

## Ecclesia Clear Lake Elder Profile

Name: Josh McQuinn

1. How long have you been a part of the Ecclesia Clear Lake church family? What initially drew you to the community?

My family and I joined Ecclesia Clear Lake in 2018. We were weary of big, everyone acting put together church and were looking for small, come as you are community. We initial heard about Ecclesia Clear Lake from some in the community and through the community word about Ecclesia Clear Lake's response after Hurricane Harvey. We decided to attend Ecclesia Clear Lake and we found a small community of people who were longing for a relationship with God and relationships with the community around them.

2. In what ways do you currently serve in the church and in the community?

Serve the church:

Officially, I currently serve at Ecclesia in the children's ministry as a teacher for the preschool class and in communion preparation and service. Unofficially, I serve the church with any additional help I can provide as needed and by trying to ensure anyone who walks through our doors feels welcome, seen, and heard.

Serve the community:

My family has a mission statement that "We are blessed to be a blessing". We try to live this out everyday within our community. Our family keeps our eyes open for anyone in need and pursues avenues to help in any way we can. We especially look for those that are marginalized and overlooked. In a more official capacity, I volunteer as a coach for my children's sports teams with a priority on ensuring everyone of the children on those teams knows they are important and have something to contribute to their team and in life.

3. Share an overview of your faith story.

I grew up as the son of a preacher. We moved around some, but always had our church community supporting us. The last place we landed prior to me heading off to college was the town of Mt. Dora, Florida. There I went to a small Christian School that was also a children's home for foster children. Those foster homes

brought the children to the church I attended and I saw first hand the struggles of those who were overlooked. This helped form me as I moved into adulthood and as I and my family went through our own path through foster care. My faith is founded in the God who saw those kids and who walked beside them through the love of those who saw them too.

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.  
The trinity of God speaks to the fact that God is one united God, but relational in multiple persons. These persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) are not separate pieces of God, but the whole of God. It draws me to the statement that God is everything to everyone. This trinity of persons allows for each and every person to relate to God and for God to relate to them in all phases of their life and in all struggles. God is not a dictator telling you what must be done, but a trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that walks with you. They each provide everything you need in their role and as you relate to each.
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?  
As I mentioned above, my faith is founded in the church community I had growing up and the overlooked in that community. I very much am the man I am today because of the work God put into me as I lived life with those who have been overlooked. It is my hope to provide that kind of faith forming community wherever I go, but especially within the church community I am a part.
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?  
God desires to be and is engaged in compassion and justice and that desire is evident in his people. We cannot be in a relationship with our God without also being in a relationship with the community that God desires. Our compassion and justice needs to come from these relationships. We are not called to save the day for others and then walk away from them feeling good about ourselves. We are called to walk through the struggles and difficulties with those who need compassion and justice; even if we cannot fix the problems, we can live life with them.

