



FRASER LANDS CHURCH

# BAPTISMS & MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

December 2023





# The Meaning of Baptism

Christians believe that there is good news for all people. About 2,000 years ago God sent Jesus Christ into the world to save us from our sins. Whoever believes in him with repentance and faith will be saved.

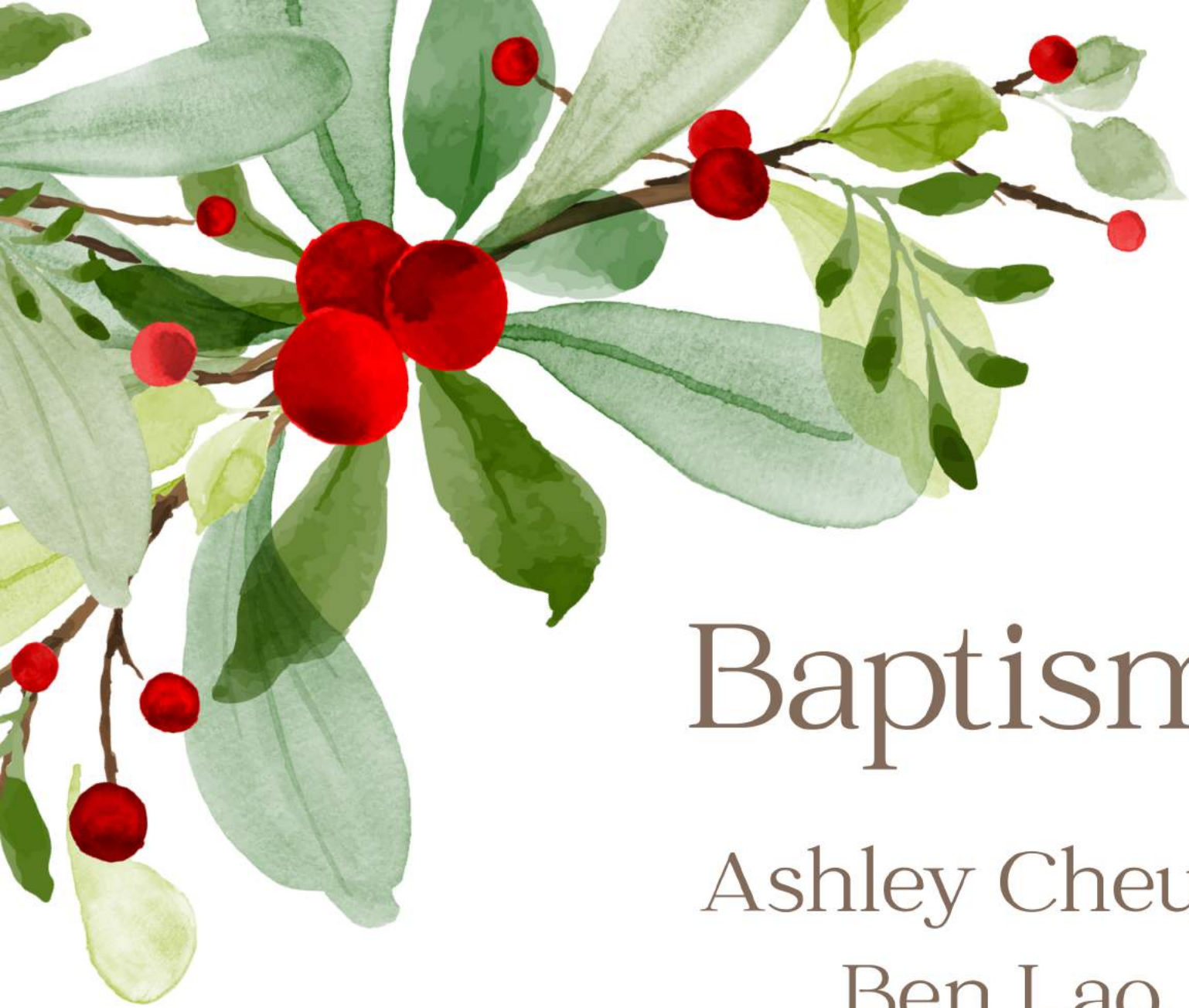
Baptism is a Christian ceremony where we, as the church, celebrate the salvation through faith of new believers. When someone professes faith in Christ then the church baptizes them in water.

