



Dear Mayflower Members and Friends,

April 18, 2022

Your Senior Pastor Search Committee is extremely pleased to be calling Rev. Dr. Shawn Bawulski to Mayflower Church on Sunday, April 24, 2022. Shawn is currently the pastor of The Congregation of the Good Shepherd Church. This church is an international Christian church in Beijing, China with a vibrant and diverse congregation. Shawn and his wife Sara are originally from the Midwest and have two middle school-aged daughters, Kate and Charlotte.

Our primary search focused on candidates that embodied the top four traits gleaned from our July 2020 congregational survey. As a committee, we used these traits to guide us in our search. These attributes included: sincere spiritual leader; good communicator/listener; warm, open, friendly; scholar in biblical matters. Shawn embodies all the traits highlighted in the survey. After spending countless hours speaking with Shawn it became clear that his spiritual journey has been supported by constant study, reflection, learning, and prayer. He is well-traveled and has worked in numerous countries and multiple continents. His global perspective is both exciting and admirable.

As everyone is aware, COVID-19 made our search progression a bit more challenging. It has been a strange time to go through this process. We were fortunate to have Zoom to connect with candidates, and in Shawn's case, it was truly a blessing to spend many hours in conversation with Shawn and his wife, Sara, through this technology. We truly felt we got to know them on a personal level even with the 13-hour time difference and being a continent away.

Each member of our Search Committee brought unique skills and perspectives. This added greater depth to the interview process and gave Shawn a much better understanding of the heart of Mayflower.

We are confident that Shawn brings ministerial leadership, a pastoral ear, and a real passion that aligns with our Congregational way. He and his family have been worth the wait. We are grateful to our congregation and staff for their support and patience. You all have given us the time and support to find the right candidate to guide Mayflower in the coming years.

Please feel free to reach out to our Committee with any questions. On April 24th, we will be streaming Shawn's sermon during the 10:30am Worship Service so that everyone can hear him preach. At that time, we will also have a congregational vote to officially call him to Mayflower. Shawn and his family will arrive back in the U.S.A. in June and we would aim for him to join Mayflower staff in August.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to serve on the Search Committee and excited for what the future holds.

Blessings,

Amy Conway, Jessica Ruppert, Andrew Schutt, Rachel Haddad,
Steve Waltman, Phil Idema, Linda Edgar, Martin Grin, Lisa Weaver



The Senior Pastor Search Committee is pleased to announce the candidate they have selected as the best choice to be the next senior pastor of Mayflower Congregational Church.

Mayflower Senior Pastor Candidate
Rev. Dr. Shawn Bawulski

The Mayflower Senior Pastor Search Committee is comprised of discerning church members, many of whom have led us at the Council level.

The Committee has worked to actively gather input from the congregation. This input was received through an initial survey completed by over 150 members in June 2020. With assistance from Vanderbloemen Search Group, the Search Committee sought to seek, review, and vet candidates from a wide range of backgrounds and experience. Their commitment to the call for our next senior church leader has been steadfast. They are now confidently presenting Rev. Dr. Shawn Bawulski to move forward on the journey led by faith as the right person to join our church family.

“We hope you will agree that Pastor Shawn fulfills the needs for growth of our intergenerational congregation and we hope you will prayerfully join us to cast your vote on April 24th following the service.”

~ Amy Conway (Chair), Rachel Blair Haddad, Phil Idema, Jessica Ruppert, Andy Schutt, Steve Waltman, Linda Edgar, Lisa Weaver, Martin Grin

AN INTRODUCTION FROM PASTOR SHAWN

Dear Mayflower Congregational Church,

Hello!

I am so excited about the opportunity to receive the calling to pastor Mayflower Congregational Church!

My passion and my love for the church have led me over the years to serve in various ministries where theology and pastoral ministry connect. My calling is to shepherd a theologically diverse, multigenerational church. I am so excited about shepherding Mayflower for this next era in her history!

On my faith journey, I spent my teenage years in a typical American evangelical church and I'm grateful for many things I received from that tradition, including an emphasis on the Scriptures and on personal piety. However, it left me with some blind spots, the foremost of which was too narrow of a view of the gospel—in hindsight, it was too individualistic. During my theological development and ministry training, I began to think about the broader aspects of the gospel—social, political, ecological, etc.—but it was experiencing British evangelicalism in Scotland that led me to what might be considered a theological expansion. This was rooted in my reading of the Bible and particularly the books of Exodus and Amos along with passages like Col. 1:15-20 and Eph. 2:11-22 which

present Christ's reconciliation work including all of creation and social, economic, and political relationships. In this, my view of the scope of the gospel and the calling of Christian discipleship expanded.

This theological maturation has transformed my life in significant ways. I'm committed to learning from diverse Christian voices, emphasizing global Christianity, women, and people of color. My commitments to a more holistic gospel were a major factor in my transition from a professor position in the academy to a pastoral position in the local church to make more of a difference. Some of the biggest spiritual growth I've experienced in the last 7+ years has come through concrete acts of serving the poor and refugees, standing up for the powerless, and risking and sacrificing myself for the sake of the marginalized. I have grown tremendously by putting myself under the influence and leadership of Christians who are very different than me.



