



WestPark Church
EVERYDAY PEOPLE

Lead Pastor Candidate
Ashwin Ramani

January 2024



A Snapshot Of The Ramani Family



**Ashwin &
Aboli
Ramani**



THE KIDS

**Adarsh 13
Aarav 11
Amos 8
Aviva 7**



Next Steps

Learn more about **Ashwin**

Read Ashwin's testimony below in this profile and watch some of Ashwin's Sermons:




- 1 The God who Pursues: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OesKdERPvD4>
- 2 Reclaiming Prayer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hcrLMzTG4Zo>
- 3 From Karma to Grace: Ashwin Ramani's Testimony
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vkf26p282cQ>







Engage in the Candidating Weekend

Please see the colour key and the events that match below.





-  **Date & Time**
-  **Event**
-  **Location**
-  **Who**

**COLOUR
KEY**





EVENT 1

-  Thurs. Feb 8
1:00 - 3:00 pm
-  Seniors Drop In
-  Church Cafe
-  Ashwin & Aboli





EVENT 2

-  Friday, Feb 9
7:00 - 9:00 pm
-  Leaders of all Ministries
-  Kids Wing
-  Ashwin





EVENT 3

-  Sat. Feb 10
2:00 - 5:00 pm
-  Meet the Candidate
-  Church Atrium
-  Ramani Family

EVENT 4

-  Sunday, Feb 11
3:00 pm
-  Special Meeting of the
Membership to Elect a
Lead Pastor
-  Church Auditorium
-  Ramani Family

PREACHING “THE CALL”

-  Sunday, Feb 11
9:00 & 11:00 am
-  Preaching the Call
-  Church
Auditorium
& Online
-  Ashwin





Engage in Prayer

The Elders and the Ramanis seek your prayer during this time.

Pray for unity in the church and for God's will to be accomplished.

Pray for a successful transition process.

Pray for the Ramani family as they seek to move their family across the country and navigate this significant transition.



Reach out

Have questions? Please email office@westparkchurch.ca if you have questions about the process or the candidate. Elders will also be available after the Sunday morning services every week at the welcome centre from now until the February 11 weekend.



Ashwin's Testimony

I grew up in a traditional Hindu family in South India. Despite adhering to orthodox Hinduism, my struggles with Type-1 diabetes at the age of 12 led me to question Hinduism's explanations for suffering. When I was in university, I heard about Jesus Christ through the internet, sparking my curiosity about Christianity. Reading a self-published Christian book, I was captivated by stories of transformation and grace. At 17, I surrendered my life to Jesus, becoming the first in my entire family lineage to become a Christ follower.

“The cost of discipleship is real for those who come to faith in Christ from a different religion.”

Communicating my faith to my family proved challenging, with initial misunderstandings. The cost of discipleship is real for those who come to faith in Christ from a different religion. Despite the difficulties, I persevered in my faith because the Lord sustained me. I witnessed to my sister, who also became a follower of Christ.



Ashwin's Testimony Continued

I sensed the Lord's calling for full-time ministry very early in my Christian life. I never saw myself as a public speaker while growing up. But God gifted me with the ability to preach and teach the Bible. After graduating from a seminary in India, I pastored a church in NW India for 3 years. It was here that I met my wife, Aboli, who has ever since been a strong support to me in ministry and complements my gifts.

Aboli and I came to Canada in 2009 to pursue my higher theological studies. After completing my Masters in Divinity, I have been on staff at Centre Street Church in Calgary since 2011. Canada has become our home, and we love this incredible country. We have four children who are a blessing from the Lord.

I believe the Lord brought us to North America with a purpose. I am amazed to see how the demographics of most North American cities are changing. We have the incredible opportunity to partner with God and fulfil the Great Commission of making disciples of the 'nations' right in our backyards. My family and I want to be a lighthouse for Jesus and lead a church that embraces the vision of reaching the diverse people groups in the city.