The ceremony of baptism is a complex of various meanings, but the most straightforward meaning is washing. We don't wash ourselves; God washes us. When we call on the name of Christ we are cleaned from all our sins (Acts 22:16).

At Fraser Lands Church, our practice is to baptize people during Sunday morning worship, full immersion. We typically do this twice a year, once at Easter and once during Christmas Advent. If you are interested in baptism, please contact Pastor Ben at [ben@fraserlands.ca](mailto:ben@fraserlands.ca).







# Baptisms

Ashley Cheung

Ben Lao

Daniel Jang

Joshua Wang

Michelle Lan

Praise Fung

Victor Vasconcellos

William Huang

# Membership Transfers

Austin Wang

Carver Lan

Elizabeth Yang

Maryem Ahbib

Solana Yuen

Wallis Chan





# Ashley Cheung

## BAPTISM

Being a kid who grew up going to church, attending Awana, Sunday School, and then going into teens and now Souljourners, I've never deeply thought about how much God has changed my life. During the hit of the pandemic, I found it hard to reach for God when every day was the same thing: eat, sleep, repeat. I'm so glad that He has reached out to me again through my friends in the community, my parents, and others I've met since then. He's welcomed so many new wonderful things into my life since, helping me discover purpose and passions, and inviting me to serve and give back to this community I grew up in.

Sometimes life gets so busy that you forget He is there, walking alongside you and waiting for you to take His hand so he can guide you through life. I'd like to share something interesting that resonated with me, which was that God didn't remove the Red Sea. He parts it for us, making a way through something we thought was hard to get through or overcome.

Today, I choose to let go and put my faith in Him to lead me, to serve my purpose for Him and love Him and those He brings to me. I'm excited to see where He'll take me next and to live my newly given life through Jesus Christ, my Saviour.





# Ben Lao

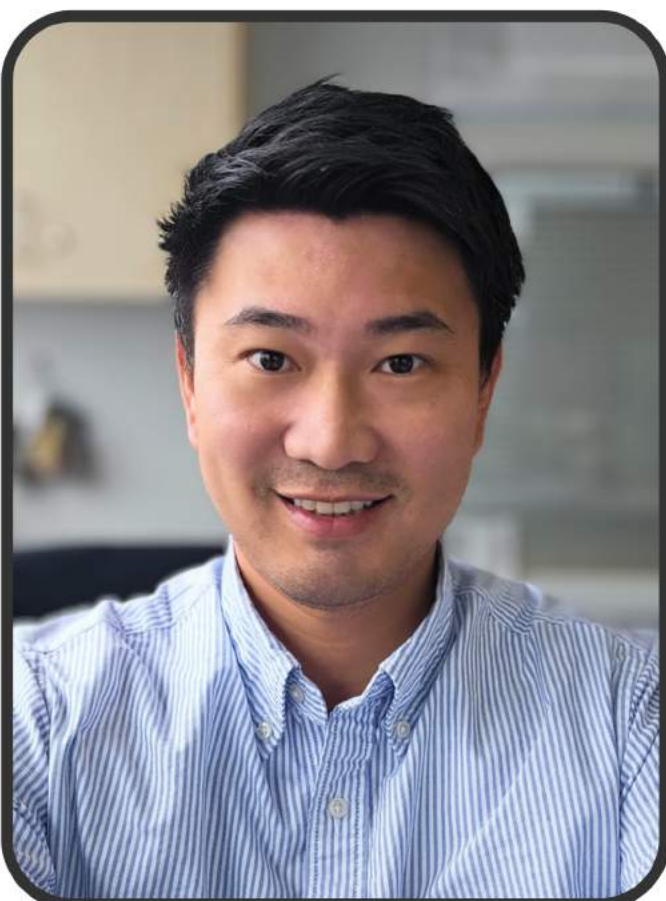
## BAPTISM

My previous sporadic church visits gained deeper meaning when I crossed paths with Sally and Sunny. Their introduction to Christ ignited a profound transformation in my life. During this time, my younger son struggled with feeding difficulties, relying on nose tube feedings that caused immense stress for him and our family. Recognizing it as behavioral rather than medical compounded our challenges.

