

Mountair Community,

When our family moved to Edgewater over a year ago, we did not know what the year would hold but we knew that God had a plan. Part of my role at Mountair over the last year has been community outreach in the Edgewater area. Our hope was to build relationships with community members and transition them into the church community at Mountair.

As we developed relationships we realized that there are great assets in Edgewater as well as great needs. As I met with community members and built relationships God laid it on my heart to start a community development organization called Edgewater Collective. The heart behind Edgewater Collective is to connect the needs in Edgewater with the great assets.

The more I have connected in Edgewater, I have realized that my real passions lie in community development and not in leading a church. I have never really seen myself as a lead pastor. I sense God leading me to use my gifts in innovation, networking and leadership outside the church.

As Mountair continues its transition with the departure of Trevor, I will not be applying for the Lead Pastor position at Mountair. The church will begin the process of looking for a new pastor with the hope of that person being in place by November 1. At that point, I will step into a full-time role with Edgewater Collective. Our family will also be transitioning to another church where our children can have relationships with kids their own age. As they enter their pre-teen years, positive peer relationships are essential for their spiritual development.

My deepest hope is that we can find a pastor for Mountair that can lead this church through this transition, help it flourish and impact the community for Jesus Christ.

With love and gratitude,

Joel Newton