

الكنيسة الانجيلية في أبو ظبي
THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

DIRECTOR OF TEEN MINISTRY
OPPORTUNITY PROFILE

The Evangelical Community Church of Abu Dhabi (ECC) is a Christ-centered, Bible-based international family of believers that meets in Abu Dhabi, the capital city of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The congregation of ECC is made up of about 60 different nationalities of various Christian denominations. ECC's Senior Pastor, Jeramie Rinne, joined ECC in June 2016.

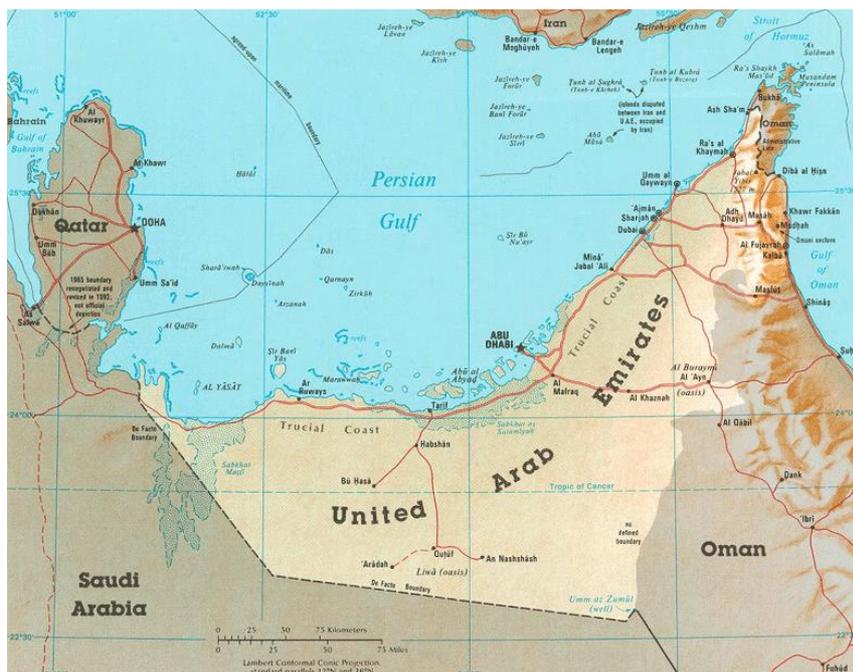
The United Arab Emirates

The UAE is an oil-rich state at the southern end of the Arabian Gulf. In developing its oil wealth, the UAE has imported a huge labor force from around the world. Of the total population, 80% are comprised of expatriate workers from over 150 nations. The UAE's major airports (Dubai and Abu Dhabi) are both within an 8-hour flight of over two-thirds of the world's population.

The UAE was founded in 1972 and is comprised of seven emirates: Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras al-Khaimah, Sharjah and Umm al-Quwain. Abu Dhabi is the largest emirate of the UAE comprising over 85% of the land mass and the city of Abu Dhabi is the nation's capital. The President of the United Arab Emirates is His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The climate varies from mild spring-like temperatures in winter (October to March) to very hot and humid in the summer. The geography of the UAE varies from sandy beaches and flat coastlines to vast fields of sand dunes and rugged, rocky mountains to the East.

Islam is the official religion of the UAE. The UAE Constitution provides for freedom of religion in accordance with established customs. Abu Dhabi is tolerant of other religions with people being free to practice their religious beliefs, so long as they respect the Islamic faith and culture of the nation. Public / open proselytizing of other religious beliefs (i.e., outside of church premises in the case of the Christian belief) is a legal offence, the only exception being a specific event for which permission has been obtained from the relevant authorities.





Evangelical Community Church of Abu Dhabi

The history of the Evangelical church in the UAE began in 1960. The Ruler of Abu Dhabi was concerned about the health of his people, and particularly the high infant mortality rate, and the number of mothers who died as a result of complications in childbirth. He began to inquire about the possibility of having a Christian hospital established in Al Ain. Drs. Pat and Marion Kennedy with TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) were serving in Jordan. They accepted the challenge to move to Al Ain and establish a hospital. This became the Oasis Hospital, which still exists today. Other Christians also came to help work in the hospital at the invitation of the ruler, and they were given permission to have Christian worship on the hospital compound. Through the work of the Oasis Hospital, strong bonds of respect were formed with the rulers of UAE. According to the Oasis Hospital history, they were “privileged to have been the birthplace of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, as well as many more of the royal family.”