It was during one of our initial encounters, when Sally and Sunny, initially strangers, joined me in prayer for Lorenzo. Their guidance in prayer was a revelation, a powerful experience of collective faith. Witnessing their prayers and support, our petitions were answered—Lorenzo was freed from the feeding tubes.

This year, thanks to Sally and Sunny's introduction to the Alpha course, my journey with God deepened significantly. I felt a stirring desire to embrace community, to delve into God's teachings for myself and my boys. Their dedication inspired me; I yearn to emulate their example, to share God's teachings, and extend a helping hand to those in need within our community.

My aspiration through baptism is to solidify my commitment to God, to continue learning, and ultimately, to spread His love and teachings as Sally and Sunny have done for me.





# Daniel Jang

## BAPTISM

Growing up with a Christian background, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour when I was 8 to 9 years old. I was also quite spoiled and I was a people pleaser who went through life without much guidance and direction and cared a lot about being well-liked by everyone.

Eventually, I had to face up to my depression in my adulthood. In time, I remembered that God has given us free will. Even when we do make mistakes or unexpected things may have happened, God continues to be with us in our suffering and invites us to come back to Him. I humbly took His hand; as my other hopes and identities fell apart over the years, the one that continued to remain standing was my identity and purpose as a beloved child of God.

Today, I have found renewed hope and courage in God knowing that I am not alone, He is in control and He can make a way; I wish to not live with the regret of maybe giving up too soon without giving God a chance for us to work together. Thus, I will continue to run with endurance the race that has been set before me (Hebrews 12:1-2) and, one day, I hope to be able to hear God say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."





# Joshua Wang

## BAPTISM

In the past couple of years, I have been faced with traumatic personal struggles stemming from the body's lust and temptations of the flesh. As a result, my mental health has been at the lowest it has ever been, struggling with depression and anxiety and, at a few points, almost losing my life to suicide.

However, it was also at this time that I found God again. I couldn't change the circumstance I was in, so I cried out to God for help whenever I was in despair.

During this time, God humbled me and taught me what it truly meant to solely rely on Him because there was no one else that I could lean on. He not only guided me out of my storm, but He transformed and taught me numerous lessons along the way.

Most importantly, He showed me His overwhelming love, mercy, and compassion. Today, God continues to renew me as I put my life into His hands. Although I don't know what lies in the road ahead of me, I do know that God will be there with me every step of the way.





# Michelle Lan

## BAPTISM

Growing up in a non-Christian household, I never had a strong belief in anything. In elementary school, my brother Carver and I tagged along with our cousins to Fraser Lands for Awana. Ultimately, we did not have a genuine connection with God, and we stopped coming after a year.

I moved to Toronto for university, in hopes of succeeding and getting a good job to make my family proud. The more I chased after the things of this world the more unhappy I was. I felt lonely, continued to have self-doubt, and questioned my purpose in this life.

In my third year of university, a friend asked me about my faith, and God gave me the courage to explore Christianity. I knew I wanted to accept Jesus Christ into my life when I prayed for the very first time and had a heartwarming experience with God.

In 2022, I came home to visit my family and spontaneously decided to attend a service at Fraser Lands with my brother. God is so wonderful and patient to have drawn us back to Him and to Fraser Lands after all these years. He never once left and continues to fill my heart with His great love.





