

My Pastoral Vision and Mission for Our Shared Journey

After His resurrection, Jesus met Peter by the sea—not to condemn him, but to restore him. Peter had denied Jesus and momentarily forsaken his primary calling. Yet in grace and intentional love, Jesus asked him three times—a number symbolizing fullness and restoration—"Do you love me?" (John 21:15-17). Each time Peter affirmed his love, Jesus responded with the same charge: "Feed my lambs... Tend my sheep... Feed my sheep." In this exchange, Jesus made it unmistakably clear that the truest demonstration of love for Christ, the Head and Owner of the Church, is faithful care for His people. Pastoral ministry, therefore, begins not with authority, but with love expressed through nurturing, feeding, guiding, and equipping God's flock.

It is in this spirit that I come to this church—with deep gratitude to God and a profound sense of calling. I arrive not merely as an appointed pastor, but as a servant, a leader, and a fellow pilgrim—bringing with me the gifts God has entrusted to me: pastoral care, spiritual leadership, and hospitality. My heart's desire is simple yet sacred: to nurture God's people, to walk with you, and to help this community grow into all that God has already imagined for it.

At the core of my calling is the conviction expressed so clearly by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:12-13: my primary responsibility as your pastor is to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. Ministry does not belong to the pastor alone—it belongs to all of us. My role is not to replace your faithfulness, but to strengthen it; not to do all the work, but to help you discover and live out your God-given callings.

I want to be clear from the beginning: I am not here to undo or diminish the good work that God has already been doing through you. I honor the ministries, traditions, relationships, and faithful labor that have shaped this church. I come to join hands with you, to build upon what is already alive and faithful among you, and to move forward together in the spirit of our shared identity—Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.

Our mission remains clear and compelling: to serve and share the love of God by nurturing personal faith through Jesus Christ, promoting unity among believers, deepening our membership in God's family, and living out Christian service through acts of justice, mercy, and loving obedience—both within the church and in the wider community. We are called not only to believe, but to belong; not only to worship, but to witness; not only to gather, but to go.

As your pastor, I commit myself to preaching the Word faithfully, teaching the faith thoughtfully, and caring for you compassionately, relying always on the strength the Lord provides. I am here to listen, to pray, to encourage, and to walk with you in moments of joy, struggle, discernment, and growth. My door—and my heart—are open. Please feel free to reach out to me at my phone number for counseling and prayer.

Together, trusting in God's grace, guided by the Holy Spirit, and united in love, we will grow into a community that reflects Christ more fully fed by the Good Shepherd, equipped for ministry, rooted in faith, united in purpose, and sent into the world to love and serve. When we do our part, the LORD will do His part by adding to us daily, both spiritually and numerically, as it was in the early church: "...the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Ayodele Ode