



Introducing Pastor Kris Ullman

Senior Pastor Candidate

To lovingly proclaim Jesus to
everyone and to teach believers to love,
obey, and serve Him.



CHURCH OF THE CANYONS



Letter from the Elders

With great enthusiasm, the board of elders presents Kris Ullman for your consideration as senior pastor.

Without a doubt, Kris is a man whose doctrine faithfully aligns with the inspired word of God. His life is marked with integrity as he has put into practice what he preaches while seeking to honor our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Kris has proven he is a man committed to the call to ministry and dedicated to a single, long-term pastorate position. Displaying wisdom rooted in Scripture, he has demonstrated an apt usage of it as we have engaged with him during this process.

We are confident that you will discover a wise and caring pastor committed to nourishing, comforting, guarding, and guiding God's people, along with a commitment to collaboration with the board of elders to set a vision and the implementation of it.

Please take the time to get to know Kris this week. You will be glad you did.

Chris Rojas, Lay Elder, Chairman

Bill Childers, Lay Elder

Matt Davis, Lay Elder

Fred Largent, Lay Elder

Duane Smith, Lay Elder

Resume

Education and Training

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary | Louisville KY
Master of Divinity | Expected 2023

Toccoa Falls College | Toccoa GA
Bachelor of Science | 1996
Magna Cum Laude

Experience

Executive Pastor | West Highland Church
Hamilton ON | 2021 - 2023

Responsible for providing both pastoral care and leadership for the ministry divisional leaders/pastors of the church.

Worked to align the missional statement of West Highland Church, "making the word of God fully known and the people of God fully mature" to all ministry divisions, the church website, and social media platforms.

Preached and taught God's word from the pulpit, the daily devotional series, and adult Sunday school classes in support to the lead pastor.

Served with the lead pastor and the elder board in all areas of leadership and strategic direction for the church.

Pastoral Intern | Clifton Baptist Church
Louisville KY | 2017 - 2018



Divisional Director | Russell Investments
Toronto ON | 2010 - 2017

District Vice President | Fidelity Investments
London ON | 2005 - 2010

Manager, Sales/Support | Fidelity Investments
London ON | 2002 - 2005

Letter from Kris Ullman

Let me begin and end with simply an acknowledgment that ministry is not about me but rather the recognition that it is all about Christ. Perhaps the best way to introduce myself to you is through a series of questions and my musings.

1. Why be a pastor?

In his book, *Preaching and Preachers*, Martyn Lloyd-Jones said:

It was Mr. Spurgeon, I believe, who used to say to young men — “If you can do anything else, do it. If you can stay out of the ministry, stay out of the ministry.” I would certainly say that without any hesitation whatsoever. I would say that the only man who is called to preach is the man who cannot do anything else, in the sense that he is not satisfied with anything else. This call to preach is so put upon him, and such pressure comes to bear upon him that he says, “I can do nothing else, I must preach.”

While certainly limited in abilities, I am following the Lord and His will for my life. For God has put in my heart, above all else, the desire to preach His word. It is the Lord who gives some to be pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11b). Being a pastor is simultaneously the highest honor, the most daunting task, and the weightiest responsibility. Caring for the precious flock of God is not a responsibility to be taken lightly or approached quickly and without much prayer.

2. What has been most encouraging about Church of the Canyons and the process?

The alignment with the elder board, the pastor search team, and my family both in theology (what we believe) and ecclesiology (how this impacts the local church in every element). The agreed recognition that the word of God is what is needed. To be preached faithfully and without apology. The agreement is that it is only by God’s holy, inspired, inerrant, and all-sufficient word that the power of the Holy Spirit transforms depraved hearts.



Dawn and Kris

The pastor search team and elders love God, His word, one another, and the church body. The love and kindness showed to my family and me throughout this process. The willingness demonstrated to patiently wait on the Lord, seeking Him in prayer and trusting His will and direction even when there seemed to be far more questions than answers.

3. What are my family and I looking forward to most during the candidating week?

- Meeting you all! Learning to love more of the people within this dear church.
- Worshipping the Lord Jesus together. “Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your hearts to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19).
- Having the tremendous privilege of preaching two sermons from the beautiful book of John.
- Warming up after a long winter in Canada. That may feel a little like the C.S. Lewis quote, “Always winter but never Christmas.”

In conclusion, let me end where I began. Jesus Christ is all. “Christ is all, and in all” (Colossians 3:11). “He must increase; I must decrease” (John 3:30).

Blessings,
Pastor Kris Ullman

Biography

The Lord calls some men to serve in ministry early in life. For others, like Kris, the journey took more time. During a robust financial career, he felt the distinct calling from the Lord to serve Him vocationally in ministry. After much prayer, study, and pastoral guidance, Kris and his wife Dawn moved their family in 2017 to Louisville, Kentucky, to pursue the Master of Divinity degree at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. While living in Louisville, they attended Clifton Baptist Church, where Kris participated in an exhaustive pastoral internship. The internship strengthened the Lord's calling in his life through direct oversight and affirmative feedback from Clifton's elders.

