

## **Important Message from the Lead Pastor**

*Article posted on Tuesday, October 02, 2007*

Dear Mars Hill Members,

As we excitedly approach the eleventh anniversary of Mars Hill Church and open up 3,400 new seats with seven new services we are calling all of Mars Hill to a season of celebration, pruning and faithfulness. We celebrate what Jesus is doing and the opportunities He has laid before us as a church to expand His Kingdom. We also need to allow Jesus to prune us through personal repentance where necessary and a renewed commitment to being on mission with Him.

Additionally we need to respond faithfully as a church body in all areas of our life. This pruning and faithfulness includes the leaders of the church and leads to difficult decisions we must make for the good of the whole church and Jesus' mission.

It is thus with sadness that I report that two Pastors, Paul Petry and Bent Meyer, are being terminated as employees. They have also been suspended as elders pending an investigation in accordance with the church Bylaws (Article III, Section E) and Scripture (1 Timothy 5:19-20). We will report more detail following the investigation and disciplinary process, but you should know now that there are no accusations of moral or sexual impropriety. Although their employment is ending and their eldership suspended, Paul and Bent will receive full pay and benefits through the end of December.

At this time we do not want any discussion regarding this matter on the members site forums. Speculation or gossip would only be unhelpful to the church and unkind to these men. When a final decision regarding Paul and Bent's eldership status is complete the members of the church will be notified. Join us in prayer for the elders involved and for the mission and vision of Jesus to be accomplished through faithful leadership of this growing body.

Any questions or comments should be directed to Pastor Scott Thomas ([scott@marshillchurch.org](mailto:scott@marshillchurch.org)).

With a heavy heart,

Pastor Jamie Munson, Lead Pastor  
On Behalf of the Elders