

DYLAN HARPER

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Dear Senior Pastor Search Team,

Thank you in advance for reviewing my resume and considering my formal interest in the **Senior Pastor** position at Gateway Community Church [GCC]. Upon reviewing the Job Description, the Mission/Vision Statement, and getting a feel for the style/culture of GCC through your website and recorded services, I was already intrigued and discerning my application. However, it wasn't until a conversation with Pastor Al that I felt prompted to submit my application. Finding a modern, mission-minded church like GCC is few and far between in the CRC, and this type of church is one that I strongly feel called to serve and help bring pastoral leadership to.

Although I've only recently graduated from Calvin Theological Seminary this past May, I do have many years of ministry experience in contemporary/modern church settings that I would bring to this position. Specifically, my three years of experience at Encounter Church in Grand Rapids have been of great value equipping me for a multi-staff driven environment such as what I sense GCC to be. My heart for the local church is to be a shepherd who is always present, leading with compassionate humility through preaching, pastoral care, and discipleship/leadership development, ultimately equipping God's people for the specific call He has put on them as individuals, and the church as a united body. GCC's two-fold General/Specific mission speaks my language in terms of being internally strong as the church community, while at the same time, externally focused on reaching the local community. My hope is to help build upon the decades of successful ministry that has already taken place in Merced through GCC, and then bring the visionary leadership needed for the next season God has already prepared.

Thank you once again for your consideration. I look forward to any opportunity given to further discuss this pastoral role and how I might be a potentially good fit for it.

Blessings,
Dylan Harper