

**Dear Church Family,**

It's with mixed emotions that I am writing to let you know that this morning, Central Baptist Church officially voted to not merge with Second Story Church. While 65% of Central Baptist did vote for the merger, the threshold for passing this vote as set by the Central Baptist Board of Stewards was 75% – thus it did not pass.

As a result, I want to share an important update about our worship gatherings as we continue walking faithfully through a season of discernment together.

Over the past months, Central Baptist Church and Second Story Church have been worshipping together while prayerfully exploring the possibility of a future merger. That season has been meaningful, relational, and—at times—challenging for both communities.

As those conversations have now come to a close, our leadership teams believe the healthiest next step is for Central Baptist and Second Story to resume separate worship services.

Seasons of discernment are often difficult. They can surface differences, strain relationships, and create real relational fatigue. Our hope in taking this step is not to ignore those realities, but to create space for healing, clarity, and renewed attentiveness to God's leading within each congregation.

We are deeply grateful for the relationships that have formed during this shared season, and we remain committed to navigating this transition with grace, humility, and pastoral care for everyone involved.

Central Baptist Church will be worshipping at 9:30AM and Second Story will be meeting separately for worship at 11:00AM. For the moment, Second Story will be continuing to meet at Central Baptist. However, we are actively engaged in the search for a new home and we will be sure to keep you up to date on that process.

In the meantime, we invite you to pray for both congregations—for wisdom, peace, and a renewed sense of God's presence as we take this next step.

With gratitude and hope,

Pastor Seth Hinrichs