At the beginning of 2021, Kris and his family returned to Canada, where Kris served as Executive Pastor at West Highland Church. Although they prayerfully attempted to ensure theological and ecclesiological alignment, it was a challenging process magnified by having to conduct most of the interviews and conversations online during COVID-19. The Ullmans have sought guidance from several godly men and mentors in and through this process and believe it is in the best interest of their family to transition at this point.

Beyond being a husband and father, Kris knows there is no higher calling and no greater responsibility than to serve the Lord in pastoral ministry. He seeks a pastoral position aligned with theology and ecclesiology, whereby he can see his family flourish. He seeks an opportunity to serve and care for the members of the local

church and faithfully preach God's holy word.

Kris and his wife, Dawn, celebrated 30 years of marriage in December 2022. Dawn is an Association of Certified Biblical Counselors (ACBC) certified biblical counselor, having poured many hours into studying the Bible and counseling women. Kris and Dawn have four children who love the Lord Jesus Christ. Their eldest, Kristian, is an associate pastor in Canada, married with two children. Their next two eldest, Jonathan and Julia, are married and live with their spouses in the United States, working in various industries and serving the Lord through their local churches in Louisville, Kentucky, and Mount Vernon in Atlanta, Georgia. Their youngest, Olivia, is homeschooled. Kris and Dawn have lived in Ontario, Canada for 20 years.



Dawn and Kris at Southern Seminary, December 2020

Letter from the Pastor Search Team

There are times in life when God's sovereignty is as clear as day. Looking back at the pastor search process, the team has had a front-row seat for these times. From the moment we received Kris Ullman's resume to calling references and listening to sermons, there was an evident leading through it all.

The first time we talked with Kris, what stood out was his humility. He had a successful career traveling worldwide, yet he responded to God's call to pastoral ministry. Kris would say that whatever he gave up was worth it in the end, but from a human perspective, this was a tremendous display of faith. Even though he is approaching the finish line with his academic degree, God has prepared this man through life events and experiences that make him a special gift to the church.

Kris's theology, gentleness, and pastoral care are the top reasons he will fit at Church of the Canyons.

His leadership skills have been demonstrated not only in the secular workforce but in the church as well. People respond to his explanation of the word from the pulpit and in counseling opportunities. Probably the hidden gem in all of this is his wife, Dawn. She is a tremendous support to Kris. She loves the church, and more importantly, she loves people. Dawn is ACBC certified, loves reading, and homeschools Olivia, their fourth child and the only one still at home. They have been a joy to get to know as well.

We are thankful that God was leading this whole process, and your PST would love to share more stories of how God's hand was evident during these past few years.

Matt Davis
COC Elder
PST Chairman



Dawn and Olivia

Sermons

Check out his sermons:

"Marveling at God's Promised Plan and King"

- 2 Samuel 7:16

<https://www.westhighland.org/sermons/sermon/2021-12-26/marveling-at-gods-promisedplan-and-king-2-samuel-716>

"The Greatest Short Story Ever Told"

- Luke 15:11-32

<https://www.westhighland.org/sermons/sermon/2021-08-29/the-greatest-short-storyever-told-luke-1511-32>

"Insane or Divine"

- John 10:1-21

<https://www.westhighland.org/sermons/sermon/2021-07-11/insane-or-divine-john-101-21>

With a desire to display the majesty and glory of who God is, Kris has a reverence for God's word. Gifted in expounding the word of God, Kris is faithful to the text and has a passion for the intricacies of God's word that are insightful and encouraging. Knowledgeable about the passage he is preaching on, Kris brings in many aspects one might not notice. Kris does an excellent job linking the promises of the Old Testament with the ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

As an outstanding storyteller of biblical truth, Kris makes the sermon easy and compelling to follow. He also gives a clear gospel presentation. Intending to help people see their ultimate need is in Christ alone, he teaches with humility seeking to exposit what the Scriptures say. His messages are presented personably and carefully and aim at conviction and application. COC would greatly benefit from his consistent, accurate, loving proclamation of God's word.



Kris preaching at West Highland Church

Candidating Week Schedule

Kris will meet throughout the week with COC's elders, leaders, and staff.

Additionally, below are some opportunities for the congregation to meet him and his family.

Sunday, March 5

10:00 am - Worship Service

Kris will preach his first sermon.

11:45 am-2:00 pm - Welcome Lunch

Immediately after service, join us for a time to meet Kris and his family.

Lunch and drinks provided.

Wednesday, March 8

6:30-8:00 pm - Scripture for Living

Thursday, March 9

6:30-8:00 pm - A Conversation with Kris and Dawn

Everyone is invited to get to know Kris and his family through an elder-led conversation.

Friday, March 10

6:30-8:30 pm - Youth Group

Saturday, March 11

8:30-10:30 am - Men of the Word

Saturday, March 11

8:30-10:30 am - Women's Bible Study

We invite all women to join us in welcoming Dawn as she shares God's word from Psalm 33. Please bring your Bible. Childcare provided for children four and under.

Sunday, March 12

10:00 am - Worship Service

Kris will preach his second sermon.

12:00 pm - Business Meeting

After the worship service, the Ullmans will return home, and the all-member business meeting will commence. Members will cast their vote on whether or not to affirm the calling of our recommended pastoral candidate.



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