

Introducing Nathan McCorkindale

Forest Grove Community Church has invited Nathan to candidate for the role of North Site Pastor. More than 40 people in our church have been part of discerning this invitation and feel that Nathan is the right person for this role. More information about Nathan is below.

Nathan grew up in a Christian home. His dad was a pastor and the family lived in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. He attended Bethany College for 4 years and met Niki. After College (2005), Niki and Nathan were married, and he became youth pastor in Altona, MB. After Altona, they moved to Fresno and completed a M.A. in Theology (2011). Following seminary, they went to Philadelphia MB Church in Watrous, SK to be Pastor of Discipleship. Last summer, following the call of God, Nathan and Niki moved their family to the Matthew Training Centre in Mexico.



Here are a few key parts of Nathan's story that he shared with staff and other leaders at FGCC:

"Over the last four years or so, an awareness of the working power of the Holy Spirit has been growing. I think that in many ways my life has shifted from thinking that my Christian life was good, to earnestly seeking the filling of the Holy Spirit, growing in awareness that the Spirit is still speaking, guiding, empowering and transforming. I have benefited so much from people who are in touch with the Holy Spirit, listening to the Spirit for words of affirmation, wisdom, and encouragement. I have seen the ways in which this brings life. It has changed the way I pray, the ways in which I prepare a sermon, and the way I think about ministry in general."

"More than a year ago, Niki and I sensed that God was preparing something new for us. We didn't know what it was, but we made the commitment to do whatever it was that God asked us to do. Long story short, that led us to Mexico. It has been a real journey of learning obedience. I never saw myself as the kind of person who would do missions work in a different country. Through that process, Luke 14 became a fairly significant passage for me and my desire to follow God. Luke 14:33, says, 'In the same way, none of you who are unwilling to give up all your possessions can be my disciples.' We knew that we didn't actually have to get rid of all our possessions, we could put them into storage and have them when we came back to Canada. But in the moment it certainly felt like leaving everything. We moved away from family living in the same town, from a secure good job, from a house that we absolutely loved. Yet, there was the undeniable sense, both in our lives and in the words and affirmations of many people we shared with, that we were indeed doing the right thing. It has been an exercise in obedience."

"What excites me so much about the North Site vision is that it really sounds like a church for people who aren't into church. By not starting with the need for a Sunday gathering, the community is free to put their energy and efforts into carrying Jesus out into the community and work place first. This intentional focus on relationship, serving businesses and neighbours in practical ways is so new and different, that I can't get it out of my head. It just seems to ooze with potential for being a missional force in the community. The North site seems uniquely equipped to be a different kind of church. I also think that it is holding strongly to our Anabaptist tradition that says we need to follow Jesus, not just believe in him."

"My wife and I were praying 'Lord why do you have us in Mexico?' We have a very clear sense that we are doing the right thing following Jesus here, but after the big yes to Jesus, we have been trying to discern what the little things he wants from us are. We have started wondering if part of why we are here is to learn as much about cross cultural mission, church planting, and relationship building as we can, so that we can transfer that cross-cultural mission thinking to our own home context. In the past year we have been learning a lot about listening to God, discerning how He is working in our lives, and the importance of obedience. We have been learning to take risks, to trust God and to be obedient even when it seems odd and hard."

What will happen next (everyone is invited to these three things):

- Nathan will speak at our two Attridge morning services on March 4, 2018 (this will be recorded and on line).
- There will be a Q&A meeting that day at 4PM in the Attridge lounge to get to know Nathan and Niki a bit more.
- FGCC members will be invited to vote to affirm the candidating process and call Nathan to this role. This will happen at the meeting of all congregations of Forest Grove Community Church at 5:30PM on March 4 at Attridge.