

Todd Burrichter – Biography

Todd was born and raised in New Hampton; graduating from New Hampton High School in 2000. After graduating High School, Todd moved with his parents to an acreage outside of Shellsburg, IA (near Cedar Rapids) and attended Kirkwood Community College for two years before transferring to the University of Dubuque where he earned a BBA in Business Administration and a BS in Accounting in 2005. While at the University of Dubuque, Todd met Katie and the couple were married in the summer of 2006. Todd worked in Accounting/Finance for two publicly held companies in Dubuque until a year after his twins (Wyatt and Lyla) were born and the family moved to Ossian, IA. He then worked for a large livestock operation as a Financial Analyst.

While working as a Financial Analyst, Todd began to discern a call to ministry. His pastor at the time presented him with a flier for a weekend retreat at Wartburg Theological Seminary. Todd went to this retreat, reluctantly, simply wanting more information, and less than 36 hours later Todd knew that's what God was calling him to do. Todd immediately began the application and candidacy processes and enrolled in summer Greek, a prerequisite for entering seminary. Todd originally intended on continuing working and taking classes at the same time, however an opportunity presented itself to internship at two congregations in the Decorah area through a new program the seminary was starting. Todd jumped at this opportunity and resigned from work and began "pastoring" these two churches. Over the next four years, Todd took full time classes and performed the duties of a pastor until he graduated seminary in May 2021. Shortly thereafter, Todd and his family moved to Nashua to start his first call as an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Todd has a diverse background in terms of denominations where he and his family have attended church, and ecumenical partnerships are important to him. Todd sees collaboration among denominations of Christ's Church as vital to serving the community and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His family growing up attended the United Church of Christ in New Hampton until Todd was in middle school. The family then began attending the United Methodist Church. Todd wanted to be baptized via full immersion and was baptized at the Baptist Church. The family also attended a country church for a short time after they moved from New Hampton to rural Shellsburg. Todd attended a Presbyterian college and went to services there. He returned to the United Church of Christ after he and Katie were married, and it wasn't until the couple moved to Ossian when they had their first Lutheran worship experience. All these different experiences taught Todd that there are many ways to express one's faith and worship God in a community of believers; not one way is right or better than another. Todd believes the important thing is that you attend church and live out your faith however you feel comfortable and called to do so.

Todd looks forward to spending many years in Nashua, serving members of St. John and the larger community. Please feel free to reach out during his office hours if you wish to get to know him better or have a pastoral care concern you would like to discuss. Pr. Todd would like you to know that whatever your faith background, wherever you are at in your life, you are welcome to come worship with us here at St. John. Hope to see you soon. God Bless.

See below to read the story of Pastor Todd's call to ministry.

Todd's Call Story:

As an agricultural financial analyst, Todd was doing well for himself and yet he felt unfulfilled most days. He took this frustration and channeled it into more work at his congregation. As mentioned earlier, his pastor at the time noticed this and invited him to consider more deeply a possible calling to ministry.

There were many times of nervousness, anxiety, and self-doubt along the way, but God has been with him the entire time. When Todd wondered and worried about the financial burden of seminary, God provided answers. When Todd was anxious and stressed, God stepped in and offered His assistance. God helped encourage him to continue working hard at his coursework throughout this self-doubting.

In addition to frustrations at work, there were a couple major moments in Todd's life that led him to discern a call to ministry. First deals with his eyes. Todd woke up on May 1, 2014 and a significant portion of his vision was gone. Todd had experience with detached retinas, so he knew what this was, but wasn't prepared for how severe; this particular detachment in his right eye required three separate procedures to fix. There was lots of car travel that day, going from Ossian to Cedar Rapids, then to Cedar Falls, and back to Cedar Rapids. Todd was praying nearly the entire time riding in the back seat of his parents' car; praying for healing but also making peace with the idea that his sight may not be restored. When the car parked for the final time, Todd could feel the Holy Spirit present with him, and from that point forward Todd knew everything was going to be alright regardless of whether or not he had the ability to see. The weight of all that worry was removed and Todd felt freed.

The second involved Todd's nephew Owen who died one year earlier from cancer. While a patient at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN, Owen had the opportunity to spend time with a professional golfer (Robert Streb) and play some golf games with him. The St. Jude PGA golf tournament was in town, and the hospital set up games for the golfers to play with the patients. Owen and Robert spent considerable time together that day. Todd wanted to thank him for spending time with Owen, so he went to the John Deere Classic and followed Robert's group for 18 holes. Todd and Robert spoke briefly that day. Robert remembered Owen and was sorry to hear of his passing. The following year Todd and his family were invited to play in a charity event put on by Robert where the proceeds were given to St. Jude. At the awards ceremony, Robert and his wife Maggie spoke about the impact that Owen made on their lives and how he inspired them to partner with St. Jude as their charity of choice. In this moment, Todd realized that God had always been present throughout Owen's illness and death and was working behind the scenes to bring healing to the family. In the years since, the St. Jude Robert Streb Golf Classic has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for cancer research and treatment. God is changing lives for the better in the aftermath of a horrible situation.