

## Letter from Nolan Hanson

To our Westwood Church family,

I, Nolan Hanson, have decided to put my name forward as the candidate for the position of Pastor of Youth Ministries. Since the summer of 2018, I sensed our Lord calling me to “become a pastor.” Upon first hearing this, myself, Emily, and many wise family members and spiritual mentors have journeyed with me over the years to help discern wisely what this may look like. As many of you know, God has revealed a part of this calling with our Eden team ministry which has been a blessing and a vocation unparalleled to what Emily or I had ever thought we would encounter in our lives. However, our Lord has been stirring within my heart once more over the past two years.

As some of you know, I have worked at Cedars Christian School for five years now. While being there, our Lord has truly blessed me with the soul care of the students that are there, and I have really valued the time and trust to which they have given me as I have witnessed and walked with them through what are some of the most shaping and challenging years of any person’s life. Being an educator, one hears a myriad of opinions and thoughts from parents, supporters, staff, and educators from other schools. Unfortunately, not everything that is spoken about our youth today is positive. One of the most repeated phrases I have heard from both Christian and non-Christian parents, teachers, supporters, and administrators across the city is, “there is no hope for this generation.” I’ve even heard the students themselves admit this. It was two years ago, sitting in the foyer of Cedars while I was reflecting on that phrase that I heard the voice of God within my spirit say, “That is the future of my church. How are you going to equip them?”

Since then, Emily and I have prayed and discerned (alongside trusted mentors) and felt multiple affirmations towards putting my name forward for the position of Pastor of Youth Ministries. It is my heart to not only care for our youth in their life journey but also to equip them to be a much-needed transformative presence of Christ throughout our city.

We invite you to prayerfully consider with us God’s will in all of this and specifically in regard to my service to our youth and the youth of Prince George.

Nolan Hanson