

Background Information and History

Jay Lehman, Auburn Bible Chapel - Lead Pastor

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EDUCATION

Undergraduate

- I graduated from Ontario Bible College in 1996 with Bachelor of Religious Education in Pastoral Studies.

Seminary

- I began taking seminary courses in the fall of 2005.
- I am 4 courses into my M.Div from Tyndale Seminary

Education

My undergraduate degree was valuable in helping me to organize my spiritual understanding and develop the theoretical ministry skills that are crucial for pastoral leadership.

Ten years of full time ministry in a variety of contexts helped to turn my knowledge into solid practical experience.

After my first 6 years of full-time ministry I began to get hungry for more academic stimulation. I have only been able to fit in part-time seminary courses for the last 2 years because it has been difficult to balance full-time ministry, academics and a young family.

I am eager to continue on with at least 1 to 2 courses per year, because it is essential to help keep my mind stimulated with fresh ideas and learning.

I would like to continue academic education for the rest of my life.

BACKGROUND

1. What events and experiences have formed who I am today?

I grew up with a strong Christian heritage. My parents helped to plant a church as a young couple and were involved with children's ministries throughout their lives. I was heavily involved with my church youth group, high school campus ministry and summer camp ministry which helped to develop my character and leadership skills.

My first year out of high school, I went to Ryerson Polytechnical Institute for mechanical engineering. Just before Christmas that first year, a good friend was killed tragically in a car accident. Her funeral was a brutal reality check that forced me to question how much of my life was going to have eternal impact. I lost my motivation to pursue engineering and began to see my passion for spiritual leadership to emerge.

The following year I enrolled at Ontario Bible College (presently Tyndale University College and Seminary) and saw God ignite a calling to ministry leadership.

The summer I graduated from OBC God opened up an opportunity to work as youth pastor in Peterborough at Auburn Bible Chapel. I cut my ministry teeth by reviving a struggling youth ministry, preaching monthly and navigating 2 years as the only full-time pastoral staff.

In our fourth year at Auburn, my wife and I felt God's clear direction to step away from our current role. We had no concrete reason why, but we informed our leadership in January of 2000 that we would be finishing up our ministry in June. God led us into a great opportunity to lead the high school ministries of Brant Bible Church in Burlington, Ontario.

My experience over the last 7 years has been a tremendous privilege. I have enjoyed the challenge of inspiring the emerging generations to realize its spiritual potential. I have been part of a church

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environment that has successfully implemented multiple services, planted 2 independent congregations and merged 2 highly complex church cultures into the current Compass Point Bible Church.

These experiences have helped to refine my core desire to see the Body of Christ be everything that God has dreamed for it to be.

2. How did I become a Christian?

I took my first conscious step of faith as a 4 year old after a conversation with my mother. My life had been a gradual osmosis of my parent's faith until I was 16, when I took the initiative to be baptized. My baptism became the symbolic turning point of differentiating my faith from my parents.

3. Why do I want to be a pastor?

I have grown to accept the responsibility of the gifts and abilities that God has blessed me with. I am aware that the best use of my gifts of leadership, communication and craftsmanship is through pastoral ministry. I know that I could pursue other vocations, but it would not be the best use of who I am.

4. How did I discover my calling to be a pastor?

I had gravitated to various ministry leadership roles throughout my life. From being a student leader in my youth group, to being vice-president of my inter-school Christian Fellowship group, to leading an Inter-Varsity small group as a first year student at Ryerson University, to being a resident advisor in the OBC dorm for 2 years, I have always been drawn to opportunities that give me the platform to impact people spiritually.

5. Who have been the greatest influences in my spiritual life, and how did they impact who I am today?

Stan and Pat Lehman - my parents. I am continually grateful for the spiritual heritage that my parents surrounded me in. They gave me the roots to weather the storms of life and the wings to pursue God's dream for my life.

Rick and Kathy Allison - The couple who were the volunteer youth leaders for my youth group were significant mentors in my teen years. They allowed me to spend time with them and their young family. They encouraged me to take on responsibility and modeled how authentic spirituality could be lived out.