In the early 1970s a family from the hospital, Carl and Barbara Sherbeck, came to live in Abu Dhabi in order to form a strong liaison with the government offices here. ECC was started in 1972, when a small group of English-speaking Christians met together in the home of the Sherbeck's on Hamdan Street. The small congregation soon outgrew the Sherbecks' living room, and moved to a warehouse next door.

Soon after, TEAM asked the Abu Dhabi authorities for property on which to build a house for their workers, making it clear that they also wanted to use the property as a place of prayer for Christians. Permission was granted and a plot was allocated just off Airport Road, across from a large open-air mosque. In 1975 the initial buildings were completed, and the church relocated to the new site. The facilities were shared with an Arabic church and several Indian churches.

The Evangelical Community Church (ECC) continued to grow under a succession of pastors: Carl Sherbeck (1972-1977), Herb Lyon, (1977-1979), Gordon Stinson (1979-1983), Jimmy Smith (1984-1990) and Cameron Arensen (1990-2015).

In 1990, the use of the property as a place for Christian meetings was challenged by authorities at the Municipality. By then, ten congregations used the Center for regular worship services. After many appeals and much prayer, a new site was allocated for the Evangelical Church Center. A ground breaking ceremony was held in January 1993, and we moved into the new facility in April, 1994. The ten congregations were soon joined by others until 18 different congregations were using the Center. These congregations ministered to different language and ethnic groups.

The Evangelical Community Church grew in this new facility, and began adding additional staff in 1995. As our Friday morning worship service began to crowd the Lower Chapel, we added a second worship service beginning in 2000. Both services continued to grow and stretch the limits of the building. This led to ECC taking the lead in beginning another building program. By the time we moved into Phase 1 of the new building on February 8, 2008, our attendance in worship services exceeded 700. Since October 2009, services utilize all of the completed building and attendance is now over 1000 during two services of worship on Friday mornings and one on Sunday evenings.



Further growth has prompted ECC to engage in planting two new churches. Preparation was started in early 2008 and a team of ECC members started planning. The first plant New Life Church, began meeting in May of 2009. In May of 2012 Pastor Matthew Levant was called to serve as its first pastor. New Life Church meets in Al Bahia, about 30 kilometers outside of Abu Dhabi city proper and is now a self-sufficient church.

Planning for the second church plant began in January of 2014 with Mohammed Bin Zayed City, an area some 10 kilometers south of Abu Dhabi city, the planned location for this plant. A search committee was formed to find a pastor to lead this church plant and in December of 2014 Pastor Steve Fuller was called to serve as the pastor with the church now meeting regularly each Friday for worship. Life groups have been formed and the church known as Grace Church is planning to move into a new building in the Musaffah area which will be shared with other congregations.

ECC is comprised of approximately 60 nationalities with extensive ethnic, language, and denominational diversity. We choose to leave our labels at the door and come together in a spirit of unity under the authority of Scripture and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, seeking to

grow in our relationship to Christ and in love for one another, focusing on that which we have in common rather than on that which might divide us. ECC fosters believers' spiritual growth and maturity through expository Bible teaching, various ministries, and educational programs.

The motto of ECC is "From the Nations to the Nations". We believe that ECC is in a strategic geographical location in the region to fulfill the Great Commission. The UAE's large transient expatriate population from all over the globe gives our church a unique opportunity to train and disciple believers to take the gospel back to their home countries and beyond. This is demonstrated by the spiritual and financial support ECC currently gives to mission efforts, including missions started by former members who have returned to their respective home countries.

Purpose Statement

The Evangelical Community Church of Abu Dhabi is a Christ-centered, Bible-based, international family of believers. Our purpose is to introduce people to the Lord Jesus Christ, help them grow in their faith and equip them for ministry both here and around the world.