# Praise Fung

## BAPTISM

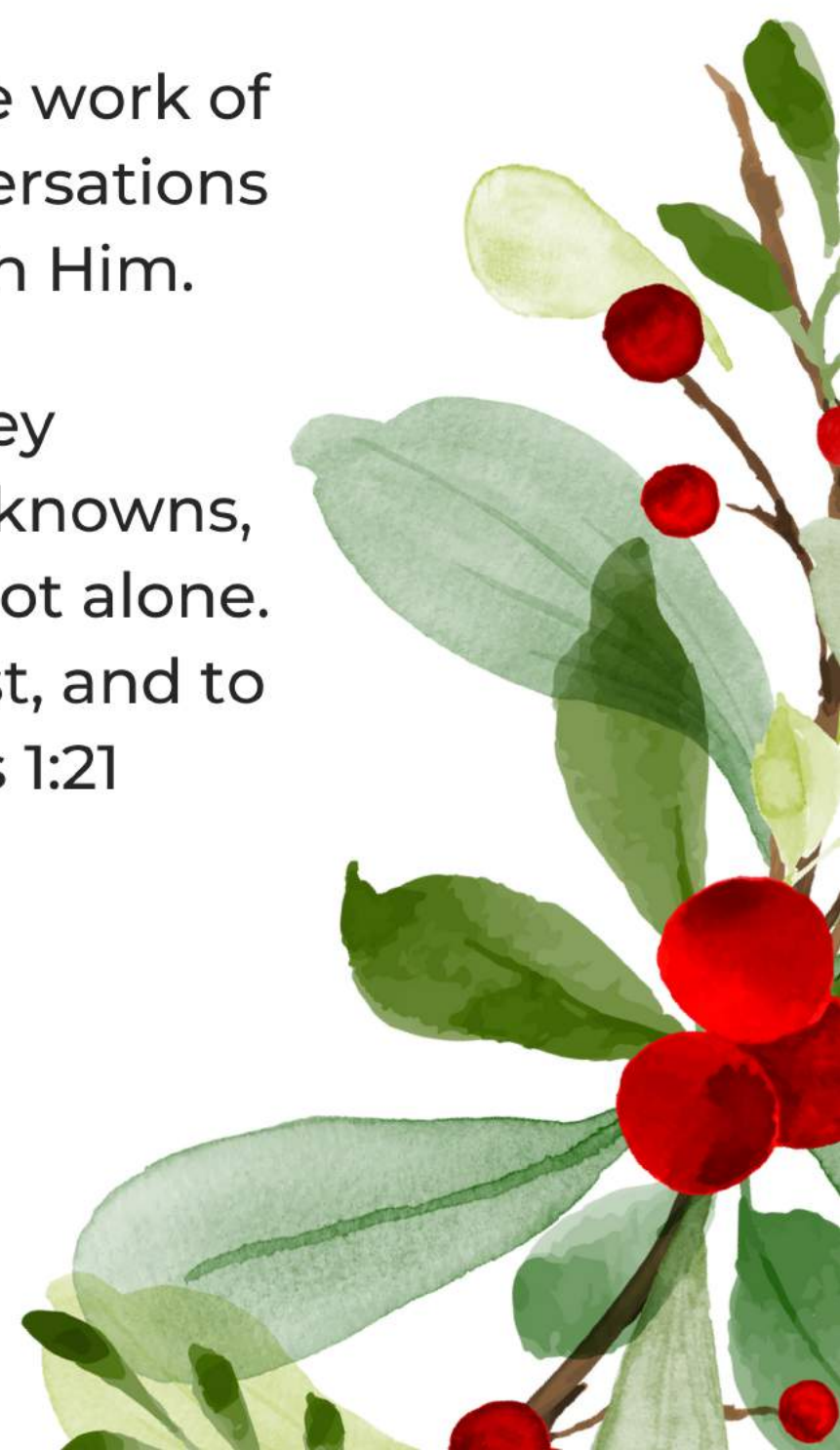
Growing up in a Christian household, church to me felt like a chore for an extensive period of my life. My perception of God was strictly based on the idea that if I did “good” things, He would answer all my prayers. This transactional way of thinking eventually led me to a place where I heavily fixated on the misalignment of my wants and what God was doing. I was angry, anxious and often doubted His realness as I took circumstances of life into my own hands.

