

Spiritual Journey

Conversion and spiritual pilgrimage:

My conversion took place at a very young age. I was fortunate to be raised in a Christian home and learned early on about Jesus' love for me. As I grew older and asked more questions I found that Christ was always sufficient. There were many summers at camp where I rededicated my life to God. When I began college, I started to face some difficult challenges that required me to trust that God was both good and capable of caring for me. Through struggles of faith I have learned more and more to depend on the One who is always faithful. My faith and subsequent uncertainties about life led me to a great love of theology and eventually a joy in the tensions that the Christian life can often bring. To find myself both in my own continuing development as a follower of Christ and also as a leader of others is a great blessing.

Call to ministry:

As mentioned above, I was raised in a Christian home which meant Sundays were church days and summers were for camp. I can look back and see a natural progression from my junior high and high school years when I wanted to work in camping ministry to my current passion to minister within the church setting. My love of learning which led me to graduate school turned into a passion for teaching those in the Church. I feel great joy when I am able to sit down one on one with a college student and discuss the challenges of faith. I believe that God equips us to do what we are called to do and that such callings are affirmed in the joy that develops as one follows God. I particularly believe that Christians need more biblical and theological understanding. I think college students and young adults are especially in need of further lay education so that they may encounter the world as thoughtful and humble believers.

Theological Perspective

1. I believe in expository preaching because it is certain to be founded in God's word. The Word of God as the person of Christ is the foundation of our faith and therefore the person from whom my ministry stems.
2. We are fallen people in need of redemption. This requires that we enter a new life in Christ. I am in ministry in order to walk alongside those who desire to live out this new life in Christ.
3. The church as the body of Christ works as a whole. I desire to be one part of that whole working for the greater glory of God. This means that I do not need to carry the whole mission of the church myself, but focus rather on the particular ministry under my care.
4. All who believe in Christ must be discipled and in turn disciple others. We are all called to participate in the body. Ministry is in part helping others live into their calling of fellowship and participation within the church whatever their giftedness may be.
5. As a minister in the church and as a Christian dependence upon prayer and the influence and work of the Holy Spirit must always be present in my life in order for God to be the One at work rather than myself.
6. In ministry one must always be careful not to over exert oneself and because we are free in Christ ministry always requires taking Sabbath.

Perspectives on Pastoral Ministry

Theology and practice of worship

Worship permeates all of life. Singing songs in church is an expression of praise or worship, but so is feeding the hungry and clothing the naked. Worship must always be about God and not ourselves. I worship God by being obedient to him and repentant when I fail in that pursuit. I worship God through painting and by hiking in nature or by playing with my dogs. I worship God in song at church and I worship him by taking Sabbath. We are to be worshipping people, meaning, we are to have our lives continually attuned to God.

Approach to leadership and team ministry

I believe the best leaders not only love Jesus, but know they are loved by him. From this knowledge comes a humility and confidence that allows one to be a servant and a leader. Working in a team where roles are clearly defined can be a very effective way to do ministry. Poor communication and lack of leadership in a team can result in confusion and ineffective ministry. I do not believe ministry needs to be programmed to the hilt, but that opportunities to encounter the living God need to be provided for those who attend church and for those who run the daily life of the church. Forgiveness, honesty and prayer are the most helpful tools in leading and being part of a team.

By the grace of God, what spiritual gifts, competencies, and virtues do you bring to ministry?

I am an organized individual who executes the necessary steps to make ideas become a reality. I also believe in incarnational ministry following the example of Christ with his disciples. People are valuable in and of themselves thus relating to them is one of my greatest joys and I feel gifted in this area of relationships. People deeply want to be known and respected. Good pastoral leadership is not isolation from the congregation, but living within that community providing an example of faith and life in Christ. I am also gifted in the area of preaching, teaching and discipling. I desire to see people come to know God and his love for them continually and see obedience develop in their life.

Who and what have shaped you theologically?

I have been fortunate to have many mentors influence my life of faith. One professor from my time at CBC stands out as someone who has consistently walked with me through the wrestling and working out of faith. My education has been a major factor in shaping my theology, but more so the community I studied with at Regent brought the theoretical into practical and helpful use.