Services

The UAE recognizes Islam's holy day, Friday. As such, ECC's main services are held on Friday morning and conducted in English. This includes corporate worship, as well as nursery and "Sunday" School attended by some 250 children each week. Currently, the Teen Ministry meets on Friday morning and afternoon, attended by approximately 40 teens.

In January 2014, ECC started holding Sunday evening services to accommodate believers who are unable to attend Friday services.

In addition to regular weekly services ECC has numerous focused ministries including:

- Men's ministry
- Women's ministry
- Singles' ministry
- Children's / AWANA ministry
- Junior-high teen ministry
- Senior-high teen ministry
- Prayer ministry
- Benevolence committee
- Global Outreach committee
- Music ministry
- Language Specific ministries
- Life Groups

Shared Facility

ECC administrative offices and worship services are held in the Evangelical Church Center (the Center) shared by other Christians who worship in their native language (Arabic, English, Korean, different Indian languages, etc.). Some 60 different congregations currently use the Center during the week.

The Center is administered by the Church Administration Committee (CAC). The CAC



coordinates the utilization and administration of the Center ensuring maintenance is provided and resources are shared effectively. In addition, the CAC conducts regular prayer meetings with the various church pastors to coordinate a spirit of unity in our witness.

Church Structure

ECC is independent of denominational affiliation and warmly welcomes people from different denominations. Our congregation is uniquely international and diverse which provides special opportunities for Christians from all over the world to know and love one another and contribute their special gifts. At the same time, we have the unique task of providing a stable church home, ministry, and fellowship within a relatively transient population.

This diversity within our church is illustrated by the various cultural and language-based fellowships that have formed within the ECC congregation including Indian, Indonesian, Chinese, Filipino, South African, Arabic-speaking, Spanish-speaking, etc.

Church members govern the church democratically through an elected Deacon Board, with the Senior Pastor serving as a voting member (herein referred to as the Board). ECC currently has around 400 registered members who participate in key leadership decisions according to the framework laid out in the Constitution. The Board provides spiritual oversight and carries out regular administration. The church is currently reviewing the governance structure and is exploring a move to an Elder-led model.

ECC is a member of the Council of Evangelical Churches (CEC) within the UAE. The CEC is the organization that sponsors UAE visas for all church employees. The CEC is made up of representatives from Christian churches across the UAE and fosters unity and cooperation amongst the member churches.

In addition to the Senior Pastor, ECC ministry leadership includes: one Senior Associate Pastor, one Associate Pastor, a Director of Children's Ministries, and one Director of Teen Ministry (position currently being recruited). Approval of additional pastoral and full-time staff positions require a congregational membership vote to be called.

Jeramie Rinne – Senior Pastor

Pastor Jeramie Rinne is a gifted expository preacher, skilled shepherd and published author with almost two decades of proven experience in congregational and regional leadership. He received his BA degree from Wheaton College and his M. Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Boston, Massachusetts. He pastored South Shore Baptist church in Hingham, Massachusetts for nearly 20 years prior to coming to Abu Dhabi. Pastor Jeramie has been an instructor with the Simeon Trust Workshops on Biblical Exposition, and has spoken at a variety of conferences and retreats.



The Director of Teen Ministry Position

The Director of Teen Ministry (DTM) assists and supports parents of teens at ECC in making and maturing young disciples of Christ Jesus. He is the church staff member responsible for overseeing and building the programs for ECC's teens.

The DTM is accountable to a member of the pastoral staff, as assigned by the Sr. Pastor in cooperation with the Board. The DTM is also accountable to the congregation; particularly to the teens and their parents.

Director of Teen Ministry Responsibilities

The DTM will perform the following duties:

Coordination of Teen Events

- Organize, lead and attend weekly junior and senior teen meetings
- Organize and lead weekly junior and senior teen education classes and Bible studies
- Select and teach curriculum
- Organize teaching roster of adult volunteers
- Coordinate and develop and organize teen worship team
- Organize, attend and lead retreats
- Plan and execute annual mission trips

Mentoring, Training and Support

- Recruit, train and support adult volunteers and student leaders
- Engage in personal discipleship and Bible study with select teens
- Develop training and support for parents of teens, arranging events as required

Communication and Administration

- Maintain communication with parents through various media
- Perform administrative duties pertaining to the teen ministry
- Record attendance at events
- Maintain database of teens

Connections Outside ECC

- Network with other teen ministries in Abu Dhabi and the UAE, including youth ministries in other churches and Emirates Youth Unlimited (EYU).

