

The Vistoso Voice

Friday, March 11, 2022

Weekly

ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH—GOOD NEWS (PART 1)

After reviewing a comprehensive application, multiple interviews, an evening together, and an extensive face-to-face discussion, the Personnel Committee, VCC Board, and I are all in agreement that Michael Haltom is God's provision for our Associate Pastor position. The Board has reached out to him and he is desirous of filling the position.

The Next Step—Congregational Approval

What remains is for the VCC Congregation to call Michael to the Associate Pastor position by formal vote of the membership, and the Board to finalize the employment particulars. To this end, a called business meeting has been scheduled for Sunday March 27 for the congregational vote, with votes from formal members also accepted during Q&A Saturday, March 26. I will provide time during the Q & A on the 19-20th and 26-27th to answer any questions the congregation might have.

What We Were Seeking for the Position

Now that you know where we are at in the process, I believe it is essential for you to have some background. Let me walk you through it. With Pastor Peter's departure in November of 2021, I took a close look at VCC's ministry needs. In my opinion, our greatest pastoral need was for someone who could join our pastoral staff and make an immediate impact in terms of administrative oversight. Biblically, we are talking about the roles that would go with the terms *elder* and *overseer*, both of which are used to describe the pastor.

Simply stated, at this point in my ministry career I am fully focused on teaching and preaching, caring for the fellowship, developing discipleship materials, and writing. However, there is much by way of day to day oversight that makes it difficult to focus on those things to which I feel gifted and drawn. As an example, I have simply not been able to devote adequate time to developing Bible study materials for our 2022/2023 men and women's Bible studies. Given the amount of time needed to research, write, format, edit, and print these materials, I am not sure we are going to be able to develop these materials in time. We can always look to purchase them, but we have not



Michael and Kathy Haltom

been able to find materials that can compare with what we have been able to produce ourselves. This is one example of where I am hoping Michael will be able to help—by relieving some of my administrative load.

So when we advertised our associate pastor position, we focused on someone with demonstrated leadership and management skills, some degree of theological training, and a history of church ministry. At the same time, we were very open to applications from someone without previous pastoral ministry. For our intent was to find a person whom we could grow and develop over time.

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CALLED BUSINESS MEETING

A called business meeting has been scheduled for Sunday March 27 to act upon the Board's recommendation to call Michael Haltom as an Associate Pastor. This requires a ballot vote of the formal membership. Votes will be accepted on Saturday and business will be conducted during the Fellowship Time following the Sunday service.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH (CONTINUED)

An Excellent Candidate

Michael, the applicant who will shortly come before you for approval, is pretty much exactly what we were hoping to find. He is not currently a pastor, but has been preparing for pastoral ministry for many years and is looking to make the transition from the secular work world to pastoral ministry—much as I did. However, as a project manager for a real estate management company, he has refined skills in leading and managing complex projects requiring the coordination of multiple groups. He has a degree in Biblical studies with a Greek emphasis, experience in leading Christian non-profits, and long-standing service as a church elder.



What Happens Next

So, how do I see Michael's ministry unfolding at VCC? First, he will immerse himself in our organization and begin to take on administrative duties as soon as he is familiar with our many ministries and comfortable with the people involved. At the same time, he will begin to take on responsibilities for the pastoral care of those who make up our fellowship—something that should be on the heart of every pastor.

Shortly after arriving he will also take up graduate theological studies at a seminary that closely aligns with our doctrinal position. This is an ideal situation for us to mold the theological development of a new pastor in the applied environment of VCC.

Now you may be surprised that I haven't yet mentioned teaching and preaching. Of course, Michael will begin to take on a teaching role upon his arrival, but I intend to allow him to establish himself in the areas previously mentioned as his first priority. It is my intent to allow him to carefully and slowly develop his spiritual authority as one who accurately and clearly handles the Word of God. The reason I am comfortable with this approach is that, I continue to feel called to lead VCC as its teaching pastor.

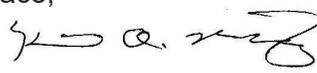
In Summary

I believe we have a wonderful opportunity to mentor and develop a pastor who will ably serve the needs of VCC and preach the Word of God in season and out. Please prayerfully consider your support of his call, and as you feel led, pray for the details associated with his relocation and his successful transition to pastoral ministry here.

I became a bi-vocational pastor at VCC at the age of 48 and went into full-time ministry at the age of 54. It might interest you to know that Michael is 48.

Pray the Lord would use his willing heart to accomplish His purposes and exalt the name of Jesus in the years to come!

In His grace,

Kevin 

PS Look for a follow-up article next week where we will try to provide you with a bit of Michael's personal story and background.

SPECIAL GUEST

Grace Townsend-Goreth, daughter of Wycliffe founder Cameron Townsend, will be with us this Sunday and speak during the Q & A time. We are looking forward to have the chance to fellowship with her again.



thisweek

March 14-20, 2022

- **Tuesday**, 10:00 am, Men's and Women's Bible Study in the Book of Genesis.
- **Wednesday**, 2:00 pm, choir practice.
- **Thursday**, Good Neighbor Get-Together, 10:00 am.
- **Friday**, 7:30 am, Men's Bible study in Colossians.
- **Friday**, 10:00 am, Women's Share, Care, and Prayer.
- **Friday**, 11:00 am, Watch-care ministry volunteer meeting. Anyone interested in helping reach out to our fellowship is invited to attend.
- **Saturday**, 5:00 pm, worship service followed by fellowship and sermon Q&A.
- **Sunday**, 10:00 am, worship service followed by fellowship and sermon Q&A.

NEW MEMBERS

Our exciting news took all the newsletter space this weekly, so Part 2 of our new member introduction is postponed for a later issue of *The Voice*.