

# The Westside Church

## Position Open: **Lead Couple**

The Los Angeles Church of Christ is searching for a couple capable of inspiring and leading the ministry called The Westside Church, of roughly 300 members.

There are about 160 marrieds and singles in the family ministry, 55 campus, 28 teens (13 baptized), and a singles ministry of 70. The area comprises cities like Culver City (major film studios, great downtown and schools), Santa Monica (famous pier, promenade, ocean view, schools), as well as the communities nearer to LAX: Playa Del Rey, Westchester, and Inglewood..

This opportunity is very unique. When most ministers are stepping into a new church, they are vulnerable to unknown dynamics. However, the Westside's process of hiring a new minister follows an extensive journey with an organizational health specialist and team of consultants. Nearly one year ago the ministry experienced a leadership crisis. After months of struggles and perseverance with an advisory group, the members and LA leadership pursued third-party appraisal in the hopes of reconciling damaged relationships and reassembling a team. We are well on our way in this process.



## Westside Legacy

The list of names of those who served on the Westside and its campuses is long. Some of the couples that built or led this ministry are Marty and Chris Fuqua, Andy & Tammy Fleming, and Anthony and Saun Galang. Of course, many others labored and left strong deposits of faith.

A recent poll of the Westside surfaced the following responses to the question, "What do you think is the

greater legacy of the Westside ministry?"

The Westside has "a no Disciple left behind attitude", "we have leaders who show an interest in me and my family", "we have some of the most educated, spiritual and dynamic church members", "historically been a giving ministry and a spring board for mission teams and leaders", "[we are] a church that overcomes many things throughout all the years", "the historic UCLA ministry", "a strong teen ministry", "a great place to raise a family", "a benevolent church" and more.

One of the great features of this ministry is the large number of families in Culver City. In fact, there are 18 teens attending the same school that holds a Bible Talk that averages 40 visitors a week.



## Westside Ministry Transition Team

The Westside ministry possesses a diverse Ministry Transition Team that will operate until the new couple has had time to form a more lasting functional team. It includes diversity of age, gender, ethnicity and roles.

Patricia Butts and James Lem (singles in family ministry), Chuck and Carol Bray, Tim and Nancy Priestley, Carlos and Alejandra Santini (marrieds in family ministry), Stuart and Ashley Mains (campus), Martin and Tina Chairez (teens) and Aaron Young and Angela Williams (singles).

This team is central to the interviewing process for the next minister of the Westside.

## Current Consultation

Since 1989, our ministry has birthed many things—campus ministry, training and sending out of leaders, plenty of baptisms, abundant financial sacrifice, and more. There came to be a point in time where the Westside was giving and wasn't being replenished. Concurrently, there were natural generational changes that we didn't initially navigate very well. So we brought in a consulting team, Steve and Tricia Staten. Anthony Galang, made the following statements about the recent work of the Statens in Hawaii,

"From time to time churches need to hit the reset button. Oahu was in decline for many years and Steve and Tricia Staten came in and did what was needed. Steve did the work of an elder, preparing the way ... clearing out the deep issues in the church. And in less than a year our membership has gone from about 263 to nearly 300 and our attendance has grown from about 290 to an average of 420."

## Inquiring Process

One of the great things about what we are currently experiencing is that we will be able to be an example for other aging but vigorous churches who are bound to experience similar challenges. We believe that the incoming minister can benefit from what comes out of this experience, which will include a thorough congregational assessment and a survey from the family, campus, singles and teen groups. We also want our next minister to stay connected with the Statens as part of staying abreast of the resources and opportunities for maintaining a healthy congregation. We believe that our next minister will play a significant part of our continual transformation.

If you consider yourself a serious candidate from the Southwest Region of Churches we ask that you contact Mark Shump, an elder in the Westside, at (310) 488-2681 or [mshump1@verizon.net](mailto:mshump1@verizon.net). If you are a serious candidate from another region of our churches we ask you to contact Steve Staten, lead consultant, at (773) 910-3777 or [stephenfstaten@gmail.com](mailto:stephenfstaten@gmail.com).

Rest assured, we desire to protect a candidate's confidentiality and respect the congregation where a candidate might be currently serving.

We will send you more information on what are the kinds of features that the Westside ministry aspires for in its next minister. And equally important, we wish to learn what candidates aspire for in their next ministry assignment.

*—The Coastal Elders, Westside Ministry Transition Team, and the Consulting Team*

