



Michele Jacobson - Leadership Team candidate bio

Greetings, my name is Michele Jacobson. I am married to Rob Jacobson and have three children, Lauren, Lydia, and Luke. We have been involved in Restoration since the initial stage of dreaming, seeking, and asking God how and where he will lead us with this church. From the first dream, to gathering people, to finding a building, to developing ministries, to partnering with leaders in the community, and more...our family has experienced great joys and many trials in the journey and I have developed a deeper understanding of what it means to praise God at all times.

I participated in several school, sports and church activities growing up in Bloomington, Minnesota. Church was part of my life growing up but I didn't really have a personal relationship with Jesus until halfway through college. In the midst of athletic injuries, academic competitiveness and relational loneliness, I found Jesus.

I had the privilege of being a part of the first pastoral advisory team and have led and been involved in multiple ministry areas of Restoration. I am excited to serve on the leadership team this fall. I believe one of my spiritual gifts is faith and I have been told that I am highly strategic and am strong at building team and I am excited to share these gifts with the leadership team.



Pete Svaren - Leadership Team candidate bio

I guess with all journeys it's best to start at the beginning. I was raised in a wonderful Christian home and church where from the earliest age I was taught that I was a sinner in need of saving, and that God had provided the means of salvation through His Son, Jesus. That was reality for me from my earliest memories. With each step of cognitive and emotional development through my childhood and youth, that reality grew deeper and clearer, but it always remained my reality. And as there is always a deeper understanding to be had of God, that reality continues to grow deeper and clearer even today.

Certainly there have been times of doubting and wrestling, fears and anxieties, questioning and wandering. But God is always working, always calling, always making new, always bringing life from death. He has led me through very dark times when I didn't know if I would emerge intact on the other side. He has led me to the very end of myself, to where I had no resources left, so that I could clearly see

what it meant to rely entirely on Him. The true peace that He provides at those times is hard to describe unless you experience it for yourself.

And because He is carrying on the good work that He began in me all those years ago, He also calls me to serve Him. Just in the ways He has gifted me. It has taken me a long time to understand those gifts, and I am still learning day by day. But He has proven to me that He is faithful, and He is still making me new each day.

Thanks be to God.



Amy Zaffke - Leadership Team candidate bio

My mom became a believer sometime when I was young and started working as a children's director at our church. The Bible and learning about God were all around me and I grew up being a volunteer for Sunday school, VBS, events and everything in between. I think even then, I believed that God was real and important, but it was middle school that I encountered Jesus personally. In sixth grade, I went forward during the "prayer" but it was in 8th grade on an ordinary night that I was in my room reading a quick chapter in the Bible for devotionals and the Holy Spirit just showed up in my bedroom. I don't remember what I was reading and I didn't say a special prayer that night. There is no way to explain it but that He just showed up in my room and I started crying and realized in that moment my life was and would never be my own. That the fullness of joy I felt could only be found in Jesus and following His plan for my life. I felt compelled by love and joy that this was the only true purpose for my life. I then spent the next four years going with my mom to various events to learn more about the Holy

Spirit and grow deeper in my faith. I had many spiritual moms during that period who helped mentor me and then I attended a Christian college to grow more in my Bible understanding and find my personal passions for various ministries. The Lord had changed my whole perspective and continues to teach me things, heal my heart, and prepare me for future ministry. I often tell the young college women I mentor that if I can't think of a couple specific things the Lord is working on sanctifying in my life at any given time, it makes me pause to make sure I am staying connected to the vine of Jesus. I am currently working at Bethany Global University which is a missions school and I have the great privilege to mentor young women and be part of their sending team as I have a strong passion for missions. My husband and I also are very active at our church helping with the welcome desk, teaching Sunday school, leading a small group and wherever else is needed at various times. Our faith is the primary foundation in our marriage and our family.