

Elder Candidate Bio | Rob Ostrom



I grew up in the Cambridge area and in a home that promoted Christian values and attended Church regularly. However, I did not really understand what it meant to be a Christian until my early adult years. After graduating from high school I entered college at the University of Minnesota working toward an engineering degree. I never doubted that there was a God, but did not understand what that had to do with me. I got caught up in the academic world reading books and other literature that said you cannot really take the Bible literally – how could there be a literal creation, a personal God, one that cares for and intervenes on behalf of His creation, one that sent His Son to die on a cross!

Fortunately, the Holy Spirit did not give up on me, along with a number of other faithful believers. I started reading the Scriptures more diligently, and with the help of a more modern translation, the last couple of years of college. During this time I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Although still not really understanding all that that meant.

I met my future wife, Jodi, before my final year of college and we had many challenging discussions regarding the Scriptures; particularly as she was going through her own struggles coming out of the Mormon church. After I graduated in June 1978 we were married, at North Isanti Baptist Church. Shortly after that God moved us across country to California where we lived until June 2021. Not recognizing it at the time, but in hindsight it's easy to see God did this to help “straighten” us both out. We initially joined a small Baptist Church and both re-dedicated our lives to Christ and underwent believers baptism on Easter Sunday 1979. We also had the privilege of meeting a number of very dynamic, faithful, servants who helped answer our questions and got us started down the right path.

After a couple of moves, we ended up in Ridgecrest, CA; where for over 30 years we lived and raised our family, including 5 children, attending Immanuel Baptist Church. Both of us were active in the Church, participating in a number of ministries. I taught an adult Sunday School class for most of this time, helped with the facilities team, was a volunteer Church Administrator for a couple of years, served on the Elder Board, and participated in several Southern Baptist Disaster Relief deployments.

We are both now retired and almost 2 years returned to the Cambridge area and North Isanti Baptist, I have once again started teaching a Sunday School class and Jodi leads a Grief Ministry for those suffering due to the death of a loved one.

As I came to the Lord primarily through the Scriptures, my passion for the last several decades had been Bible study and teaching. I am firmly committed to the inerrancy and infallibility of the Scriptures and enjoy discussing His Word whenever I have a chance.