

Application Form for Candidate for Licensing at Browncroft Community Church

Name: Jason Harris

Date: 12/15/2020

Ministry Experience

List the various ministries (and dates of service) you have served in as Pastoral Staff at BCC:

Sr. Director of Worship and Production 2020 - Present

Sr. Director of Worship and Communication 2015 - 2020

Director of Worship 2010 – 2015

Which of these do you consider to be your primary ministries?

My primary ministry is curating and leading worship services, as well as leading and pastoring a diverse team of staff and volunteers.

Education:

Undergraduate Degree:

BS: Elementary Education

Institution:

Taylor University
Upland, IN

Date:

2003

Graduate Degree:

MA: Worship, Theology, and the Arts

Institution:

Fuller Seminary
Pasadena, CA

Date:

2010

List the names of the courses you have satisfactorily completed in college, seminary, correspondence courses or short courses which you believe are relevant to your qualification for licensing.

Institution 1: Fuller Seminary

Courses: New Testament: Romans- Revelation, Old Testament: Wisdom Literature, 2 Corinthians Exegesis, Psalms Exegesis, Spiritual Disciplines, Christian Ethics, Theology and Art, Theology and Film, Worship in the Seasons of Life, Survey in World Religions, Worship Leadership Practicum Cohort, Public Speaking, Church History: Church Fathers to Reformation, Church History: Reformation to Present

Institution 2: Palmer Seminary

Courses: New Testament: Gospels-Acts, Church History: Early Church

Institution 3: Taylor University

Courses: New Testament Survey, Contemporary Christian Thought

Doctrine

Do you give assent to the BCC Articles of Faith? Yes

Are there any of the BCC Articles of Faith with which you have reservations? If so, please explain.

Gifts and Calling

What do you regard as your primary spiritual gifts? How have you seen those gifts used in building the body of Christ?

As a former school teacher, and as a vocational worship pastor, my primary gift is teaching. Each Sunday the words I say and pray, and more so, the songs that are chosen to teach and sing as a congregation are my primary form of large group teaching. I believe that the songs we sing teach a biblically-based 'common man's theology.' These songs also reflect a personal and corporate/cultural heart language in our worship of God. We sing what we believe, or at least what we desire to teach, believe, and practice. Just like any teacher, the delivery of the content is just as important as the content itself, and my primary delivery are in notes and song.

Lyrics in song form are often more memorable than spoken word, and my desire is to select and teach songs worth remembering that can engage and impact the lives of our congregation in worship of our God.

Beyond teaching through music, I also lead and teach my teams in more traditional senses, whether that be in the classroom or lecture/preaching style setting. This is something that I started to lean into more about two years ago, and would like to continue to develop as opportunities arise. I often lead brief studies with my worship teams, and more recently longer reflections and meditations. I've also helped develop and taught our revised guest pathway 'The Next Steps Experience' over 2019-2020. In addition, I have led a small group for 8 years and have also taught as a guest lecturer at Houghton College.

I also believe that over the past decade I have developed a strong gift of leadership. This is a gift that has also grown as I've matured. As a leader, I am committed to charting our collective destination as a church or ministry while allowing and equipping others to influence the course. I seek to treat others with dignity and respect while setting a personal example of what I expect of others. I want to lead in a way that builds trust and inspires a sense of shared purpose. It is my desire to model my leadership with Christ-like character and the continued development of competence in my fields of ministry. This is more accurately seen in both my leadership of my staff and the volunteer 'staff', that has often totaled several hundred volunteers, from Worship and Production, to Communications, to Guest Services.

Lastly, I believe I have the gift of administration. I love high-level strategic thinking but also developing and executing a plan to guide smooth operation of the day to day. In consistently working with and leading a large group of staff, artists, and volunteers, I have a set goals and expectations that are essential to effectively working collaboratively together. Whether it's with a band, production team, or choir, or with planning the communication strategy of a 10 million dollar growth and vision initiative, remodeling the building with contractors and architects, or spearheading the church's Covid regathering implementation plan, strong administrative skills have been needed to effectively achieve a desired outcome. I have been privileged to have such opportunities to be stretched and grow in these areas while at Browncroft.