Dennis Wilhite - is a professor at Baptist Bible College in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Dennis started a wilderness outfitting ministry in Algonquin Park that equipped Christian groups to use wilderness trips as a tool for ministry. I was referred to him after a similar camp program that I was developing was shut down. I spent 2 summers working for Dennis and he helped me to wrestle with the mechanics of discipleship. He also encouraged me to pursue ministry in the local church vs. para-church organization.

Michael Pawelke - is the sr. pastor I have worked under for the last 6 years. Mike has given me constant opportunities to learn and grow and the affirmation of my ministry potential as a pastoral leader. He has been gracious and supportive through the highs and lows of my time at Brant Bible Church/Compass Point Bible Church. He taught me the importance of vision casting to organizational growth.

John Latta - Co-Director of the Canadian Youth Network. John has been my "go-to-guy" when I need to vent. He has taught me how to listen and about the power of thoughtful encouragement.

Bill Fietje - Associate Gospel Churches of Canada Central Region Superintendent - Bill has helped me work through my transition out of youth ministry. Bill has modelled the power of mentoring by regularly breathing hope and confidence into my life.

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6. In light of 1 Timothy 3:2-7, 1 Peter 5:1-4, and Titus 1:6-9, what aspects of my life or character may potentially hinder me in my work as a pastor?

Self-control - as I get older I am more aware of the reality that the bedrock of leadership is character. My integrity is a product of my self-discipline. Self-discipline happens when I admit that I can't afford the consequences of not exercising self-control. I am committed to being ruthless in identifying the areas of my life that need more self-control.

Managing my family - It is a constant challenge to stay on top of the changing needs of my wife and 3 sons. I try to make investing in my wife and boys a priority that I pray about regularly and put into my weekly agenda.

7. Who am I? What are the essentials things about me that someone needs to know that have not already been covered?

I am introverted. I need regular blocks of time by myself in study, reflection, meditation and preparation for me to be able to effectively lead. My personal time determines how effective I am in my personal mentoring, coaching and preaching.

I am a directional leader. I have the natural ability to evaluate my environment and intuit crucial dynamics that need to be addressed.

I am a creative architect. I love the opportunity to come up with systems and processes that help us realize our purpose and vision.

I get bogged down when I am responsible for too much implementation, follow-up and detail management.

My leadership profile will shine brightest when I am able to surround myself with competent and self-motivated managers and implementers.

I am passionate about creating transformational worship experiences. I love the opportunity to utilize creative elements of video, images, art, drama and music to create teachable moments where God is understood and appreciated in significant ways.

WORK EXPERIENCE

1. My past experiences...

- Associate pastor of emerging generations, Compass Point Bible Church. (2000-August 2007)
- I have been wrestling with the timing of my transition into sr. pastoral leadership for 2 years. The transition was put on the back-burner because of the merger that Brant Bible Church and Park Bible Church entered into. Now that we are into the second year of the merge, I resigned in November, 2006 effective June 2007 so that a new youth pastor could transition smoothly in to fill my shoes so that I could initiate the overdue need to pursue the next season of ministry God has for me.
- High school ministries (2000-2006)
- Jr. High, Sr. High & Summer camp ministry (2005-2007)
- The high school ministry grew to over 75 kids regularly gathering for worship and small groups prior to the merge. We developed a healthy culture of students who were eager to grow together in their faith and leadership potential. We regularly took over 100 students and leaders to our annual winter retreat/conference. We saw over 50 students make the choice to be baptized during our annual spring graduation barbecue. All of our ministries have taken a beating through the last 2 years of our merge as our community was thrust into massive

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amounts of discontinuous change. Both the jr. and sr. high ministries have stabilized this year so that I think that the new youth pastor will have a decent situation to come into. I have learned the importance of vision to inspire a community to exist with purpose. I have learned how people need and expect constructive feedback from their leaders to stay motivated and growing. I have learned that I have to work hard at bringing leaders around me that compliment me so that I don't allow myself to feel the pressure to try and do everything myself. My time at Brant/Compass Point has been an incredible privilege. While the last 2 years have been extremely stressful, I know God has used all of the experiences to refine a deeper sense of my dependence on Him.

