

Message from the Belvedere Family Church Council: Dr. Kone will be moving on

Susan Bouachri
May 11, 2021



Dear Community,

Spring has sprung, and the pandemic begins to abate. May the hope of this new season encourage you! The BFC Council sends its greetings and best wishes! We have been hard at work, and would like to share the following updates.

First of all, thank you to community members who participated in the Pastor Review survey which was sent out in March. We received 39 written responses and several phoned-in responses. We collected the input and drew up a summary document. It reflected your appreciation, as well as suggestions for improvement. The results were shared with Dr. Kone in late March. Both the Council and Dr. Kone are grateful for your input.

Around the same time in late March, Dr. Kone was offered a full time position as Chairman of the Doctoral Program at UTS. Though Dr. Kone has had a part-time commitment in this role at UTS for some time, it's been decided that a full time commitment is required for their program to move forward. For this reason, Dr. Kone will be moving on from Belvedere Family Church when his new position officially begins on July 1, 2021.

The Council wishes to express deep gratitude to Dr. and Mrs. Kone for their service to the Belvedere Family community over the last six years. It is our sincere hope that even as his position changes, the Kone family will remain in the community and be present with us. Dr. Kone will always be honored as our former Pastor. We look forward to future sermons he feels called to share - his stimulating sermons were a highlight for many.

As for the future leadership of Belvedere Church: under the guidance of President and Subregion 1 Director Naokimi Ushiroda, and District Pastor Rev. Edner Pierre-Louis, the BFC Council will conduct a limited, targeted Pastor Search over the next two months. The Council has already initiated outreach to a number of qualified individuals to seek candidates. We will conduct interviews, review recommendations, and invest in prayerful consideration, to identify an appropriate candidate. We recognize however that the final selection of new leadership will be conferred by the Subregional Director and District Pastor.

If there is a gap between the time Dr. Kone steps down, and a new pastor is installed, we have Assistant Pastor Justin Okamoto to step in. Justin will be applying for the role of Pastor as well.

If you wish to encourage a candidate to apply for the Pastor role, let them know! They can apply by sending their resume and two recommendation letters to the Council at council@belvederefamily.com. The deadline to submit applications is May 30th.

Thank you,

Susan Bouachri, Chair, BFC Council