



**Ian McConnell**  
**Candidate for Fabric's Lead Pastor Role**

***Presented by Fabric's Search Team and Board of Directors***

**Facts about Ian:**

- Ian is an ordained ELCA pastor with 12 years of ministry and leadership experience. He has been heavily involved in youth ministry, emerging generations, and social justice issues. He's been connected locally and nationally with the ELCA Youth Ministry Network since 2006.
- Ian and his wife Rachel have 2 children, Rollie (5) and Sigrid (3), and live in St Louis Park.

**Why we think Ian is the right person to lead Fabric in its next chapter:**

- Ian understands and has demonstrated his belief in the core vision of Fabric and embraces a casual, inclusive approach to community gatherings.
- Ian is committed to "doing church differently". Ian has been active throughout his ministry in thinking outside the box in terms of what "real people" with "real needs for authentic connection" are seeking.
- The Search Team found Ian to have a warm, calm, yet very engaging presence. He is focused on building relationships and is connected with thought leaders in the community, both locally and nationally.
- Ian has demonstrated creative talents through his messages as well as initiatives with the communities he has served. He is comfortable with integrating multimedia content in a variety of ways.
- We feel Ian will be a compelling thought leader for the community, seeking deep learning from a variety of sources.
- Ian has actively used his voice to speak for marginalized communities as well as providing platforms for those communities to have a voice.
- Joy and fun are drivers for much of his work. This plays well into the Fabric's value of whimsify.
- Ian has shown evidence of embracing innovation as well as strong collaboration in his leadership approach. We believe this will serve him well in leading the Fabric Community and Fabric Staff into the future.

We are excited for you to meet Ian! And he is extremely enthusiastic about the opportunity to meet you. He is excited to listen and learn from the community about our needs. He wants to share Fabric's story throughout the broader community and can't wait to see where the future leads. He knows there will be challenges and acknowledges that there will be bumps along the way as with any change but hopes he and we can grow together.

And from Ian:

*Greetings, Fabric community!*

*My name is Ian McConnell, and I am so very eager to meet you all soon, as are my spouse Rachel and our kids Rollie ("Rah-lee") and Sigrid! As a pastor, I am encouraged to have learned more about your community recently and excited to join who you are and what you're up to; a space and people fostering curiosity and good questions shouldn't be as rare as it seems to be! I have been working in church*

*communities for much of the past 15 years, and am ever intrigued by the ways trusted relationships within community can crack us open to a deeper experience of life, and a richer understanding of ourselves, of others, and of the divine.*

*I understand and appreciate the tender time you are in as a community with Greg's retirement, and want to honor what that departure means for each of you, so I really look forward to meeting each of you in whatever ways we can in a couple weeks and beyond; to look at each other's eyes, learn about one another and grow all together.*

*For the time being until we meet in person, I just wanted to send in a "hello" and "can't wait to meet you." It's very clear how important Fabric is for so many, and I hope that together we will continue to grow, nurture deeply meaningful relationships, and engage in conversations that matter.*

*Cheers to life woven deeply...*

*See you in January!*

*-Ian McConnell (he/him)*