



Zach Rogers FAQ

Updated 12/21/2022

The Pastor Search Committee has been receiving questions directly or through the email set up for this purpose. Many of these are along the same lines and we wanted to share our feedback with the whole congregation.

How old is Zach? 36

Is Zach pro-life? Yes

Is it important that a Senior Pastor have a Masters in Divinity (MDiv) degree rather than a Masters in Theological Studies (MTS) degree?

This was a subject that the Committee reviewed closely.

A Masters in Divinity (MDiv) degree is the broadest degree that most seminaries offer. It covers theology, the original Bible languages (Hebrew and Greek), preaching, and ministry leadership. Zach's seminary degree, a Masters in Theological Studies (MTS), contains the theology and the original Bible languages (Hebrew and Greek) portion. Because Zach has nearly fifteen years of practical ministry experience with eight of them in leadership positions, he prioritized theology (including Hebrew and Greek) for his seminary education. After conversations with Zach's professor of theology at Covenant and recently with our Presbytery, the Committee concluded that the combination of Zach's MTS degree and his rich ministerial leadership experience makes him well qualified to be our next Sr. Pastor.

Can you elaborate on why you and the committee believe he is prepared to be a pastor for a congregation of our size?

This was a primary question that the Committee spent a lot of time on.

It is true that Zach has not been a full-time pastor; however, his leadership experience, even compared with many young pastors we studied, is significant. And, in fact, in the course of our search, we have learned that campus ministries are a primary source in the PCA and other denominations for pastor supply.

Zach has been a ministry leader since 2015 and is now leading a team of more than 25 staff and volunteers that is spread across 5 sites in Illinois. Their budget exceeds \$1 million and he reports to a Board of Grace elders who operate much like the Session does. As the leader, he is responsible for the spiritual health of his team, the interface with university administration, and deploying and equipping the team to achieve God's mission on the campuses. The complexity is different than Grace, but similar in scope.

In addition, in Zach's first assignment on the campus of Eastern Illinois University, the church



hosting their ministry lost their pastor. Zach stepped into this gap and learned his first lessons of pastoring a church. He has also been completing a pastoral internship at Christ Church in Normal, IL as the pastor there, Bob Smart, has been mentoring him and giving Zach opportunities to preach and teach. This is one of the best ways to learn.

While Zach's route to gain and demonstrate pastoral leadership is not as traditional as most, it has prepared him for a church our size. This experience, combined with his heart for the lost and disciple-making, will enable him to be our shepherd. He, like all of us, will continue to learn.

Without a background as a church pastor, will Zach be able to withstand the pressure that may come from elders, deacons, and congregation members?

We have found Zach to be a man of clear convictions and the courage to stand for them. He will not shy away from the tough issues as our culture loses its foundations of Judeo-Christian values. He already reports to a Board of Grace elders who operate much like the Session does. And, in his current position, he regularly deals with university executives who often see the world much differently.

It should also be said that the Committee was struck by the tenderness of Zach's heart. He is looking to listen and learn; he has a humility that helps him seek to become a better servant of God. To the Committee, this combination of the courage of his convictions and a tender heart will serve Grace well as our next shepherd.

Zach has a young family: will he be able to set and keep boundaries with church leadership and staff so that his family life does not suffer?

This balance is something that the Committee discussed with both Zach and Sheffey. Zach shared in his early days of ministry he faced this struggle. He and Sheffey have learned to work together and found a good balance.

We recognize the challenges of leading a church are significant, especially in the beginning. We asked both Zach and Sheffey to spend a day with a very reputable consulting firm who is experienced with the demands on a Sr. Pastor and his family. The consulting firm reinforced to the Committee that both Zach individually and Zach and Sheffey together will be able to handle the pressure.

We also know the heart and care of our congregation. Your prayers, support, and friendship to Zach and Sheffey will make a real difference.



Will Zach shepherd and lead all of Grace as a Senior Pastor?

This was also a primary assessment by the Committee. We wanted to be sure about this.

We believe that he cares deeply and will pastor and lead all the generations of the church. We are certain that he will get to know all of you in time – and this will be a top priority. His track record with his neighbors and others that he has connected with support this assessment. Zach has told us on many occasions that he has felt called to be a pastor and possibly a church planter with a goal to build a multi-generational church where grandparents can worship with their grandchildren. A goal to build a church like Grace! Zach's vision aligns with Grace's Vision to be a place where God's grace inspires all generations and peoples to follow Christ.

Zach told the Committee: "God has only given one mission to the church: preach the gospel, make disciples. If those disciples are truly shaped into the image of Christ, they will love their neighbor, and all races and peoples will be blessed by them."

Is Zach ordained by the PCA? If not yet ordained, how will the ordination process be administered?

No, pastors must be called by a congregation before they are ordained in the PCA. That is a key step which when combined with passing the ordination exams are the elements of Presbytery approval of the call and ordination. Zach is making good progress on the exams and after the January 15 call, we would expect Presbytery approval to proceed in good order. This process is administered by our presbytery, the Presbytery of Northern Illinois.

Does Zach have a commitment to our standards and identify as Presbyterian?

Yes, Zach believes as we confess on our website "What We Believe." He accepts The Westminster Standards, including the Confession of Faith, as to what he believes the Bible teaches. This has been subscribed to by the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) as a faithful expression of Biblical truth.

Are his children baptized?

Yes, they have both been baptized (by Pastor Frantz and Pastor Smart).

Is Zach aware of current issues/controversies taking place in the PCA?

Yes. Zach holds traditional views.



What are some of his theological influences?

Zach is a reader, so not surprisingly this list is long and continues to grow. John Frame, who wrote one of Zach's favorite books, *Doctrine of the Christian Life*, Kevin Deyoung, Dan Doriani, Jerry Bridges, Paul David Tripp, Tim Lane, John Piper, and R.C. Sproul.

What is his stand on eschatology?

While Zach personally holds to a view akin to Pastor Sandy's, he is clear that his priority will be sharing the great hope of the gospel, the passion of his heart.

Is Zach "woke?"

While the meaning of this word is imprecise at best, the answer is no.

As of 12/21/2022

The Committee will continue to update this list to answer all of your questions as best we can. There are several key dates also set aside for this purpose:

Search Committee Town Hall Q&A

Would you like an opportunity to learn more about our Senior Pastor Nominee, Zach Rogers? You are invited to join the Search Committee at a town hall meeting on Wednesday, January 11, at 6:30 PM in the Chapel for an informal time of Q&A.

Church Reception for Senior Pastor Nominee and Family

You are invited to attend an informal dessert reception on Saturday, January 14 at 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. Please plan to attend and meet Zach and Sheffey Rogers and their children, Riz and Raleigh.

We would also be glad to respond to e-mails as well. Please send your questions for the Search Committee to Joel Feucht at srpvc.grace@gmail.com