we decided to wait a bit longer to make any announcements about Mario's position. Since the shut downs have lasted longer than we expected, we felt it was time to make the announcement. Mario will continue as Student Ministry Director through the month of May. Beginning in June, Seth will begin working with the Student Ministry Council and Volunteers to continue our outreach and ministry to Junior High and High School students.

Please pray for the Pauleys. Even though they aren't leaving, it will still be an emotional adjustment. Pray for the staff and leadership as well. We will begin the search for a Student Ministry Director soon, and desire all the wisdom and guidance God can give. It is, and always has been, our firm commitment to provide excellent ministry and a safe, secure and stable environment to the youth of our community through the ministry of FBC. With God's help and blessing, we will continue to do that.

In Christ,

Pastor Luke