

Dear Pastoral candidate,

We haven't met, but my name is Jake Rosen and you were referred to us. I have been one of the pastors of Clayton Community Church since 1991. Our church has been praying that God would call a younger pastor to help grow Clayton Community Church and that is why I wrote this letter. We have a rich history and a loving faithful community. Clayton has existed for almost 50 years. Typically, I have served with other pastors as a team. We believe in a plurality in the pastorate and are a shepherd led flock. When Paul appointed Elders to lead the churches he started there were always more than one leader. Only one other time did I serve as the sole pastor and that was for only 9 months. Sadly, my co-pastor, Joshua Clutterham, just died in January from sarcoma after a 15 month battle with the disease. The two of us were honored to serve Clayton Community Church together for nearly three years. This loss is very difficult for all of us as he had just celebrated his 41st birthday and he left behind a wife and 5 little boys. We hoped he would be here longer to help lead and continue to inspire new growth for an aging congregation but we remain thankful for the enthusiasm, the equipping and the passion he and his family brought to our fellowship. God loaned him to us for a season and we are grateful. "The Lord gives, the Lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord." We are still grieving but life goes on.

Our church was originally born out of a youth work called Kibbutz that focused on going to the Jew first (Rom 1:16). The church's founding pastor, Wayne Carson, was mentored by Moishe Rosen, who founded Jews for Jesus. God used the Jesus movement of the early seventies as an incubator to birth Clayton Community Church. Young people came to faith and were looking for a church home where their unconventional appearance, and zeal for serving the Lord, would be welcomed. That and a clear call to faith in the finished work of Jesus, following Him to maturity was the hallmark of Clayton Community Church. We are intentionally Non-Denominational and have traditionally grown our own pastors so our networks for finding new young pastors is limited and as we look for the Lord's guidance we want to be open to various ways God can and will work.

We have maintained a strong love for the Jewish people over the years. I came to faith through the ministry here and I am a Jewish believer myself. I also provide leadership to a small Messianic congregation called Beit Chessed that meets at Clayton Community Church twice a month on Shabbat. At Clayton we also have a rich heritage of supporting full time foreign missionaries, and many in our congregation have gone on short term mission trips. We have had a vibrant ministry to the inner-city community for well over thirty-five years, and Pastor Emeritus Charlie Bethel still works with these kids. Charlene Harris reaches out to international students in our area through English Club and through zoom. We were able to plant two churches during our history, both of which are doing well, and they have planted churches of their own. We are also a creative community who loves artists and the Arts. We try not to micro manage their creativity. I graduated in painting from the Art School at Washington University in St. Louis and my wife and I both graduated from Fuller Seminary with an MA in intercultural communication. But we emphasize the lists of qualifications that are found in the scriptures. Character qualities and being "tested" alongside being "apt to teach" are what they feature.

We have a church building in Rock Hill that is well situated and paid off. It can definitely stand a face lift. God has been gracious to us. We are an older congregation in need of young families. We are a community of people who love each other, and have a great deal to offer in terms of seasoning and wisdom. We can offer support to someone God may be leading to join the pastoral staff, someone with fresh vision who might benefit from joining us in following God's plans for the next chapter in the life of this local church. We are proceeding prayerfully, listening carefully for God's direction. He will build His Church.

If you think you would enjoy learning more about who we are, and any other details, please feel free to contact us. Included is a copy of what we consider the essentials of the doctrines we hold to. God's word is our source for conduct and instruction. Our desire is to continue to be a faithful voice lifting up the Name of Jesus high in our community.

Sincerely,

Jake Rosen,



Pastor of Clayton Community Church  
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CLAYTON COMMUNITY  
CHURCH

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