ChristCommunity
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Lead Senior Pastor Candidate

A letter from Pastor Gabe Coyle

God is always at work making beautiful what is broken. I grew up in a broken home where my mom, two sisters, and I experienced the loving care of God through his church. Rather than being ostracized, the church was a place to mend. In those early years I learned to love and be loved by God and his people. This became personal when, in a series of late nights in middle school, the Holy Spirit repeatedly brought to mind my pastor's words, "Jesus is waiting for you. If you haven't received him personally, why wait any longer?" After multiple nights of this, I got on my knees next to my bed and surrendered my life to Jesus.

Since that time, God has called me to the slow art of a lifelong pastor and I have continued to hear God's call to collaborate in sculpting a caring family of multiplying disciples, influencing our community and world for Jesus Christ.

Christ Community has been formative and affirmative of this calling over the past 15 years—beginning with my pastoral residency at Leawood, helping to launch the Downtown Campus, ordination in the EFCA, and now watching our multisite identity grow and develop to encompass a supportive multisite team and five thriving campuses.

This breadth has been coupled by depth. As a city network leader for Made To Flourish alongside my campus pastor role, I had the privilege of learning from Tom Nelson's thoughtful leadership around the formational and missional center of our work on

Monday. This gave me a front-row seat on the stewardship of a national movement. I've seen firsthand how our Monday-centered mission can transform pastoral imaginations and shape church ministries across the nation and world.

But at the center of it all—and what I love most about Christ Community—we know how to be a caring family. I've heard from people across campuses that Christ Community is a place to heal and know relational joy again. I also experienced that in my early days at Christ Community. Allie, my wife of 15 years, and I lost our first child, Judah, and it was this church that loved us through grief. We now have three wonderful children: Ava (11), Israel (10), and Zion (6), and it's been a gift to see them be shaped by the love of God in this church family.

Now as I look forward to what God might have in store for the future, I am humbled by the creative and thoughtful elders, executive team, and campus pastors who collaboratively help sculpt a community that will outlast all of us. Much like Michelangelo's David, my hope is that 100 years from now we'll still be a church that reflects the creative genius of our God.

In the same way, I've seen the Downtown Campus move from carrying everything for Sunday worship in the trunk of my car to a thriving community in a permanent campus home. As the next Lead Senior Pastor, I want to see Christ Community continue to become more of whom God envisions her to be. I believe Christ Community can stay the course of our mission, remaining unwavering in our theological orthodoxy, all while reaching new people across generations.

I long for us to be who we have been called to be and more. To be a caring family where more people who need the tender care of Jesus can meaningfully belong, have a personal relationship with Jesus, come to know and be known by him, and for us to develop more robust discipleship and leadership pathways for staff and congregants alike. As I finish my doctorate of ministry at Fuller Theological Seminary, I long for continued training to discern truth and clarity in goodness, but with a deeper zeal of being with God in beauty as the start and end of our calling—to help create a beautiful gospel ecosystem across KC and beyond.

God has been at work through Christ Community throughout the years, making beautiful what is broken in our world, and I'm excited to see how he'll continue to work through us all in the years ahead.

Thank you for prayerful discernment in the coming weeks!

Pastor Gabe Coyle

Gabe's Pastoral Journey

History with Christ Community

- Selected as a pastoral resident in the spring of 2010 and began his residency in June 2011.
- In early 2012, Gabe launched the Downtown Campus in the arts district of downtown Kansas City and was instrumental in starting the Four Chapter Gallery.

Education

- Anticipated degree completion 2026 - Fuller Theological Seminary Pasadena, CA - Doctorate of Ministry
- October 2017 - Ordained in the Evangelical Free Church of America
- May 2011 - Graduated from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School Deerfield, IL with a Master of Divinity
- May 2008 - Graduated from Cedarville University in Ohio with a Bachelor of Arts

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