Other Duties

Attend regular staff meetings and staff retreats
Work with supervisor, Senior Pastor and Church Board with needs assessment, strategy development and goal-setting related to teen ministry
Cooperate with other ECC staff and ministries in order to achieve unity
Perform other duties as assigned by supervisor, Senior Pastor or Church Board

Director of Teen Ministry Qualifications

Skills:

Demonstrated ability to relate to and make disciples of teens
Demonstrated ability to teach God's Word and proclaim the gospel
Demonstrated ability to recruit, manage and oversee volunteers
Demonstrated ability to organize and oversee
Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with parents, church staff, a Senior Pastor and a church board or elders
Excellent communication skills, verbal and written, in English
Computer literate and able to use social media

Attributes:

Born again, mature follower of Jesus Christ, who can serve as a role model for teens of Christian character and lifestyle
Committed to a Word-driven, gospel-centered, disciple-making ministry of teens
Passion for teens to be saved and mature in Christ
Gifted in preaching/teaching, leadership and discipleship
Cross-culture experience and knowledge, especially in working with Third Culture teens
Self-motivated and self-directed, while being able to work with a team and under direction from others

Search and Selection Process

The Board carefully selected members of ECC to serve on the DTM search committee. These members were given the following charge:

1. Pray each day for each other and the task of seeking God's will and guidance throughout the search process.
2. Conduct a search process that will result in recommending a candidate to the Board for approval prior to presenting the candidate to the church.
3. Emphasize Titus and 1 Timothy as minimum criteria and qualifications for the candidates.
4. Screen and communicate with external candidates and organizations.
5. Develop interview procedures and questions and conduct interviews accordingly.
6. Develop procedures for checking references and conducting background checks.

The search committee will be seeking potential candidates through a variety of means, including the following:

- Word of mouth referrals from the senior leadership of other churches in the UAE and throughout the GCC region.
- Referrals from experienced senior leadership recruiters.
- Referrals from the congregation.
- Web-based job placement services as appropriate to the role.

Following an initial review and vetting of CVs, a questionnaire will be sent to prospective candidates and a phone/Skype interview will be conducted.

A series of checks will then be performed on promising candidates including, but not limited to, the following:

- Background check
- References
- Degree verification

Final candidates will be interviewed, along with spouse as applicable, via Skype (or some similar web-based video-conferencing method).

Once a recommendation is made to the Board, and upon approval from the Board, the recommended candidate will visit Abu Dhabi (at ECC's expense) to meet with members of the Board and the Senior Pastor and to get a feel for the city and the country.

Upon unanimous approval by the Board, the recommended candidate, along with spouse, will visit Abu Dhabi a second time and have the opportunity to speak to the youth and meet with their parents and other members of the congregation.

After the second visit has concluded, the Board will call for a special members' meeting. At that meeting, the members will vote to hire the candidate to serve as Director of Teen Ministry (based on a two-thirds majority vote).

Applying For the Position

If interested and qualified for the position, and in agreement with the ECC [Purpose Statement](#) and [Statement of Faith](#), please submit the following documents to dtmsc@eccad.org:

1. Cover Letter, including statement listing relevant degree(s) and confirmation of agreement with ECC's Statement of Faith
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV) / Resume
3. Three (3) References (non-family members names and contact numbers)
4. A written statement describing:
 - a. Your understanding of the Gospel
 - b. Your story of coming to repent and believe in Jesus Christ
 - c. Your call to youth ministry and your ministry strengths
 - d. Your current walk with the Lord
 - e. Your philosophy of ministry
5. In a separate written statement, please detail your youth ministry experience (inclusive of dates)
6. Please let us know how you learned about this position