

Mission

Faithfully and effectively leading his family and the church into ongoing spiritual revitalization through the teaching of God's Word, the making of disciples and the developing of leaders.

Ministry Skills

Preaching, Teaching, Visionary and Strategic Leadership, Creativity, Collaboration and Team Work.



Education

University of Wisconsin

Milwaukee, WI

Bachelor of Arts: Hebrew Studies, Dec. 1985

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

Deerfield, IL

Master of Divinity: Pastoral Studies, June 1990

Master of Theology: Homiletics, June 1991

Evangelical Free Church of America

Minneapolis, MN

Ordination 1994

Sioux Falls Seminary

Sioux Falls, SD

Doctoral Studies: Spiritual Formation

Matriculated, May 2010

Pastoral Experience

Eastbrook Church

Nondenominational

Pastoral Intern, Milwaukee, WI

June 1989 to May 1990

Oversaw the college ministry, taught adult Bible classes, and served on the pastoral staff of a 1000 member church located in an urban, professional, university setting.

Lakeview Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Church in America

Assistant to the Pastor, Vernon Hills, IL

June 1990 to June 1991

Oversaw and planned worship, organized and led small groups and researched facility relocation for the founding pastor during the fourth year of this newly planted church.

Higher Ground Church

Evangelical Free Church

Senior Pastor, Oakland, CA

August 1991 to October 2001

Led an urban, historic church into spiritual revitalization by developing and equipping a multi-generational, multi-cultural people to impact their world. Witnessed an average attendance of 25 turn to a decade of conversion growth and spiritual health with multiple staff, multiple services, and multiple ministry opportunities for 250 people weekly.

Central Baptist Church

Baptist General Conference

Senior Pastor, Sioux Falls, SD

November 2001 to May 2010

Led a large, historic, multi-generational church to pursue her vision for regional impact by connecting people with a life that counts for eternity. Experienced 25% growth over five year period with increased average attendance from 800 to 1200 with finances and staffing following a similar trend. The Preschool and Kindergarten growth went from an enrollment of 95 to 325. Led a facility expansion campaign and completed an 80,000 square foot addition for the purpose of community service and impact.

International Experience

Prior to their marriage, James spent a summer in Norway on an evangelistic bike team while Jennifer spent the same summer working at a summer camp in Finland. As a married couple they lived in Israel for 6 months working the land and learning modern Hebrew. On their way home they toured Europe for 6 weeks. In 2007 they returned to Egypt, Israel and Italy with the entire family for 6 weeks. Also as a couple they led a tour to Israel in 2008.

Note from the Search Team

We believe that James Petersen is an excellent fit to serve as the next senior pastor of Crossroads Church. His gifts of leadership and love for God will encourage and inspire the people of Crossroads to grow in their faith. Meeting him you will recognize that his personality and philosophy of ministry are congruent with that of Crossroads. James has a passion for the lost and for growing people to be like Jesus. It is his desire for the local church to be vibrant and attractive, drawing people to Jesus. He's a visionary leader that works effectively to accomplish goals for the local region and beyond. We believe that God has led us by the Holy Spirit in the process of selecting James Petersen as a candidate and we are completely united in our decision to recommend him as the next senior pastor of Crossroads Church.

Senior Pastor Search Team

Marty Little, Dan DeBoer, Karen Posthumus, Ginny Ackland, Ted Spain, Roger Swanson and Richard Stadheim

The Petersen family



James and Jennifer both grew up in Madison, Wisconsin and went on their first date during their junior year of high school. They were married after four years of college in August 1985. Together they have traveled the world, home educated their five children, served in the local church and approached life as an adventure.

Jennifer graduated with a BS in Elementary Education and is a life long learner who loves trying new things. She is a bee keeper, a traveler, a reader, and an athlete. Her wisdom and discernment make her an excellent mentor, parenting coach and spiritual guide.

Children: Adam is a history major in his junior year of college. Nathan is a freshman pursuing a communications degree. Hannah is a junior in high school developing her skills as a photographer. Jacob is a freshman in high school and enjoys ultimate Frisbee. Micah is in seventh grade and recently discovered model making.

The family loves to be together whenever possible: watching the sun set from the deck, splitting wood, building sandcastles on a beach, playing touch football in the yard, hosting a picnic or enjoying a movie while snuggling in front of the wood burning stove on a cold day.

References

After talking to several of James' mentors and peers, the common themes expressed were his strong, biblical preaching/teaching of God's word and his leadership skills:

"James has an excellent pulpit ministry. He develops the message well and preaches with clarity. His platform presence is strong and he is easy to listen to and is heartfelt. He is a good visionary leader. He leads leaders where they need to go." **Colleague**

"James greatest strengths are teacher, leader, creative communicator, and the artist in him. He is a maximizer and will take things and make them better." **Friend**

"James loves to study and preach and has a passion for leadership. He has the ability to interact well with other leaders. He is a futuristic thinker, a strong leader and he will not be content with status quo." **Former staff member**

Dr. Leighton Ford - Leighton is a Christian statesman who has been an evangelist in the Billy Graham Association and chairman of Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. In his later years he dedicated his life to mentoring the next generation of Christian leaders and it is in this capacity that James has known Leighton for 15 years.

"James Petersen is an exceptionally gifted preacher and teacher. I have known James for years, as part of my mentoring ministry, and have been impressed with his love for God, sense of calling, devotion to his family, and commitment to be a true servant leader, to strengthen the church and equip God's people for their own ministry in daily life. I warmly commend him to you."



Crossroads Church

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Introducing Pastor James Petersen



Senior Pastor Candidate Crossroads Church, Albert Lea, MN

We are excited for the opportunity to meet the people of Crossroads Church and to continue this important process of discerning God's will. Should God bring us together, it would be my privilege to lead this community of faith as the next chapter unfolds. With a commitment to humility and dependence on God and a willingness to take steps of faith, I believe that all of us could go deeper and farther than we have ever asked or imagined.

*Looking for the Finger Prints of God
Pastor James Petersen*