2. What ministries have I been involved with?

Jr. High (Gr.7&8)	Regular preaching (teens, young adult, adult)
Sr. High (Gr. 9-12)	Curriculum development
Young Adult (19-25)	Staff oversight
Leading adult volunteers	Teaching (teens & adult)
Directing summer camp programs	Counselling
Leading mission trips	Conflict Resolution
Leadership development	Discipleship/Mentoring/Life Coaching
Worship programming	

3. Other work experiences:

Auburn Bible Chapel - Youth Pastor (1996-2000)
Pilgrimage Ministries - canoe trip guide/ministry facilitator(1995-1996)
Landscaping/Property maintenance (1995-1996)
Small engine shop technician (1991-1994)

4. Volunteer and community activities:

Reach Forth Basketball Coach for kids outreach program (2007)
High school co-op program sponsor (6 students between 2001-2007)
BYSC soccer coach (5-6 year olds) (2003)
Respite Foster Care for a teen in group home (1999)

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

The Values that I will bring to the community I serve...

Truth Matters! The more we understand reality, the better we will live! Reality is best understood from God's perspective, which is uniquely revealed in the Christian scriptures.

People have incredible potential! From science to art, we don't have to look very far to be convinced of the amazing potential for goodness and beauty that humans are capable of. It only takes a sobering look in the mirror to be reminded of our disappointing capability for destructive thoughts, feelings and choices.

Community changes us. We live best when we live together. Some of our "rough edges" can only be softened by the interaction of diverse personalities. Church is a transformational community - not a building or location.

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Authenticity is reality. We settle for second best when we never go below the surface. The spiritual life that God wants to develop in us requires raw humility. The willingness to admit our brokenness and confess our weakness is the fertile soil of a life of integrity.

Your story matters...

We all have a story that is profound. All of our stories are being woven together to become God's epic tale of our response to his unrelenting belief in our potential.

Spirituality is relational. We don't just want to know about God, as if he is an abstract idea or concept - he is a person to connect with. Trust, communication, listening, and love are how we develop that relationship. Knowledge is important, but only because it helps us relate to God more deeply.

Simplicity is life. Jesus' teaching gives us ability to prioritize what is most important in life! Our culture is paralyzed by too many choices. Jesus breathes life into us with the reality that less is more. Jesus cuts through the clutter to pave the way to real freedom.

Family is inevitable. Life has meaning because of who we surround ourselves with! Family is not just those we are born with, it is the group we choose to surround ourselves with. Together we can become the family that so many of us have never been able to experience.

Growth is natural. Jesus compared our spiritual maturity to the growth of a seed. (Matthew 13) Spiritual confidence first springs to life, then takes root, then grows up, then reproduces. This model of natural growth shapes how we anticipate our spiritual growth. Something is only alive if it is growing. If it is not growing, then it is not alive. God cannot do much with people or churches who are not "alive." (Matthew 3:10)

Leadership is unavoidable. We all have the potential to help people move forward in their own development as people. People who are developing as better followers of Jesus naturally begin to help other people move forward in their lives. Some of us are given the ability of caring for a few people, others have been given the ability for caring for many people - it's all leadership.

The "Church" must breathe. Followers of Jesus live with the dynamic tension of living in two worlds. On one hand we are the "Ecclesia" - the called out ones who need to gather together as a unique Christian family for encouragement, equipping and unity. On the other hand, we are the "Diaspora" - people who "disperse" into the normal fabric of our culture to preserve it and provide a "light in dark places." So Jesus-style community must maintain a natural rhythm of inhaling ("Ecclesia") and exhaling ("Diaspora") to maintain life!

PERSONAL

Hobbies and interests:

- Sports (Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer)
- Outdoor (Canoeing, camping, hiking)
- Woodworking (paddle carving, home renovation)
- Digital Photography