

Ecclesia Clear Lake Elder Profile

Name: _____Michael Musselman_____

1. How long have you been a part of the Ecclesia Clear Lake church family? What initially drew you to the community? October 2011. We had recently moved to League City from Pearland. Our church in Pearland had gone from a new church plant, grown, shrunk and then transitioned to a house church model and dissolved just before we left Pearland. Given that we had spent a couple of years in house church, we were attracted to ECL because it wasn't a big, "come and see", program driven church. It was still hard to transition back into an institutional church but ECL was the best fit that we found.
2. In what ways do you currently serve in the church and in the community?
Connection Group leader
Elementary Sunday school teacher
Make coffee on Sunday mornings and purchase and restock the drink supplies
3. Share an overview of your faith story.
I grew up and was confirmed and baptized in the Methodist Church. Through my upbringing I learned about the Bible, how to serve, be a good person and socialize with members of the church. When I attended the University of Texas, I started attending the Methodist Texas Wesley campus ministry. It was during my college years and through this ministry and a few key relationships that I really developed my relationship with Christ, learned how to live out my faith, how to rely on God in both good times and bad, and the importance of worship, prayer and living in true community with other Christians.
4. At ECL we long to have deep roots in the historic Trinitarian Christian faith of the global church. Reflect on your understanding of the Trinity.
Father, Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit. All 3 are God, but all 3 are distinct persons. There is only one God, but all 3 are God.

5. At ECL we long for deep bonds of connection in human relationships within our church and in our community. What is the role of authentic and healthy community in church and in faith formation?

Sarah and I have both experienced our deepest connections with God through authentic worship and allowing and sometimes forcing ourselves to be in intimate relationships with small groups of fellow believers. Whether it's through individual friendships or church sponsored small groups, I find it difficult to fully experience my relationship with God when I am not in intimate and authentic relationships with others.

6. At ECL we long to be actively engaged in matters of compassion and justice in our community and world. Why is this an important longing? What does a healthy posture of pursuing this longing look like in our context?

Not sure I fully understand this question but here's an answer anyway. It wasn't Christ's message to his disciples or thusly to us that we should strictly show compassion and justice towards our friends and family, those people who look, think, or believe like us, our fellow countrymen or even people we like. If we are not loving others, and that means "all" others or at least attempting to do so, then we aren't truly living out those 2 most important commandments to love God and love others.