



[2020-2021 Church Planting Cohort]

Drew Knowles

Drew is husband to Amber and father to Adelyn (6), Judah (5), Oliver (3), and Josiah (2). After a few years in the Navy and a year of law school, Drew joined the Sojourn Heights staff in January 2011 as a church planting resident. Since then, he has served as Executive Pastor, and most recently, Pastor of Equipping & Mission. Along with a team of people from Sojourn Heights, Drew is planting a new congregation in the Oak Forest area.

Drew attended the U.S. Naval Academy as an undergrad. He is a Fellow with the Theopolis Institute, and he has completed a number of courses with Reformed Theological Seminary (Houston).

Drew has a love for the Bible, a deep desire to see the Church equipped and formed into the likeness of Christ, and a heart to see Christian communities mobilized out of love and zeal for our neighbors, especially the marginalized.



Kyle Jackson

Kyle and Kacee have been married for 10 years and have one daughter, Rowan (3). They have lived all of their life in the Houston area and love all things Houston. Kyle was called into ministry in high school and, in May of 2006, received a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry from East Texas Baptist University. He received a Masters of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2015. Kacee is a high school math teacher as well as a CASA for children in the foster care system for Galveston County. Kyle and Kacee adopted their daughter, Rowan, through the Texas foster care system and are very involved with foster and adoption ministries.

Kyle spent 14 years serving at Heritage Park Baptist Church in Webster before being sent by them to plant a church in central Galveston county. They moved to a brand new development called Lago Mar, just south of Buc-ee's in Texas City, in late February of 2020. A couple of weeks later the Coronavirus pandemic hit. God has been faithful to advance their efforts in this community despite planting a church in a global pandemic. Lago Mar Church will begin meeting in small groups in September of 2020 with weekly worship gatherings beginning early 2021, Lord willing.



Michael Darbouze



Michael and Jomar got married on January 3, 2003, and were baptized in the East China Sea in Okinawa, Japan in March 2003. This pivotal time in their lives has shaped where they have gone and who they have become over the past 17+ years. Their willingness to trust, obey and follow God anywhere has led them on moves across the globe and the nation, multiple times, to share God's love and spread his great gospel. And they believe this next adventure will be the grandest of them all as Michael is transitioning from a local lead pastor role in Durham, North Carolina to plant during a pandemic.

Michael and Jomar believe that the Lord has raised them up for such a time as this. The Lord placed a call to serve him in Houston on Michael's heart as far back as 2004. And through prayer and patience he has waited on the Lord's timing to open the door for that which he was calling them to. Over those 16 years, Michael has experienced a successful career in the field of communications and served in a plethora of leadership roles in the body of Christ. One of the most meaningful training grounds has been the past two years of pouring into a ministry that was on the verge of seeing its doors closed. Michael and Jomar witnessed God take a "dying" ministry and reignite it to become a thriving family.

Now Michael and Jomar relocate their household, which includes three of their children (David, 16; Micha, 13; Daniel, 12), with an expectation to see God do a work in their lives and through them. Michael will be serving in a church plant residency with Risen Church. And he will be planting in Northwest Houston in 2021, if the Lord wills.

Ayo Omopariola



Ayo and Amaechi have been married for 6 years and have two children: Ezra (3) and Simeon (1). They met at the University of Houston where they both were involved in campus ministry. It was during his time on campus that he sensed a calling into the ministry. Ayo received both his Bachelors and Master's degree in Chemistry from the University of Houston and is currently completing his Master of Arts in Church Planting from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Ayo has spent the last decade serving in various ministry roles on both college campuses and in the local church. Ayo and Amaechi's desire to make disciples of Jesus in their community has led them to follow God's calling to plant a church in the Alief community of Southwest Houston. They are passionate about serving their community and watching the Spirit transform lives through the power of the gospel. Ayo currently serves as the Church Planting Resident at City Church Houston while he continuing to be equipped through the Houston Church Planting Network Residency.



Jervie Windom



Born in Brooklyn, New York, Jervie Lamont Windom honorably served 24 years in the United States Army. Jervie is an alumnus of Southern Wesleyan University in Central, South Carolina; Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania; and Viterbo University in Lacrosse, Wisconsin.

Jervie has led four church plants during his over 20 years of ministry. Additionally, Jervie has served as campus pastor, youth pastor, prison ministry leader, associate pastor, and senior pastor.

After the destruction caused by Hurricane Harvey in August 2017, Jervie returned to his new home located in Galveston County, Texas to assist with long term recovery efforts for those impacted by the storm. It was then, Jervie received the invitation from God to join His Kingdom work taking place in Greater Houston by planting churches that will inspire communities to fall in love with Jesus "one heart at a time."

Jervie is married to the lovely Nilda Windom, a native of Neptune, New Jersey. Nilda is a United States Army veteran as well with 16 years of honorable service. Jervie and Nilda have six children. As a couple, they enjoy spending time with their grandchildren, crafting, and gardening.



Blaine Hooper

Blaine Hooper was born in Georgia, but was raised all over the world following his father's military career, finishing high school in West Africa. He came to faith as a young child and was strengthened to follow Jesus after some powerful experiences in Christian camps.

After attending Rice University, Blaine commissioned in the US Army as an officer. In late 2010, the Lord radically redirected his path from military to ministry when he was severely wounded in Afghanistan by enemy grenade fire. Though an extremely difficult season, the Lord sovereignly moved in these events to deepen his trust in Him, strengthen his relationship with his future wife Anna, and make clear his calling to pastoral ministry.

Since receiving that calling, the Hoopers have left the military, moved to Houston, and had two wonderful sons, Micah and William. Blaine has also been licensed for ministry, completed a ThM at Dallas Seminary, and has given his life to making disciples of Jesus. This has occurred informally in youth, sports, homeless, and refugee ministries and formally in leadership positions in African missions, Hurricane Harvey recovery, and small groups ministries.

In the last 2 years, God has been working in Anna and Blaine's hearts to plant the gospel of Jesus Christ among first generation immigrants and least-reached refugee people-groups in Sharpstown through Refuge Church.



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Jon Henson

Jon and his wife Maizeanne have spent most of their lives living and serving in the greater Houston area. They have been married for 7 years, have a dog named Gus and a son, whom God has brought to them through foster care. Jon completed his B.S. in Human Resource Development at Texas A&M University and his Master's of Divinity at Trinity School for Ministry. He has served 12 years in ministry as a Youth Pastor, Worship Pastor, and Associate Pastor and is an ordained priest in the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA).

Jon was born in Seoul, South Korea, and was adopted when he was four months old. At the time of his adoption, his mother and father were living outside of Pittsburgh, PA and entering their final year of seminary, the same seminary where Jon and Maizeanne would graduate. Jon grew up as the son of a pastor and church planter. Throughout seminary and the ordination process, Jon and Maizeanne both felt the call to church planting.

For the past 2.5 years, Jon has served as the Associate Pastor at Apostles Houston in the Heights. During this season of ministry, he has been praying and preparing for when the Lord would call them to plant a church. That call has come as they have accepted to plant a new Anglican church in Richmond, TX. They are thankful and excited for this next journey of life and ministry and to be apart of the HCPN family.