

May 11, 2021

To the Elders and the church body at Cross Community Church,

It is with truly mixed emotions that I submit my resignation as an elder at Cross Community Church. For more than eight years, God has provided Christian fellowship, ministry opportunities and important, vital ministry to me and my wife through CCC. We have been loved and served, we have been given opportunity to serve and love, and through all of that, God has provided rich blessings to us.

Though at this point we don't know what the future looks like for us, I believe our Father has made it very clear that He is leading us to walk another path in pursuit of Him. There has been no offense or hurt, there is no negative reason for this leaving. We simply believe that God is leading us to study and grow in a direction that diverges in areas from the doctrines held by CCC. I am excited to be pursuing relationship with God in this new direction. So, to be true to what I believe is God's calling on me and my wife, while avoiding potential conflict or divisiveness, I feel I must step down from any position of leadership.

To be clear, this move is not a repudiation or condemnation in any way of the ministry of Cross Community Church or of its' leaders. I have been honored and privileged to serve these past years, both as a deacon and as an elder, with fine groups of men who are servant leaders and whom I count as good friends. I believe the congregation is in good hands. I will continue to pray for the success of CCC in ministry to Poteau and surrounding communities in growing fully-devoted disciples of our Savior.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service. It has been my privilege and pleasure.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Russell Smith