

***With great excitement, optimism, humility and gratitude for God's leading, your Pastor Search Team affirms that Mr. Aaron Everic is our unanimous choice to serve as Associate Pastor for Student Ministries at Huguenot Road Baptist Church.***



Aaron was born and raised in Friendswood, Texas, just outside of Houston. He was an active member of his church youth group and remembers his experience participating as a mentor on a middle school youth retreat as being particularly formational in his eventual call to ministry. Aaron went on to attend Abilene Christian University, where he earned his B.A. in Youth and Family Ministry in 2014. While a student at Abilene Christian, Aaron spent a semester studying in Oxford, England and traveled throughout Europe. After graduation, Aaron participated in a sports ministry internship in Stellenbosch, South Africa, where he became convicted about his call to enroll in seminary. Upon his return to the U.S., Aaron began his studies at George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, TX, where he will graduate with his Masters in Divinity, Sports Ministry concentration, on December 14.

While at Truett, Aaron met Lauryn, also a seminary student. Lauryn grew up in Powhatan and was an active member of Bon Air Baptist Church. Aaron and Lauryn were married at the Village campus of Bon Air Baptist in the spring of 2017. Like Aaron, Lauryn will graduate from Truett in December with a Masters in Divinity. Lauryn feels called to hospital chaplaincy and will enroll in a program through Mary Washington University beginning in January, 2019.

Aaron has been serving on church staff since his undergraduate years. He has served 3 different churches and has held the positions of Assistant Youth Director, Jr. High Student Pastor, and Director of Children and Family Ministry. Aaron's responsibilities have included writing and selecting curriculum, teaching Sunday School, leading bible study, training and equipping teams of volunteers, planning retreats, providing resources for families for at-home discipleship, and maintaining a social media presence for his ministries. While at Truett, Aaron has also been a mentor, donor and partner coordinator with the Faith & Sport Institute, an organization that seeks to engage youth by combining their passion for sport with their life of faith.

Aaron's background is unique and ecumenical. He grew up in a Methodist home, has served on staff at both Methodist and Episcopal churches, and chose a Baptist seminary to pursue his Masters in Divinity degree. Aaron was baptized and confirmed in the Methodist church and, should he be called to serve at HRBC, Aaron looks forward to the opportunity to reaffirm his decision to follow Jesus by participating in Believer's Baptism by Immersion on January 20, 2019. It is important to Aaron that he make this public profession within a community of faith, knowing that we will rejoice with him in sharing publicly the decision he made in his heart so many years ago. What an example of devotion and humility for our youth and our entire congregation!

## ***A Note from your Pastor Search Team:***

We first received Aaron's name through the BGAV's Minister Matching Program. Aaron had placed his resume with the BGAV, seeking a position on a Baptist church staff in the state of Virginia. From the very beginning, Aaron stood out to us as an exceptionally strong candidate. He was a thoughtful listener who asked insightful, forward-looking questions. He spoke of his vision for a well-balanced youth ministry rooted in bible study and prayer. Aaron demonstrated a sincere desire to connect with our youth and to encourage them in developing and maintaining healthy relationships with one another. He discussed his belief in a continuing invitation to all youth, based on the Christian ideals of inclusion and hospitality. Aaron also spoke of his commitment to pouring into his leaders, investing in their personal growth as he equipped them to lead others.

As the search process progressed, our feelings of God's leading were continually confirmed. When we were curious about whether or not Aaron, a native Texan, would have a sufficient connection with Richmond to seriously consider HRBC, we learned that his wife had grown up in the area and together, they have deep connections here. When we asked Aaron to share with us a guiding scripture in his ministry to youth, he immediately responded with Romans 12:2, which happens to be the guiding scripture for our youth ministry - but was also the scripture Aaron had stitched on his high school letterman's jacket. When we felt God's calling to meet with Aaron in person, yet were unsure about the logistics of his travel from Texas, Aaron reached out to let us know that he and his wife would be in Richmond for a wedding at the exact time that we had hoped to begin our in-person interviews. And when scheduling the Call Weekend, the only available dates turned out to be this weekend, one that we had scheduled many months ago to include a youth service project and bonfire - both activities providing a perfect opportunity for connection and fellowship between Aaron and our youth.

We are confident that in Aaron we have found a faithful, humble, and compassionate pastor for our youth and our entire church. He is mature, but relatable, approachable and authentic in his interactions. He enjoys building relationships with whole families and sees a healthy youth ministry as one that is woven into the fabric of the overall congregation. In the words of one of Aaron's colleagues, "God grabbed Aaron early in life and led him into a life of ministry." Just as we believe that Aaron is the person whom God has prepared for HRBC, we believe that we are the church that has been prepared for him and we are grateful to present Aaron as our candidate for Associate Pastor for Student Ministries.

In His Service,

Your Search Team for the Associate Pastor for Student Ministries - Elliot Gibbs, Eng Heah, Wilton Johns, Sophie Jones, Sharon Krol, Vickie Lloyd, Lesley Montgomery, Jennie Perrin- Clarke, and Chris Schardt