



My name is Zach. Vanessa and I have been married almost 8 years, and we have 4 children: Haley (5), Liam (almost 4), Lucy (20 months) and a very small one who will be making an appearance around Halloween. We are taking suggestions on names. I graduated from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, and I am in the final stages of the ordination process with the EPC. Currently, Vanessa and I work as houseparents at Black Mountain Home for Children, where we live with and care for 10 teenage boys in the custody of the state.

I grew up in Chapel Hill, NC, the son of a physics professor at UNC and a nurse practitioner. It was not a Christian household, but when I was young, my mom started taking me to church as a way to expose me to religion.

When I was 16, I started reading the Bible. I began with the Gospels, and was awed by what I found. Jesus was unlike anything or anyone I had encountered: both more tender and more stern, fiercer and gentler, full of power and relentlessly humble. Even in the terse Biblical style, He leapt off the page. I kept reading and reading.

As I fell in love with Jesus, I grew increasingly frustrated with church. The parish I grew up in was far more about ritual and potluck dinners than about following Jesus, which was all I wanted to do. I distanced myself from church and spent the next several years on my own spiritually, simply reading the Bible and trying to better understand who Jesus was.

The summer before our junior year of college, Vanessa and I started dating. She is amazing—loving and encouraging, creative and persistent. I needed 2 months to decide I wanted to marry her, and another 3 months of washing dishes at a campus dining hall to save up for the ring. We were in school in separate states, so after an interminable engagement, we skipped our graduations, got married, and moved to Black Mountain, a town near Asheville, NC.

Vanessa, being the wiser of us, insisted we find a church home, which we did in Isight, a new EPC church plant. We got involved quickly, and within a year I began preaching monthly. My time in the pulpit confirmed my calling, and I have been a regular preaching volunteer ever since. Isight has been a blessing for us. As a teenager, I read Scripture and learned to love God. At Isight, I learned to love His bride, the church.

Four years ago, the first pastor of Isight moved on, and I took on a larger role at the church. I was ordained as a ruling elder and have functioned as a tentmaking associate pastor ever since. The weeks when we are not living at the children's home, I spend time preparing sermons, discipling members of the church, and sharing the gospel with people I meet in coffee shops or at pick-up basketball games around town. These are my passions: preaching the Word, walking alongside people who want more of Jesus, and telling people about the freedom and purpose I have found in Him.

Over these years I have grown increasingly certain of my call to fulltime ministry. When I am preaching, discipling, and evangelizing, I know that I am where God wants me. I love these things, as I love the God who led me to them, and want to spend as much time as possible equipping others in the same way.

I am excited about Calvin. After spending time with the search committee, and with Marc and Carol, I look forward to the chance to join a church already vibrant in teaching, community, prayer, and service. I hope to walk alongside continued growth in all these areas, while helping us to identify the ways the Spirit has gifted each of us, and use all of those gifts to build God's kingdom in Corvallis.



Haley, Zach, Lucy, Vanessa and Liam