As I transitioned from a Christian School to a public high school, my faith became less of something imposed by others and more of a choice. I was placed in a position where I had to choose to seek God and my troubled relationship with Him was made known. My failure to cultivate an intentional relationship with God led me to attend the Hearing God seminar in hopes of seeking a deeper understanding of Him. Through this experience, my perception of prayer ultimately shifted from prayer being a transactional list of wants to a solitary time of conversation. Experiencing the voice of God made me eager to meet with a Father who is so full of wisdom, guidance and love, and reciprocated that want for a genuine relationship with me. I became open to seeing his prevalent work in my life through the highs, and especially in the lows.

There is no coincidence that the recognizable work of God surrounds me through the people, conversations and situations that have shaped my walk with Him.



As I continue to journey through this life of unknowns, I walk knowing I am not alone. “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Phillipians 1:21





# Victor Vasconcellos

## BAPTISM

For many years, I lived according to the faith of others, unable to find a personal connection to God. Going to church and praying felt routine, whether in Brazil or Canada. I believe my lack of understanding and absence of family support contributed to this. However, last year, I felt a profound need for a personal connection to faith. I embarked on this journey by talking to my dad, who connected me with a pastor and the Alpha program in Brazil.

This discipleship, from July to December 2022, rekindled my faith. I rediscovered God's love even during my darkest days, finding a deep sense of peace. This experience also revealed a calling to build a meaningful relationship with God, which led me to Fraser Lands. Initially hesitant, it soon became a place I could call home. I joined Souljourners and became more involved, even joining the Servant Team for SJ.

In conclusion, I'm thrilled to publicly declare my commitment to giving my life to God, following His path, and helping others with the same desire.





# William Huang

## BAPTISM

I'm William, and I have been attending Fraser Lands Church for the past 5-6 years.

Reflecting on this journey, it's remarkable to witness the profound changes within myself during this time. There was a phase in my life when I confided in a Christian friend about my uncertainty regarding embracing faith. Coming from a non-Christian background, my focus was predominantly on achieving tangible results and accomplishments. My upbringing presented numerous challenges that often felt more strenuous compared to others'. Consequently, as I matured, I attributed my successes solely to my efforts and struggles, viewing them as a product of my hard work and endeavours.

However, my time here at FLC has been transformative. It has allowed me to gain deeper insights into God's nature, His continuous presence in my life, and how He is and has been the cornerstone to my endeavours. I've come to comprehend that I'm flawed, acknowledging that there will be days when I stumble, but I find solace in the knowledge of God's boundless forgiveness. I earnestly pray for His guidance and shaping as I continue to grow in my faith journey.





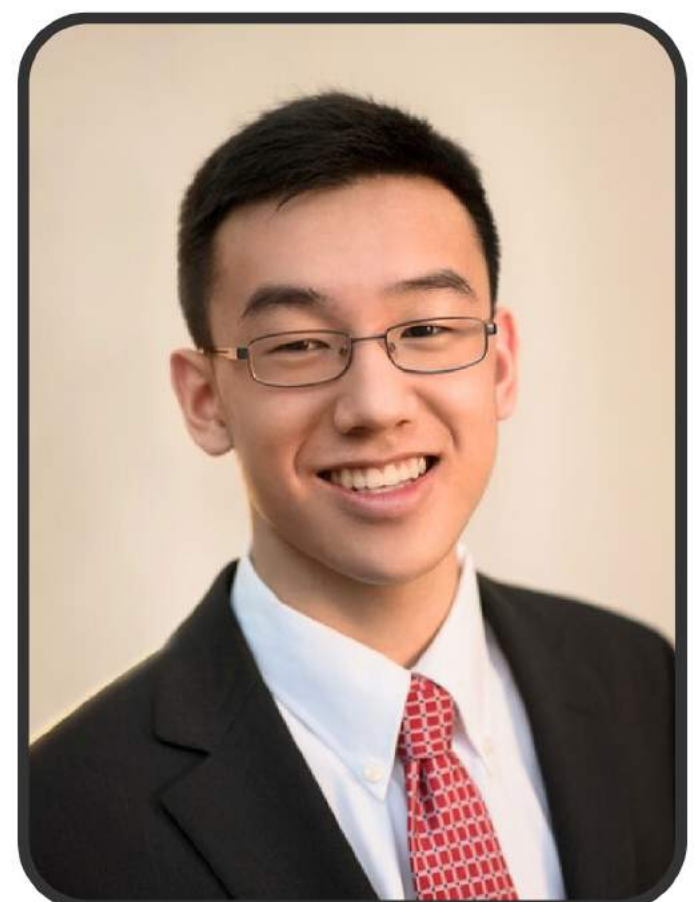
# Austin Wang

## MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER

My walk with God is like the "Footprints in the Sand" poem by Mary Stevenson. Like the dream, it is hard to remember when it started but clear that there has been a journey to get me to where I am today.

