



To our Hillsong East Coast family,

I am very sad to inform you that Hillsong Church has terminated the employment of Pastor Carl Lentz. I know this will come as a shock to you, but please know that this action was not taken lightly and was done in the best interests of everyone, including Pastor Carl.

We thank Pastors Carl and Laura for the way they have served faithfully and sacrificially since the start of Hillsong NYC and for contributing so significantly to the countless lives that have been transformed for Jesus Christ through this ministry. They have a heart for people and we are confident that after a time of rest and restoration, God will use Carl in another way outside of Hillsong Church. In terminating his tenure, we in no way want to diminish the good work he did here.

This action has been taken following ongoing discussions in relation to leadership issues and breaches of trust, plus a recent revelation of moral failures.

Please understand that it would not be appropriate for us to go into detail about the events that led to this decision. However you can be assured that this decision was made in order to honor God and pastorally care for you, our East Coast family, Pastor Carl and his family.

While I have no doubt in my heart that this is the right course of action, I must mention Bobbie's and my personal sadness, as we have known Laura her entire life and Carl for well over 20 years.

I know that this announcement may not answer all of your questions, and if you feel you need to talk to someone in our leadership team, please contact us by emailing teamrelations@hillsong.com. But as sudden as this feels to us, we must remember that it's not a shock to God, who birthed Hillsong NYC and already has planned for this time. He will continue to open new doors for us and do new things, as long as we continue to honor Him.

We have a great team here who love you and value you, and we ask for your prayers as we embark on the process of selecting new leadership for Hillsong East Coast.

Services and all of our ministries will continue as usual, and we are here for you. I understand many will be saddened and confused by this news, and I implore you to deal with this scripturally by not engaging in rumour, gossip or slander. At this time the best decision we can make is to pray for Hillsong East Coast and the Lentz family, and keep putting God first in our own lives. Life is full of seasons and, "In every season, You are still God. I have a reason to sing, I have a reason to worship."

Thank you for being a part of Hillsong Church and for your continued support and prayers.

With much love,
Brian Houston
Global Senior Pastor