

**FULLERTON FREE CHURCH—**

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2026 Lead Shepherd Transition Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why is Darin transitioning out of Fullerton Free church?**
This decision comes from a shared recognition that, over time, there have been meaningful differences between Darin and the Elders in how trust, leadership, and shared discernment are understood and practiced. While the Elders feel there has been mutual respect and a shared desire to serve faithfully, it has become clear that these differences impact how we lead together as a church. With that in mind, Darin has chosen to conclude his ministry as lead shepherd and will conclude his time in that role on June 7, 2026, believing this transition allows both him and the church to move forward in a way that is healthy and aligned for the next season.
2. **Is this transition the result of any moral failure or a conflict over theology?**
No, not at all.
3. **What is Darin transitioning to?**
Darin does not have a next role to announce. He and Shannon are holding that uncertainty openly while he looks for leadership opportunities that can help shape the future of the Church in a changing world. He is confident that God will open new doors in time.
4. **Who is going to be leading the church after he leaves?**
The Elders will provide oversight and guidance in partnership with our staff during this interim season. Preaching, staff leadership, operations, and pastoral care will be shared across a multi-leader model with Elders, staff, and ministry leaders as the church moves forward together.
5. **When is Darin's last day as our Lead Shepherd?**
The leadership transition begins immediately, and Darin remains focused on key duties to set us up for the future as his ministry with us concludes June 7, 2026.
6. **Will Darin continue to teach during this transition period?**
Yes, Darin is scheduled to teach on May 17 and June 7.
7. **Will there be changes to church programs or ministries or governance structure?**
In the near term, the Elders' focus is on the health and care of this community, not structural change. Most programs and ministries will continue as they are. Some newer initiatives may be paused while the church settles into this season of clarity and formation.
8. **Will the Elders begin a search committee immediately?**
Not immediately. The Elders feel called to prioritize the health of the congregation and staff before turning attention to a search process. We want to listen well, strengthen what is here, and then discern the right path and pace for what comes next.

2026 Lead Shepherd Transition Frequently Asked Questions Cont.

9. How can I stay informed about what's going on at the church during this time?

Stay connected with staff, Elders, and leaders in your community groups. We will increase our communication during this season — watch for emails, in-service announcements, family business meetings, and other gatherings as they are scheduled.

10. How can I be involved and support our church in this season?

Pray. Refuse gossip. Stay engaged. Extend grace to one another and to your leaders. The Church has always moved forward on the faithfulness of His people showing up — this season is no different.