

Steven Anderson

Pastoral Experience

Experience as an Interim Pastor

- Thief River Falls EFC – Thief River Falls, MN
August 2017 to March 2019
- Emmaus Church – Northfield, MN
October 2012 to April 2015
- North Isanti Baptist Church – Cambridge, MN
December 2010 to July 2012



Experience as a Full-Time Senior Pastor

- Bethel Church – Owatonna, MN
October 1979 to June 2008

Other Ministry Experience

- Asst. to the President & Regional Representative – Converge Worldwide
June 2010 to January 2011
- Youth Pastor and Minister of Music – First Baptist Fergus Falls, MN
November 1972 to October 1979

Education

- Bethel College (now Bethel University), BA, 1970
- Bethel Theological Seminary, M. Div., 1975
- D. Min. Studies, Fuller Seminary, 1992 - 2002

Personal Info

Family

Steve and his wife, Harriet were married in June of 1969 after meeting each other at Bethel College. They have two daughters, two grandchildren, and a Shih Tsu, Marley.

Hobbies and Interests

Steve is an avid bicycle rider, and also enjoys digital photography (shoots Nikon) and video. He's a fix-it-your-selfer, and is active with "Our Legacy," a congregationally based outreach ministry in Ukraine.

Personal Testimony and Ministry Call

Steve gave his life to Christ at his parent's bedside at a very early age following the showing of an impactful Billy Graham film. His dad was a pastor who consistently lived his faith and valued his walk with Jesus. Steve's mom was a godly influence on his life. It was the combined example that showed him his own personal need for grace and salvation.

Steve first felt God's call into full-time Christian service in junior high. He thought that meant being a missionary in North India, so it was confusing when India closed their doors to American missionaries

before he graduated from high school. Steve decided to train for music education at Bethel. He spent time studying history and graduated as a psychology major with a church music minor. Then on his first day of classes in his first year of seminary, Steve experienced an overwhelming and fulfilling sense that he was exactly in the place God wanted him.

Faculty encouraged him to apply for a position as Youth Pastor. Though Steve initially resisted, God made it clear that he should proceed. Upon beginning, Steve again had an overwhelming sense that God had assigned him that role. After two years part time, he served four years more in an expanded role.

In 1979, Steve was called to the Senior Pastor role at Bethel Church in Owatonna, MN. When he arrived, the church averaged 170 worship attenders. This dynamic, wonderful congregation grew to an average of 750 across the subsequent years of his pastoral ministry at Owatonna. Steve and his wife, Harriet, still consider Bethel Church, Owatonna to be their church home.

As Steve was concluding his ministry at Bethel Church in Owatonna, a passing comment from a colleague got him thinking about the potential for ongoing kingdom impact through interim pastoral ministry. After he had the opportunity to serve at North Isanti Baptist Church in Cambridge, he saw this potential realized. As he has served in other churches as an Interim Pastor, he has been able to not only help them see new levels of health, but he has also refined his own process for intentionally entering into an interim assignment.

FAQs

[Why does the Board think that Steve is the right man for Lakewood at this time?](#)

In multiple interviews, we were impressed by Steve's personal nature and obvious care for the church. We appreciate his dedication to working through an intentional and proven process to help Lakewood become more healthy, and his willingness to flex that process if and when necessary to best fit the needs of our congregation.

[Will the congregation vote on Steve as our Interim Pastor?](#)

Given that Steve is strictly an interim pastor (his agreement states that he cannot become Lakewood's permanent Senior Pastor), this will not be put to a congregational vote. Additional reasons for the Elder Board, rather than the congregation, officially calling Steve to this position are: 1) The set precedent has been that the Board makes the decision to call interim pastors, and 2) We are not directly hiring Steve – he remains an employee of Interim Pastoral Ministries (IPM), the organization we are partnering with for the provision of an interim pastor.

[How long will Steve be here?](#)

Most likely between one and two years. Rather than trying to base the length of Steve's ministry with us on the calendar, however, we need to allow the process that he will help us through dictate his tenure.

[When will we start the search for our next permanent Senior Pastor?](#)

We don't want to delay unnecessarily the process of finding our next Senior Pastor, but we also want to do what is necessary to be as healthy as possible before we begin that process. We are hopeful that Steve's experience as an interim pastor can help us make progress to that end. That said, at this point, we anticipate beginning the search process in early to mid 2020.