

## Lead Pastor Candidate Announcement @ MWC

### Vice-Chair Remarks

Today I have the privilege and the sincere honour of making an exciting announcement as it pertains to the search of our next Lead Pastor at Moncton Wesleyan. When Pastor Joel resigned last July, I concluded my remarks with a statement, and I would like to start this announcement with that very same statement.

God is in control. He has a plan. And we can trust Him!

Our Search Committee and Local Board of Administration (LBA) have been very busy over the last seven months. We have been praying, fasting, and asking God to help us discern His will in choosing our next Lead Pastor.

Rev. Peter Moore, our District Superintendent, and I have co-chaired this process. We both repeatedly sensed over the past few months that God was leading us to trust Him through the process. And now, I would like to report God has been faithful!

Please allow me to explain. – We have been blessed to have had amazing Godly lead pastors in the past. We have all seen what God can do. And rightly so, we all have high expectations. But in the human, what we are looking for seems impossible. To lead a large church with effective multiple ministries while continuing to see lives changed and won for Christ is a daunting task.

Our Search Committee and LBA soon realized the full magnitude of the challenge before us, as we began to interact with and interview potential candidates. We discovered such a leader is expected to be first and most importantly, an amazing teacher, preacher, and theologian. This person is also expected to be a vision caster, a marketing major, a psychiatrist, and a psychologist. They are expected to lead a large team and manage people and relationships with excellence. They are expected to answer some of the hardest questions life has to ask and to deal with the most difficult situations that any of us will ever face.

They're expected to be super-spiritual, even super-human.

And to top it all off, we need them to live in the snowy cold north.

With such grand expectations that we did not want to compromise on, and after several months, we began to ask ourselves a question. Were we really looking for two people?

With this new thought and the possibility of a new model in mind, we realized the importance of the role that Pastor Jim Clements would need to play going forward. Pastor Jim is a high-calibre leader with extensive experience in Churches much larger than ours. For example, Under Pastor Jim's leadership and at his previous position as Executive Pastor at Watermark Wesleyan Church in Hamburg, NY, Watermark grew from 1300 in attendance to 2500. He managed a staff of 65 as the church grew from one location to multiple venues and campuses. We have been blessed to have Pastor Jim leading our team and serve us as executive Pastor as well as Interim Lead Pastor. During the past interim 6 months we have seen our church

grow, lives changed, vision casted and we have all been challenged to be the hands and feet of Christ. Pastor Jim has been leading us and this team with excellence!

This is the exciting part - See it became apparent through this process that the person that we were looking to lead us forward might already be in our building and doing an amazing job! Could that person be Pastor Jim Clements? But this new idea would work best with a different model in how often Pastor Jim would preach. In this new approach, he would not be the primary teacher/preacher. We would also need to find another Kingdom leader to serve in this role. An associate teaching/preaching pastor. This additional person has not yet been selected and it would be important for the new Lead Pastor to speak into the selection of this addition to our pastoral team.

God has also been working on Pastor Jim's heart as well as our Search Committee & LBA. And so, it is my great joy to formally announce that the Local Board of Administration is unanimously recommending Rev. Jim Clements as the sole candidate for congregational vote on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> to become the next Lead Pastor of Moncton Wesleyan Church.

Some of you might be wondering, "Didn't Pastor Jim clearly state in the summer he wasn't interested in the Lead role when he accepted the challenge to be our interim leader? The answer is yes. But when we started exploring a new possible model that has been used elsewhere, everything changed. This - new to us - model is one where we can continue to benefit from how Pastor Jim serves out of his strengths. It is a model where we will not need a new Executive Pastor – but will instead hire an additional teaching/preaching pastor who would serve as an associate to Pastor Jim. As the Search Committee and LBA began to explore this, we all started to get excited. See – God has been working in Jim and Giselle's hearts during this process as well. And God has allowed us to all experience this unique year of transition in a way that prepared us to discover the plan we believe he wanted all along. And praise God, the Clements are now willing and excited about the possibility of leading Moncton Wesleyan using an approach that honours who God has raised Pastor Jim up to be.