My wife, Sara, and I met at a church in the Chicago suburbs—we celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary last year. She has a degree in biblical Hebrew and has worked in many different organizations in leadership and management. My daughters Kate (12)

and Charlotte (10) were born in Scotland and have lived in Scotland, Lithuania, Arizona, and China. Kate's active, athletic, and very good at Minecraft. Charlotte rocks the electric guitar, loves reading, and can carry a conversation in Mandarin.

I'm committed to preaching the Scriptures with clarity and making theological truths accessible and applicable. I'm passionate about cultivating a healthy church culture, listening and leading by consensus, and concern for the least of these—the marginalized, oppressed, and powerless. I've lived in many different countries and cultures, but I'm really excited about the possibility of coming back to the Midwest to serve and minister at Mayflower Church!

Grace and peace, Pastor Shawn

SOME FUN FACTS

I love spicy food — so bring it!

I've been a Cubs fan for over 20 years—in 2003 they broke my heart, but in 2016 all was redeemed.

I grew up in Freeport, IL, where the high school mascot is... the Freeport Pretzels. Yes, I'm not kidding, I was a Pretzel, although I wasn't exactly happy about it.

I have lived in a building (in Scotland circa 1670) that's older than my country of citizenship (est. 1776).

HOBBIES

Board and strategy games, Hiking, Playing guitar, DIY home improvement, Travel, Baseball, Cycling, Documentary films

EXPERIENCE

Pastor

- Congregation of the Good Shepherd, Beijing, China (2018 to Present)
Multi-cultural, international, interdenominational church in the heart of Beijing

Board Member and Professor

- Beijing Equipping Center for Ministry, Beijing, China (2019 to Present)

Regular Pulpit Supply

- Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Phoenix, AZ (2017 to 2018)

Associate Professor of Theology

- Grand Canyon University Phoenix, AZ (2014 to 2017)

EDUCATION

PhD, Systematic Theology

University of St Andrews, St Andrews, Scotland (2008-2012)
Awarded Samuel Rutherford Prize for best doctoral thesis in Divinity

Masters of Divinity

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
Deerfield, IL (2005-2008)
Magna Cum Laude

B.A. Bible and Theology;

Music Minor

Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, IL (1998-2002)

PERSONAL REFERENCES FOR PASTOR SHAWN



Shawn's references further instilled our confidence in calling him to Mayflower. Each person thoughtfully reflected on Shawn and gave glowing feedback on his past and present endeavors and how we would be lucky to have him lead our ministry.

"Shawn is a wonderful preacher and teacher, is theologically highly educated and is able to distill that theology in clear and practical ways for the people he is ministering to. He is very relational, and will get to know the thoughts, concerns, and needs of the congregation, and address those things in concrete ways both through teaching and preaching and discipleship efforts." —Current Congregation Member

"Shawn is a gifted leader with capacity for vision, fundraising, and community involvement. He is a shepherding leader with a pastoral heart, leading beside his followers (whether students or parishioners)." —Former Colleague

"Shawn's greatest strength is how he relates to a variety of people young and old, rich and poor, Christians and seekers. He genuinely cares about people, and all of his teaching, preaching, and leadership is grounded in caring about and getting to know people.

Personally, my life in Beijing got significantly better when Shawn and his family came to Beijing, and leaving them was one of my biggest losses in my own return to West Michigan."
—Ministry Colleague

"Shawn has been able to grow our church and deepen friendships and relationships among us through his strong leadership, vision casting, and relationship building focus."
—Current Congregation Member

Shawn is a brilliant man, a humble soul, and an inspiring individual. It's rare that you get such a theologically rich mind that is also so gifted in the key marks of pastoral ministry. There is a warmth and genuineness that makes you want Shawn on your team to bring his best but also to somehow bring the best out of you." —Former Colleague

SEARCH COMMITTEE IMPRESSIONS

"I found Shawn to be refreshingly personable and articulate, very intelligent and well-traveled (with) an energetic persona and sharing that one of his goals would be eventually meet personally with every member of the congregation." —Phil Idema

"I appreciated Shawn's heart for God, his sense of humor, and his commitment and love for his family. Shawn's international experiences are also compelling to me. I believe he's a teacher/preacher and I think he will be a solid leader for Mayflower."
—Rachel Haddad

"Shawn truly seems committed to serving Mayflower. Each time he spoke to us, we felt he was energized and encouraged about the Senior Pastor position."
—Jessica Ruppert

"Shawn is a bright, witty, and energetic follower of Christ. I found his insights to be extremely thought provoking and engaging." —Andy Schutt

"I'm excited for us to call Shawn to be the teacher/preacher of Mayflower's intergenerational congregation as he is thrilled to return with his family to their roots in the Midwest to lead Mayflower."
—Linda Edgar

"I was impressed with Shawn from the very beginning. His knowledge of The Bible and his love of our Lord was obvious. I can't wait to hear his teaching of The Gospels from the pulpit." —Steve Waltman

"Shawn is warm, engaging, approachable and will meet our congregants where they are in their faith journey." —Lisa Weaver