

# Jonathan & Brit'ny Stein

## Contact Mission Church of Christ

### Tulsa, Oklahoma

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Jonathan, Brit'ny, Laura (5), and Anna Jo (1.5) Stein live in the Tulsa, OK area and have deep ties to Legacy. Jonathan and his parents, Howard and Sherry, arrived at the congregation when Jonathan was starting 2nd grade, and Legacy helped develop his passion for service and ministry. After graduating from Harding and ACU (MDiv), Jonathan moved with Brit'ny from ACU to Oklahoma State for her PhD in School Psychology.

Following her program, the Steins moved to Tulsa for a job for Brit'ny, but they already knew of the work going on at Contact. On their first Sunday visiting, Jonathan knew it was the place for them, and the leaders at Contact soon welcomed him onto staff full-time as the Associate Minister in 2017. Now over six years in, Jonathan and Brit'ny are still passionate about working with kids and adults who are often left behind or overlooked in many areas of life, and they are so thankful for the support and love of Legacy and a handful of other wonderful congregations that allow Jonathan to minister in and among low income populations to share hope and the Good News of Jesus every day.

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## About Contact

Contact began in 2000 when faithful servants at the Park Plaza Church of Christ asked why a ministry like Impact Houston couldn't happen in Tulsa? By 2002, outreach to local apartment complexes and investing in the lives of people often ignored by most led to buying a building dedicated in West Tulsa serving as the hub for outreach and ministry in the nearby apartments, schools, and neighborhoods and throughout Tulsa. Two decades later, Contact remains committed to creating a community that will Come in Contact with Jesus, Be in Contact with Each Other, and Go Out in Contact with Our Neighbors.

Vision: Think Souls, Show Up, and Interrupt Lives for the Kingdom of God..

Mission: Contact Mission Church of Christ serves to make disciples of Jesus Christ by planting seeds of hope and a future among youth and families from all walks of life and circumstances. We do this by following Jesus into West Tulsa's apartment complexes, neighborhoods, and public schools to share the Good News and create Kingdom community. As we serve, we also train and empower congregations and youth groups across Tulsa and beyond to do the same in their own backyards.

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## Update for 2023

Contact went through a series of updates and restructuring in 2022, including bringing on James Simmons as our lead minister. Highlights of these changes include a deeper commitment to financially assisting local families struggling with housing, utilities, and basic needs, meeting together on Tuesday nights for a midweek meal and service, an incredible Fall Festival that connected us with four hundred local neighbors, with plans for a similar even this Spring, and a renewal of our passion to be involved in the lives of our neighbors through consistent Sunday morning cookouts at local apartment complexes. In 2023, we anticipate continuing on this encouraging trajectory as we seek to expand our reach through partnerships with other nonprofits and community based groups serving alongside us in West Tulsa.

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## Story of Good News

Four years ago while planning for our three-week summer Elementary school day camp, the Contact team was looking for a new location to pick up kids. We realized we had overlooked an apartment complex in our zip code, so we went out with our summer interns and began knocking doors to invite kids to camp. The response was overwhelmingly positive (two full vans worth), even though none of them made it the first day! But that first Monday of Camp Contact, we held a cookout at the apartments and met three kids who lived right next to where we parked. None of us had any idea that day how central that family would become to the ministry at Contact.

For three years, we saw those kids, then a grandma, then more, older kids, then even more family members! Different ministers at Contact had opportunities to walk alongside them through struggles, death, school enrollment, driving lessons, and studying the Bible. In June of 2022, on a camping trip to Missouri, one of the older teens gave her life to Christ in baptism, and she was transformed. It is rare to see someone as excited and passionate about the Good News of Jesus after their baptism, let alone half a year after their baptism, but her faith has continued to grow, even in the midst of great challenges.

And she wasn't alone. A month after her baptism, three more members of her family were baptized back-to-back-to-back during our worship time at Camp Contact - none of them were even part of the camp, but saying yes to Jesus couldn't be put off any longer. What an encouragement and opportunity it was to have all the kids and teens there to witness a family becoming transformed by the Good News.

While it hasn't all been smooth sailing since then, we are watching and getting a chance to be a part of seeing the Hope of Christ take root in the lives of the family. Where there was once little thought of the future, there are now new dreams driven by a faith in a transforming God. It took a holistic approach, teaching the Bible and bringing food, showing up in hurt and being present just because. But then, the Good News of Jesus has always been about transforming all of us, long-time followers and new converts, into a family and a people who live out the Kingdom daily.

If you're like me, it is easy to forget the life changing power of Jesus. But, every now and then, and hopefully more and more often, when we get a chance to see someone light up because of their encounter with Christ, it will awaken us to how truly Good the News of Jesus is for us and for others in this very moment and on to eternity.