

Jonathan & Britn'y Stein
Contact Mission Church of Christ
Tulsa, OK



Jonathan, Brit'ny, Laura, and, coming in June 2021, Anna Jo Stein live in the Tulsa, OK area and have deep ties to Legacy. Jonathan and his parents, Howard and Sherry, arrived at the congregation when Jonathan was starting 2nd grade, and Legacy is a big part of the story that brought him into full time ministry. After graduating from Harding and ACU (MDiv), Jonathan moved with Brit'ny from ACU to Oklahoma State for her PhD in School Psychology.

Following her program, the Steins moved to Tulsa for a job for Brit'ny, but they already knew of the work going on at Contact. On their first Sunday visiting, Jonathan knew it was the place for them, and the leaders at Contact soon welcomed him onto staff full-time as the Associate Minister in 2017. Now over four years in, Jonathan and Brit'ny are still passionate about working with kids and adults who are often left behind or overlooked in many areas of life, and they are so thankful for the support and love of Legacy and a handful of other wonderful congregations that allow Jonathan to minister in and among socio-economically populations to share hope and the Good News of Jesus every day.

About Contact

Contact began in 2000 when faithful servants at the Park Plaza Church of Christ asked why a ministry like Impact Houston couldn't happen in Tulsa? By 2002, outreach to local apartment complexes and investing in the lives of people often ignored by most led to buying a building dedicated to outreach ministry in West Tulsa to act as a hub for mission and ministry throughout the city. Now two decades later, while much of the method has changed over time, the mission still remains - to THINK SOULS, Show Up, and Interrupt Lives for the Kingdom!

Mission: Contact Mission Church of Christ serves to make disciples of Jesus Christ by planting seeds of hope and a future among youth and families from all walks of life and circumstances. We do this by following Jesus into West Tulsa's apartment complexes, neighborhoods, and public schools to share the Good News and create Kingdom community. As we serve, we also train and empower congregations and youth groups across Tulsa and beyond to do the same in their own backyards.

Story of Hope

As I think about the way Contact partnered in sharing the Hope that comes from Christ throughout this past year, the two things that really come to mind are our food pantry and Christmas Store. Once we had to begin moving most of our ministry online and over the phone back in March, the one thing we knew couldn't stop was the food pantry. Now, our food pantry is a little odd, because no one at Contact runs it! One of the local congregations, Jenks Church, who has supported the ministry of Contact since the beginning, totally runs the operation of the food pantry for Contact. I am so thankful that these servants did not decide to stop that ministry just as people all around our building were beginning to lose jobs and income.

In the first weeks of the pandemic, they invited me to jump in and help, as most serving were in the retiree age group and potentially (as we were still learning!) more vulnerable to Covid. I was glad to get the chance to minister to people driving up in the cars needing a little food, and I was thankful for the opportunity to pray with each and every one of them before they left. It was hard to hear about how many folks were just barely making it week to week, and we were so glad to be a source of hope for them as we always had food and a little bit of encouragement.

At the same time, I was starting to send out text messages to people who participated in our 2019 Christmas Store, and food was an overwhelming need among those neighbors as well. In addition to the drive up food pantry, a couple of our members and staff and I would also deliver food directly to families in need. For some, that was their one point of

contact with people of faith throughout the pandemic, and we were blessed to share food and hope and prayer and a little fellowship right on people's doorsteps.

Moving forward to Christmas Store 2020, we threw around a lot of ideas for what to do. We knew we couldn't have 150 people crammed in the building at once, and we even, for a moment, considered cancelling. But with all the challenges we knew families were facing, an opportunity to shop at 75%+ off of retail for their kids and give them free enrollment in our 2021 summer camp (we hope!) needed to happen this year, perhaps more than ever.



So, instead of a one day event, we ran a two week long store with shopping times and extra distance, and got the chance to help parents provide Christmas presents for over 400 kids! I ran communication with all the families coming to shop, and the number of parents who told me that there would have been no Christmas without us was staggering. We know, of course, that it's not about the presents, but most of us don't know what it is to not be able to provide for our kids on Christmas morning. My prayer is that, through the Christmas Store and through the food pantry, those parents and families found some of the Hope of Christ and have an opportunity to reflect on how faithful He is even in the midst of struggle, pain, and pandemic.