

Verbal - To be said aloud:

The Fairhall family want to take up a 9 week interim pastoral position (December/January) with Oamaru Baptist Church, effective Sunday 30 November. This means Craig is unable to fulfill his responsibilities here at Opawa and therefore Craig has chosen to resign. We regret this situation and how it has evolved.

Given the short notice, we are asking Craig and the family if they would be willing to return for an evening in February 2009. We want to acknowledge to them that what has happened is not ideal and to thank them for their ministry among us.

The Board realise this might raise questions and a range of emotions. To help us process this Steve and various Board members will be available, informally

- after service today, 30 November, West Wing, 15 minutes after morning service
- after service next Sunday, December 1, West Wing, 15 minutes after morning service
- Tuesday evening, December 9, church auditorium, 7-8 pm

Written - Statement regarding call of Craig Fairhall at Opawa Baptist Church

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We were approached by Craig earlier this month with the request to take up the interim position. We were concerned about the pressure the request would place on the remaining church staff especially over the December period. A compromise has not proven possible and Craig has chosen to resign effective immediately, to start at Oamaru.

Pastoral terms of call expect 3 months notice of resignation. Obviously Craig has not provided this, however, the Board has decided at this stage to not take any further action in this respect.

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This situation has the potential to harm the reputation of Opawa, the staff, the Board and the Fairhall family. It is a situation in which gossip, innuendo and second guessing can thrive. We request that discussion stick to the facts as outlined and that the highest standards of Christian integrity mark our conversations and attitudes in this matter.

Please be in prayer for all parties, particularly Steve, who will end up carrying much of Craig's workload. No decisions about future staffing are being made at this time.

Steve Taylor and Board (29 November 2008)