

From: **Tim Stevens** [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, Oct 30, 2020 at 1:50 PM
Subject: Update regarding North Shore
To: allwcccstaff [REDACTED]

Willow team,

I'm a "bottom line up front" kind of guy. So here is the spoiler: *We have hired Ed Ollie Jr. as the next campus pastor at Willow North Shore and he will also serve on Willow's teaching team.*

Now, let me tell you a bit of the back story. In July, our HR team told me about Ed Ollie. Traci Charlet had found Ed on LinkedIn, and unbeknownst to her, at the same time someone forwarded Ed a job post for a position at Willow. Our HR team had a conversation, and it wasn't the right time for that particular role, but they said, "This guy would be amazing on our staff somewhere, someday." I arranged to have lunch with him when I was in Chicago near his home, and in late August we met for the first time. I came away energized by his story and his passion, but at the time, we didn't have any specific positions that would be a fit for him.

When the Willow Campus North Shore Campus Pastor role became available, we wondered if Ed could be a good fit. We began to hear more of Ed's story and how God had been moving in he and Marcia's hearts. Unrelated to our conversations with him, he was already preparing to resign from Harvest Bible Chapel (even though they had nothing lined up). They believed God told them their season was done and stepped out in faith in September.

Over the last few weeks, we have pulled people into multiple interviews with Ed to learn more about his fit for North Shore. We pulled in some of our executive team, including two campus pastors, to interview him. We had a small group from our executive team, with spouses, spend time with he and Marcia. Then we had seven North Shore lay leaders from the congregation meet with Ed. And finally, those North Shore staff members who are staying on the team spent time with Ed and Marcia, separately, in a few different meetings.

All of these folks gave us great feedback, and as each meeting took place, we became more convinced of Ed's fit to pastor the North Shore congregation in this next season.

I'm excited for you to meet Ed in the coming weeks. Here are a few things you should know about him:

- Ed and his wife, Marcia, have three children—Leah (16), Kayla (13), and Micah (9)—and live near the West Loop in Chicago. They plan to move to the North Shore sometime next year.
- Ed has a long history with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, both as a staff member and now as the Vice Chairman of the Board.
- Ed pastored and shepherded the staff and congregation at Harvest during a challenging few years that led toward healing and health.
- Ed has well-rounded experience in business, non-profit, and local church. He has been involved in leading people, growing organizations, raising money, and helping to shape culture and direction.
- One of the first reasons Ed stated for being attracted to Willow is our high value for women leading at every level in the church.
- He is passionate about building teams and empowering people in their God-given talents to pursue unity and love that transforms communities.
- Ed loves Kiwi-Strawberry Snapple, peanut M&Ms, old houses and interior design, and the Dallas Cowboys. He hates candy corn, kale, and cats.

Ed will begin easing into his role in November and will be fully engaged by early December. He is excited to learn from the North Shore staff and build to the future. Please be praying for Ed and his family as they join the North Shore family. Please also be praying for the North Shore staff and congregation as they continue to walk through significant change.

Tim Stevens

Executive Pastor of Campuses
Willow Creek Community Church

