

Calling New Elders: Seeking God's Leading

Over the last season, our eldership nominations committee has actively and prayerfully worked to process nominations from the congregation, to discern the gifts of those nominated, as well as the needs of our church and elders' team in this season.

In late fall, the nominations committee presented two candidates to the elders. The elders have interviewed these candidates and invited each candidate to seek God's leading in their own hearts regarding joining the elders at this time. With much affirmation of God's leading, today we present Michael McMullen and Curtis Harder for your prayer, discernment and affirmation.

Introducing Michael McMullen



Michael was born in North Vancouver where he lived most of his early life, with the exception of 6 years in Nanaimo as a young child. He moved to Calgary in 1983 and lived there for (as he calls it) 9 winters, met Debbie in 1985 and they married in 1988. Then in 1992 Michael and Debbie McMullen moved to Victoria with their two children, Taylor and Julia. Michael and Debbie were baptised together in 1997 at Royal Oak Baptist Church (now Gateway Baptist) by Pastor Norman Archer. They started to attend LPC in 2001 after Michael participated in the Alpha sessions being held at LPC, during this time they also were visiting other churches. Then in 2015 they made a commitment and became members of Lambrick Park Church.

During their short time as members they have been willing to jump in where needed; Michael as a greeter at door, sharing his testimony at MENTality, volunteering at the Agape meals, and co-leading Alpha home session with Ross Harris in 2017. Debbie serves with the Kids check-in desk, summer sunday school and being on committee for the Women's Special Events. Together they have attended four Family Life marriage conferences and in 2018 renewed their wedding vows, which were officiated by Pastor Scott Anderson. Michael and Debbie live by Elk lake where Michael likes to row, paddleboard and walk, he also plays guitar and loves to hang out with Debbie. Michael started his Real Estate career in 1985 in Calgary and continues to be very active and well known in the real estate community here in Victoria, with Debbie working as a behind the scene member of his team he affectionately refers to her as the Boss.

Over the last season, Michael and Debbie have been surprised by God's peace and leading in regard to Michael's calling to eldership and are united in their sense of God's leading at this time.

Introducing Curtis Harder



Curtis and Danielle Harder, with their children Lucia (15), Elias (12), and Everett (10), have been a part of LPC since 2007, including a 6-year journey with The Place Community. Lambrick's missional engagement through its partnership with Food for the Hungry and the villages of Sasiga, Ethiopia, was an early draw for their family and was the start of a commitment to child sponsorship. In 2014, Curtis had the opportunity to visit Ethiopia with a team from Lambrick and met his family's sponsored child face-to-face, a significant moment that reinforced his belief in the partnership that Lambrick has continued to foster.

In 2016, Curtis and Danielle participated in the creation and leadership of the Victoria Welcome Collective, a group of concerned Victorians from three different churches (Lambrick, The Place, Hollydene) who collaborated in the resettlement of a family of five who fled Syria during the recent refugee crisis. More recently Curtis and Danielle were hosts for the Rooted program that Lambrick promoted in 2017. With a few changes to format and membership, their Rooted group has continued, and through it they have witnessed what a deeply caring, Christ-centred community can look like in the context of the larger church body.

Curtis works as a clinical leader in the Pharmacy Department at Victoria General Hospital and has an appointment as a Clinical Assistant Professor with the UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He has a special interest in advanced education and practice-related research, and is involved in a number of national collaboratives in his field. In his primary role, he leads a team of pharmacists and pharmacy technicians and is ultimately responsible for the quality of clinical pharmacy service delivery at VGH. Danielle works as a nurse for Island Health, and splits her time at work between Labor & Delivery at Victoria General Hospital and Public Health at the Esquimalt Health Unit. Fun facts: Curtis got hooked on road cycling in 2015 and now rides year-round, spending more time on his bike than in a car. Danielle is a backyard chicken enthusiast and looks after five feathered friends who return the favour with a daily round of eggs.

Over the last season, Curtis and Danielle have actively sought God's leading regarding Curtis' call to eldership at this time, and have sensed God's affirmation. They are eager to follow God with the affirmation of the community.

Inviting your prayerful participation

Please join us in prayer for these two men and their calling to join the elders. If you have any concerns or questions, we invite you to speak directly with the candidates. If your concerns are unresolved, we invite you to come speak with one of the elders. Our hope is to affirm these two candidates into eldership in a brief Special General Meeting of our membership following our Sunday service on January 27, 2019.