

# CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION

The Annual General Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada approves candidates for ordination prior to a vote taken at the Annual General Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Candidates are recommended to the ECCC AGM by the Ministerium and the committee on ministerial standing. This year, we have two ordination candidates.

## IRA CARTY | Transfer of Ordination to Word and Sacrament Associate Pastor, Avenue Community Church, Toronto, ON

My faith journey with Christ began at the tender age of six and so most of my life has been one of grace and presence which has kept and sustain me over these years. At the age of 18, I made complete surrender of my life to Christ which took me on a path in both qualifying and discerning His call on my life. In 2000 I left my home country (Antigua and Barbuda) where I grew up and came to Canada in answering God's call. I attended Tyndale University College and Seminary from 2000-2005 and shortly after accepted a position to serve as a Senior Associate Pastor in a Free Methodist Church. After serving for 2 years from 2005-2007, I took some time off from traditional pastoring and transitioned into Church Planting within the Pentecostal Holiness Church of Canada, from 2008-2011. In 2012 I was invited by a good friend Samuel Williams to come worship with them and spend some time discern where my gifting can be utilized in the present community that they were planting (Avenue Community Church).



In the Fall of 2012 I joined Avenue Community Church plant and have been serving as Associate Pastor from then. In 2011, I had met the woman of my dreams (Tricia-Ann) that God had been preparing me for to that point and in Fall 2013 we got married. We have a 6-year-old son, going on 7 (Josiah) who is a joy and delight and who keeps us busy. In addition to being an Associate Pastor at Avenue Community Church, I also serve as a Senior Guidance Counselor at a Private International High School in Toronto.

My passion and love for Christ continues to remain the driving force in my life. I enjoy actively engaging in Kingdom work by simply being an incarnational presence and bridge builder through both of my vocational roles as a Pastor and Guidance Counselor. I see this as a unique opportunity in calling both Church and nations to the 'Heart of God'. I have five brothers and one sister, most of whom reside in the US. Also at the present, I am within my second term on Leadership Board of the ECCC and count it an honor to serve.

## ALEX SONG | Ordination to Word and Sacrament Director of Operations, REACT, Windsor, ON

From a very early age I've always had a belief that God was there, but I thought that I could outsmart him by living life on my terms and after I have had my fill of life, before I die, confess and submit my life to Christ! Life lesson learned, Alex is not smarter than God. It was in a monastic community in the mountains of KangWonDo in 1999 where I experienced God's love in an unforgettable way, it changed my life.

In that same monastic community 2 years later, I met a young lady who came to pray regarding her next steps in following Jesus. Jesus led her to me, and I'll never let her go. We started a life together with a few other families forming a Christian community in rural South Korea as gospel driven farmers and community developers.



A few years later my father suddenly passed away and we discerned it was time for us to move back to Canada to be with my mother. This began a new journey in my hometown of Toronto, MDiv at Tyndale Seminary and working as a pastor at the church I grew up in Toronto Korean Bethel Church. After 6 Years of serving at Bethel I needed rest. I found this at Avenue Community Church where I was introduced to the ECC and eventually began to serve at Avenue as the Family and Children's Pastor until an opportunity to move to a smaller town in Southern Ontario presented itself. We have been in Windsor coming on 3 years and have been fully immersed in the downtown core. Currently serving the DWCC (Downtown Windsor Community Collaborative) as the Director of Operations for the ACCEL youth program and the DWCC Community Developer.

It's been wonderful seeing God work in Windsor and excited for things to come in our community here and the larger community of the ECC.