

Letter from the Youth Pastor Search Team

To the Westwood Family, from the Pastor of Youth Ministry Search Team,

It is a joy to share this news with you! God is good, and we have seen his goodness in how he has been guiding Nolan Hanson to this opportunity for some time now.

The Youth Pastor search team began meeting Fall 2022. We asked God to bring us a candidate that was called to youth ministry, called to Prince George, and called to Westwood. Furthermore, we asked God to give us unity as a team and unity within the Westwood body as we discern who God is calling to this role. Youth leaders even encouraged us to pray for a candidate who was local. Those leaders had more faith than some of us did, but praise God, even when we lacked faith, he answered each of these prayers generously. What a loving act by our perfect Father! David said it this way in Psalm 138:3

“When I called, you answered me; you greatly emboldened me.”

Today the Youth Pastor Search Team wholeheartedly recommends Nolan Hanson as candidate for Pastor of Youth Ministry. We first connected with Nolan in Fall 2023, and what started with some exploratory conversations quickly moved to a full process with interviews, reference checks, visits, and an incognito visit to two nights of Youth Ministry. As we engaged with Nolan, we spent time together seeking God, listening to him, and in prayer together. It was a pleasure to seek God with the team, and a blessing to experience such unity in arriving at this recommendation.

In Nolan we see a clear call to Ministry, a passion for youth, Godly character, love of the gospel and making it known, and love for others. We see depth of experience with youth and in disciple-making. Nolan loves to teach, and he seeks to help others understand how God meets us here and now. This has been shaped not only by the lead roles Nolan has held in ministries such as Intervarsity Christian Fellowship and Eden, but also through Nolan’s education (he completed a Master of Divinity in April 2022). Nolan enjoys community - many stories we heard pointed to a life lived humbly; willing to be disciplined and shaped by God and His people.

Nolan has been working full time as a Teacher and Educational Assistant at Cedars Christian School in addition to his role as a local Eden Team Leader and Church Planter. He and Emily desire to continue their work with Eden, and if successful would intend to do so co-vocationally with this role at Westwood. The search team has expressed their support for Nolan working in co-vocational ministry and has encouraged the Board of Elders to discern what initial and ongoing support for this might look like.

Nolan and Emily have one daughter, Violet, who is almost two. They value family greatly, and it is evident in all areas of their lives. We were encouraged by the way Nolan spoke of the role of family in the lives of youth, and we believe he will be a blessing not only to the Westwood family but each family he connects with.

Thank you, Westwood family. Thank you for your prayers. Thanks for your comments and questions along the way. Thank you for entrusting us with this task, and thanks in advance for prayerfully considering this recommendation.

Together, we want to see youth meet Jesus, experience community in Jesus, be transformed through holiness with Jesus, and pursue world impact through Jesus. We trust that together, we can discern whether Nolan is the individual who can help make Westwood’s vision for youth a reality.

Peace,

Rachel Hennig, Dorianna Hoekstra, Amy Dobson, David Claus, Rob Dyck, and Steve Chase