



July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Hello fellow pastors,

As many of you know, I had been a pastor for over 25 years, before ministering at Focus on the Family and at the AGC. My heart has always been beating for the local church.

A while ago, the Campus Church Bathurst, approached me about assuming the role of Lead Pastor, as David Payne was retiring. This idea caught me off guard. I was quite happy in my role with the AGC. Aware of the conflict of interest in my role as Superintendent, I encouraged them to post for the position and consider a variety of applicants, which they did. After processing applicants, they were not feeling comfortable in moving forward with any of them. At that point, I gave the recommendation for them to consider a candidate I thought would do a great job. After a few interviews, they did not sense God's leading in that direction. Now, months later, they approached me again and asked me to apply for the position, which I did. Part of my discernment in this process was their discernment. After several meetings, they indicated that they felt I was God's man for this role. David Payne had been ministering there for 32 years. They discerned that they wanted a *seasoned* person, who would be sensitive to, and ready to build on David's wonderful legacy at The Campus. On June 25<sup>th</sup>, I preached for a call and was successfully voted in.

For those of you who were at our June conference, you will remember our theme – Chasing the Lion based on Mark Batterson's book. This concept was instrumental in my return to the pastorate. Moving back onto the "front lines" of ministry, so to speak, was intimidating to me for a variety of reasons, reasons all of you know so well. The Campus is a complex leadership situation, (one church – three locations), and for me will be a significant challenge. But, I am reminded of "The Lion Chaser Manifesto" – that the purpose of life is not to arrive safely at death. If our dreams don't scare us they are too small. Getting back on the front lines will be scary, but will drive me to my knees. As I "*run to the roar*" I will appreciate your prayers for me and my family.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my three plus years as Superintendent. Bill Fietje has been the finest leader I have had the privilege of working with. Russ, Glenn and Del have been wonderful brothers in our tour of duty. Donna and Susan have been delightful to work with. It has been a privilege to serve you as pastors. I will cherish this last period of my life and ministry as Superintendent. I have deepened old relationships, begun new friendships, and seen God work in mighty ways through all of you as pastors and leaders. I will miss you, but I am still part of the AGC family and, as the Lord gives strength, I will be involved in helping our beloved AGC Association become – "A Movement of Healthy Reproducing Churches!"

With love and appreciation,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Laird Crump". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laird Crump  
Canada East Superintendent