I was born in a Christian family and was baptized in elementary school. Like the footprints, there are clear times I recall walking with God, such as reading God's Word in middle school and wrestling with him in academics or family relationships. However, my life with the Lord was largely compartmentalized until college. It was in my campus fellowship, starting with Fall Retreat, that God truly showed me what it meant to see him as real and present and to live in deep relationship with him, his Word, and the church, not just on Sundays but in every moment.

Across seasons of my life, I resonate with the deep desire of the author to walk with God always, and yet many a season has been turbulent, whether in ministry, relationships, or discerning my calling. It is in retrospect on those seasons that God has gently reminded me that he has been carrying me all along. His mercy and peace are threaded through my journey, not to pull me out of the crashing waves but to meet me in them, and I have realized that it is only by him that I have been saved through them. It is in that assurance that I live in wonder for him.





# Carver Lan

## MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER

Before recognizing Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour, life was empty, and I found myself always trying to chase the next best thing in hopes that it would fill this void. I was on this never-ending hamster wheel chasing something I could never grasp as there was always something better to chase after. Since this experience, I have learned to surrender to God and allow him to lead me to where he wants me to go. I feel at peace knowing that I have God as a firm foundation to fall back on.

Jesus's sacrifice and teachings have shifted my perspectives to cherish quality time with God, family, and friends more and to value success, prestige, and money less. I strive to be better in a God honouring way and to help others find Jesus so that they too can experience the peace that faith in God can provide. Currently, I am in Soul Squad and have taken a more active role by leading bible studies and helping newcomers to feel welcomed at the church. My heart is brimming with joy, and I am beyond thankful and grateful for what God has provided me in life.





# Elizabeth Yang

## MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER

I grew up in a Christian home, attended Fraser Lands Church, and accepted Jesus as my saviour when I was about 5 or 6 years old. My family moved to another church and I connected with the student ministry there. As a teen and young adult, I began to actively engage with my faith, learning how to put into practice Christ-centered beliefs and values. I began serving with the student worship team and eventually stepped into a leadership and administrative role. Through the 8 years of my serving, God challenged and transformed me in many ways.

During COVID, my young adults small group splintered due to personal conflict. After a period of discernment, I stepped away from serving and from my church. In my grief, I spent approximately a year estranged from faith practices, but was blessed to experience God's faithfulness first hand. He brought deep healing to my life and planted a renewed hunger for Him in my heart. Eventually, I felt God's call to find a church community. I joined a small group at Fraser Lands Church and realized that Jesus planned for me to be here in the long term.





# Maryem Ahbib

## MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER

Since I moved to the neighborhood around Fraser Lands Church, I wanted to have access to a church close to home. When I looked on google, FLC came up first and Pastor Abe was preaching. I decided to come and since that time around October 2022, I have kept coming to FLC every Sunday. As well, I have entered prayer groups and volunteered at the church.

Since I was young, I always had a connection with Jesus and I always see Him as my mysterious but attainable friend and helper, in difficult situations and in daily life matters. Also, I go to Him for guidance whenever I have a difficult decision to make. In this church, I learn a lot and I am still learning. For example, when singing Christian songs, I can't help but cry. I learned that it is normal and it means that I am pouring my heart to Him and He understands.

I like to sing Christian songs, I also like to dig in the Word more and more and I ask Jesus always for direction before and during writing a contract for clients either to list or sell a house since I am a realtor for the last 15 years in Vancouver.

My hobbies include the gym, walks, swimming, running and studying the Bible with friends or in a Bible study group. I also enjoy reading books and watching educational documentaries.