In addition, I believe my ability to recognize giftings and having a passion to raise up leaders that grow into new roles that serve the broader church furthers this administrative gifting. Over the past several years I've had the privilege to partner with staff and help them grow into new and greater positions and into increased spiritual leadership. From Alissa Catanzaro (once PT Worship Admin, now FT Missions Coordinator), to Collin Zweigle (once a worship volunteer, now FT Worship Leader), to Rebecca Taylor (once Browncroft Production Director, now Marketing Director for NE Seminary), to Ramon Quintero (once Graphic Artist, now Creative Director), to Kim Igoe (once Student Coordinator, now Next Steps Director), it has been a privilege to help each staff take next steps of leadership. I have also enjoyed partnering with numerous volunteers and helping them grow in their spiritual walk and also in their partnership with the ministry of Browncroft.

In what ways have you sensed the Lord calling you to ministry?

Growing up in the church as the son of a pastor I was actually very hesitant to go into full time ministry until my mid-twenties. It was in this season of spiritual growth and maturity, partnered with my leadership position in my church that spurred me to consider pursuing full time ministry. My sense of calling developed in a longing to lead God's people well with the gifts and opportunities given to me, and have been affirmed by my spiritual leaders and mentors along the way. Over a period of two years, while working as a full-time school teacher and the prodding/encouragement of my wife, I began taking steps of faith and taking seminary courses that eventually led to me pursuing a seminary degree and later full-time ministry.

Over the course of now of the last 15 years, I have been blessed to see the Lord work through me in using my spiritual gifts, my talents, and my heart for the Church. My father once told me that if you feel a calling to do anything other than work for a church – to do it – because vocational ministry is a calling more than a vocation. But if that's the only thing that one really "can" do -that instills and fulfills a passion in your soul – then go follow God's lead. Even after 15 years, I feel a longing for Christ, and a desire to lead his people into his presence. I have been privileged to do this at Browncroft for this past season. In this new season, I believe God is asking me to continue to follow him deeper and in new ways.

To what specific ministries do you sense a calling in the near term?

I believe that my calling in the near term likely will focus on raising young leaders partnered with ministry and leadership development. It also hinges on pastoring my current volunteer teams in a more direct and intentional way – walking beside them in new seasons of life. This has included slight adaptations to how I approach our current ministry within the Worship and Production team, as well as the prospect of regularly leading cohorts of ministry-minded interns at Browncroft. Though I have performed many of the duties of a pastor over the past decade of ministry at Browncroft, including regularly planning and leading worship services, leading communion, teaching, leading small groups, and leading large groups of volunteers, I believe that getting officially licensed is both an official marker of the work that I have done at Browncroft, but also a step of my continued growth as a disciple and pastor at Browncroft. I desire to help lead my team and our church well. This is what actually sparked my desire to attend seminary over a decade ago.

In addition, in the near term I have been asked to lead marriage counseling and perform a wedding for one of my volunteers. I am seeking official church licensure at this specific time because this is required, as I seek to walk beside and spiritually lead the members of my team. I would hope that I would continue to have this honor and opportunity to walk with couples in the worship ministry at Browncroft, and potentially extending to the larger church, as they start out their journey together in a healthy way.

To what specific ministries do you sense a calling in the longer term?

I believe that as my gifts of teaching, leadership, and administration mature I am being called to greater leadership within the Church. This year of 2020 has been a year of reflection and growth for me. Having celebrated 10 years of full-time ministry, I have begun to pray specifically over how God is asking me to grow and be challenged over the next decade as I seek to be faithful to his calling on my life, and my family. I believe in the longer term this will lead to me teaching more, and potentially growing into preaching in different environments.

My hope is to both raise up ministry-minded volunteers and young people through coaching and working with interns, or high level work in the broader ministry of the church. I also enjoy working with the church and its mission organizationally – strategically planning for the immediate and distant future. This may also lead to growth in my current senior leadership in the church, or an expanded executive pastoral role in the future, where both my heart for the church and my gift for innovative organizational mindedness and problem solving can continue to be stretched and bear fruit.

References (at least one from BCC Pastoral Staff Leadership Team member)

Rob Cattalani – Senior Pastor

Mike Pitts – Executive Pastor

Sam Huey – Former Executive Pastor and Current Elder Chair

Do you have any other input that would help us understand why you seek to be licensed?