Education

Ashwin Ramani

Institution

Degree

Date

Asbury
Theological
Seminary

Doctor of
Ministry

2023

Ambrose
Seminary

Master of
Divinity

2012

South Asia
Institute of
Advanced
Christian
Studies

Master of
Arts
(Christian
Studies)

2006





Experience

Ashwin Ramani

Church

Centre
Street
Church

Role

Associate
Teaching
Pastor

Date

2019-
Present

Centre
Street Church

Community
Pastor

2011-2019

Chandigarh
Bible Fellowship,
India

Associate
Pastor

2006-2009



Why we believe God has led Ashwin to us:

Our congregation desired...

- 1. An exceptional preacher.** Ashwin has a significant track record of biblical, expository preaching.
- 2. A shepherd's heart.** Ashwin has a hospitable character and engages in meaningful discipling relationships.
- 3. Someone who would embrace our unique multicultural DNA.** Ashwin strongly aligns with our unique expression of the kingdom of God.
- 4. A long-term, deeply invested Pastor.** Ashwin has significant ministry and educational experience yet is young enough to serve West Park's people on a long-term basis.

5. An experienced Canadian leader.

Ashwin has been immersed in the systems of Canada's largest evangelical church, with an average attendance of over 7000.

6. A spiritually mature leader.

Ashwin and his wife Aboli engaged in 40 days of fasting and prayer to discern God's will for their future at West Park.

For these reasons and many others, the Elders of West Park feel that Ashwin is God's man for West Park and the answer to our congregation's 30 Days of Prayer initiative.



Timeline: A history of the Lead Pastor succession process

**2020
-
2021**

The Elders began preliminary discussions about pastoral succession, thinking and praying about what West Park would look like in the future.

2022

The Elders researched best practices for Pastoral Succession. This included reading books on the topic, speaking with other church boards, and investigating consultants who specialize in Pastoral searches.

**SEPT
2022**

After much reflection and prayer, Pastor Charles informed the board that he had decided to retire from full-time pastoral ministry. Later in the month, the Elders held a retreat to discern where God was leading West Park and the type of Lead Pastor we need.

**OCT
-DEC
2022**

The Elders engaged the staff in interviews to better understand their ministries and the giftedness of the staff. We gained tremendous insight into the type of leader that was needed through these interviews.

**DEC
2022**

The Elders engaged Steve Adams as a consultant to help us with the search for the next Lead Pastor

**JAN
2023**

Leaders of all levels within the church, both volunteer and staff, were engaged in sessions with our consultant to further develop an understanding of the Lead Pastor profile.

**MAR
2023**

Pastor Charles Stone retired. We celebrated his 10 years of successful ministry at West Park.

**APR
2023**

A congregational survey was conducted to better understand the desire of God's people at West Park for the type of Lead Pastor to be engaged

**MAY
2023**

A Ministry Profile was created and published, inviting qualified candidates to apply for the position of Lead Pastor at West Park. The congregation was invited to pray for a period of 30 days, seeking God's will and favour for our next season of Ministry.



Timeline Continued: A history of the Lead Pastor succession process

**JUNE
2023**

Several qualified candidates applied for the position. Ashwin's profile quickly rose to the top. Ashwin and his wife met with the Elders for the first time via zoom for an initial interview.

**AUG
2023**

Ashwin and his family visited London. We engaged Ashwin in several interviews with the Elders and some of the pastoral staff. They visited West Park and attended Sunday services.

**SEPT
2023**

Ashwin asked for more time to discern God's plans for his future ministry. He released the Elders to continue the search, but requested to keep the door open if, in the future, we found alignment with God's timing.

**FALL
2023**

The Elders restarted the search and engaged in preliminary discussions with other candidates. We were unable to find a sense of alignment with any of these candidates. We continued to pray for the process, the church and for Ashwin.

**NOV
-DEC
2023**

Ashwin and Aboli committed to 40 days of prayer and fasting, asking God to make clear to them the future of their family, their ministry, and if West Park was part of that future.



**JAN
2024**

Ashwin returned to the Elders feeling lead to restart the process. After a final interview, the Elders were unanimously in favour of presenting Ashwin as the Lead Pastor Candidate to the congregation.





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EVERYDAY PEOPLE

Still have Questions?

Elders will be available after the Sunday morning services at the Welcome Centre to answer your questions.

You can also email us at office@westparkchurch.ca

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