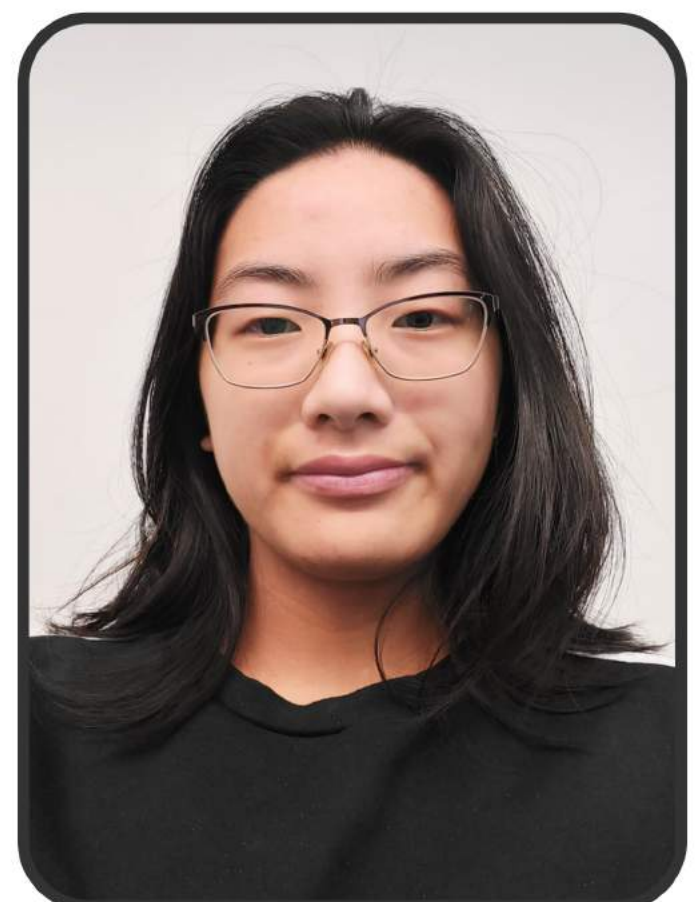


# Solana Yuen

## MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER

I grew up in a Christian household, following my parent's faith and loving God as a child would. I lived comfortably in my home church until I was twelve, leaving to find a new one. As we searched, it was a struggle to stay connected with God during high school with only Christian music and Sunday sermons as a reminder of Him. We settled at Tapestry Marpole for awhile.

In 2020, I started craving for a deeper, personal relationship with God, later deciding to get baptized with Tapestry. After I got baptized, I started to stray away from God. I had a series of sicknesses starting from June of 2021. The pattern of sicknesses required me to reset my diet repeatedly until May of 2022, when the sharp physical pains started to subside. The consequences from these sicknesses were mentally and physically draining, leading to both anxiety and depression for a time. I prayed throughout the pain, tears, and anger with God beside me. Prayers as small as healing the immediate pain to curing my loneliness were all answered, given enough time. He's shown me His love, and now He wants me to show it to others.





# Wallis Chan

## MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER

I became a Christian when I was attending a church in Cupertino while I was studying as an international student in 2013.

I remembered one day while I was doing laundry at home, I clearly heard a voice saying to me “Come follow me.”

I immediately called my pastor at that time and told him that I am ready and would like to receive Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. In the same year, I got baptized at the same church.

Although I have been attending churches regularly since then, I felt lost in the past few years about my faith and my relationship with God. When I moved from Calgary to Vancouver 2 years ago, I prayed to God to provide me a church that guides me closer to him and help to know more about him. God faithfully answered my prayer and provided beyond what I have asked for.

In the past 2 years at Fraser Lands Church, I lost count on how many times I encountered God during Sunday services, Sunday school, small group meetings, Set Free Retreat, and prayers that I received from sisters and brothers. Not only did God draw me closer to Him, He also showed me my true identity, how much He loves me and the plan that He prepared for me.

I look forward to the encounters with God at Fraser Lands moving onwards and excited to witness and to walk with sisters and brothers, newcomers to Fraser Lands in their journey with God.







## **FRASER LANDS CHURCH**

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