



GRACECHURCH

INTRODUCING

KEVIN FINKBINER

Lead Pastor Candidate



KEVIN FINKBINER

Kevin started in ministry with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, serving for five years as a Campus Pastor at Sonoma State University and Santa Rosa Junior College. Later, he served at several churches, including Lead Pastor at New Life Christian Fellowship in Petaluma, CA.

Most recently, Kevin has been ministering at Real Life Church in Santa Clarita, a multi-site congregation of about 3,000 weekly attendees. Since 2020, he has led as the Valencia Campus Pastor, serving on the teaching team and giving oversight to 20 campus staff members.

Kevin received his B.A. in history from Sonoma State University and has taken a number of graduate classes at Fuller Theological Seminary. He loves to surf, read, introduce people to Jesus, spend time with his wife and kids, and cheer for the Chicago Bears (not always in that order).



THE FINKBINER FAMILY

Kevin and Maria have been married for 17 years and have two children. Their daughter Maddie is in 10th grade, and their son Landon is in 7th grade. The family loves attending the kids' sporting events, going to the beach, and having adventures together.

Kevin and Maria met through their work with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Maria continues to work for IVCF on the leadership team for the Urbana Conference.

Maria is originally from Chicago, IL, and Kevin is originally from Glendora, CA.

Q&A WITH KEVIN

What are some experiences that have prepared you for your call to ministry?

The summer of my junior year in high school I heard the story of the prodigal son at a Young Life camp. After the message I went into a field and told God that if he would welcome me home like the son in the story, I would follow him the rest of my life. In college, I began leading Bible studies with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. One night, after a handful of students had placed their trust in Jesus, I told the Lord that if there was a way to make a living helping people find and follow Jesus, I was all in. This led me to my first job with IVCF. The last 25 years of following Jesus have been an incredible journey of God's goodness toward myself and my family. I've led a number of different trips around the world to Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, India, as well as spending 3 months living and serving in the inner city of Oakland, CA. God continues to remind me of my sonship, rub off my sharp edges, and allow me to create spaces for people to find and follow Jesus. Some of the spiritual practices that keep me centered on Christ are daily time in scripture and prayer, daily time of silence and reflection, fasting one day a week, weekly Sabbath, and time with God in nature.

What are some of your hopes and dreams for the local church?

When I think about the future of the local church, I see a place where unchurched people feel welcomed, at home, and loved - a place to explore the claims of Jesus and take their next step toward God. I believe that volunteering is a vehicle for discipleship and the role of pastors and church staff is to train and equip God's people for works of service. I think that small groups are key to relational connection, and I'd love to explore how to best leverage small groups to both form relationships and to help people develop as Christ followers. I think we need to create spaces for our people to belong and experiences for kids that disciple them and are so irresistible that they're begging their parents to get to church. I would love to see the church be known in the city as a place that meets needs, cares deeply, and is impacting the city to such an extent that the church would be deeply missed if it were gone.

ENDORSEMENTS

It gives me great pleasure to announce that we have selected a final lead Pastor candidate for Grace Church. After several months of prayer and numerous interviews the Lord has led the Pastor search committee and Elder Board to unanimous agreement. Please join me in welcoming Kevin Finkbiner, his wife Maria and his kids Maddie and Landon.

The search committee arrived at their decision after evaluating the needs and reviewing the core values of Grace church. It is my firm belief that God provided us wisdom in selecting Kevin. People who meet Kevin notice that he is an effective communicator at delivering God's Word. He is grounded in the Bible and has a passion for helping others draw near to God. It is clear that he has a heart for evangelism and enjoys interacting with others from different cultures. Kevin has high energy which encourages others to take action and move beyond their comfort zones. Furthermore, he is a good listener, sensitive to others and not afraid to tackle the tough issues in life. I am confident that he will fit in well with the Grace Church family. Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and most importantly, your prayers.

Our bylaws require a congregational vote to call a lead pastor. Members of Grace Church will have an opportunity to vote at a combined special business meeting/congregational meeting on March 10th at 4:15 pm. If you have any specific questions, please feel free to reach out to members of our search committee or the elders.

God be praised!

DOUG CHIRIBOGA
Elder Board Chair

Kevin's energy, passion for people, enthusiastic leadership, and zeal for spreading the Gospel are a few reasons he is the perfect fit for Grace. I wholeheartedly believe he will take attendees the next level in their faith, and set Grace up for even greater community and world impact. Exciting times ahead!

BRIAN RIETZE
Elder Board Member

Kevin loves God and loves people. He wants to reach non-believers and the youth. He enjoys working in a multicultural and multigenerational setting. He likes to see lives transformed by the power of Holy Spirit. He enjoys learning and wants to continuously improve. He is positive, high energy, enthusiastic, and that is contagious. We will be blessed to have him here at Grace!

SANDRA CHAU
Search Committee Member

I appreciate Kevin's focus on Christ and his strong desire to reach others for Jesus! He has the ability to lead while also being willing to be humble, vulnerable, receive input from others, and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. He values his wife and kids greatly and will seek to have a healthy balance that honors his own family while also leading our Grace church family.

ESTHER ATTEBERY
Search Committee Member

SEARCH PROCESS

July 2023 - Onsite interviews and focus groups, informed by our 2021 survey results, were conducted by NL Moore & Associates

Aug-Nov 2023 - NL Moore reached out to over 450 prospective candidates and networking contacts

Nov 2023 - Five highly aligned candidates were presented to the Lead Pastor search committee

Dec 2023 - Online interviews were conducted with all five candidates and the pool narrowed to three

Jan 2024 - Multiple onsite, in person interviews, including theological fit, were conducted with the remaining candidates and their spouses

Feb 2024 - Final interviews and reference checks were conducted and the search committee unanimously recommended Kevin to the Elder Board as our finalist candidate

Feb 2024 - The Elder Board unanimously accepted the search committee's recommendation and enthusiastically invited Kevin to candidate

OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET KEVIN

▶ MONDAY MARCH 4TH, 7:00 PM

▶ WEDNESDAY MARCH 6TH, 10:00 AM

▶ THURSDAY MARCH 7TH, 7:00 PM

All located in Building A

▶ **KEVIN WILL BE PREACHING ON SUNDAY, MARCH 10TH AT:**

- 8:45 AM IN BUILDING A
- 9:00 AM IN BUILDING D
- 11:00 AM IN BUILDING D

BUSINESS MEETING & VOTE

▶ **SUNDAY MARCH 10TH, 4:15 PM**

Active members must be present to vote