



# CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

## PASTOR NICK LAVEN

### **Q. Do you agree with everything in the CLB statement of faith?**

A. Yes!

### **Q. What is the gospel?**

A. We are all selfish little sinners alienated from God where God in His infinite love and mercy sent His Son Jesus in the flesh to live out a perfect life obedient to the cross to take our place on the seat of judgement for sin, fully taking God's wrath for our sins and rising to new life on the third day to give us a new redeemed life through His great act of grace. Our life is in His through His death and resurrection.

### **Q. How are disciples made?**

A. Disciples are made first and foremost by relationships. Building relationships is crucial to disciple-making. Obviously the Word of Christ is central to this but I have found that without relationships and trust, true discipleship and growth (with deep roots) is almost unlikely to take root. We can just look to the Scriptures for how much relationships played into the early church.

### **Q. What would you emphasize in leading a church in outreach to the community?**

A. Ask what the community's greatest needs are and how best can we help to serve those needs all while shining the light of Christ in the midst of it! (this goes back to relationship building and trust).

### **Q. What is your style of leadership (hands-on, laid-back, fast-paced, facilitator, CEO,...?)**

A. Leadership style for me is teamwork. I have been a football player my whole life (elementary, high school, college) and teamwork finds the best in each leader and holds accountability to the greater vision/mission of the group. I am definitely a hands-on leader who is adaptable. But mainly I stand and ground myself in teamwork as I find it to be the scriptural grounding for effective and fruitful leadership. Jesus being the head leader of the team!

### **Q. Share some adjectives that describe the kind of culture you would like to create in the church you serve and lead.**

A. family oriented, friendly, welcoming, loving, open to listen, engaging, relaxing, challenging (in a growth view), maybe I should say stretching past comfort zones. (These may not all be adjectives but it's what is on my heart).

### **Q. What's the story of how you became a Christian?**

A. I grew up in an ELCA church as a "Chreaster" (Christmas / Easter) kid. I always went to Sunday School and went through Confirmation. But the church wasn't a welcoming environment to where I wanted to be there. I had moments as a youth of wanting to grow but was met with students who didn't show up and a youth leader that thought we all didn't care. I ended up giving up on God at that point (Also was angry over my childhood losses that I experienced). Then I started dating Brittany (now my wife) in high school. Her family was in love and on fire for Jesus and poured into me. I was given a compact Bible at graduation by them and they wrote their favorite verses on the inside cover. I said thank you but didn't think much of it. Off to college I went and one of my roommates from the football team was a Christian and he always encouraged me to at least look up the verses they wrote down. Over the next 2 years I dove deep into that Bible to the point where it was falling apart. Went to church with my roommate (now one of my best friends) and kept growing thanks to my wife's family and love. It was in the middle of college that I truly awakened to Christ's amazing life-giving love and became (what I would say) a Christian.