

## The appointment of Valdi Gravitis to the position of Operations Manager

The diaconate is pleased to recommend that the appointment of Valdi Gravitis to the new role of Operations Manager be ratified at the Church meeting to be held 10am Sunday 10 December. We are grateful for the way in which this appointment has unfolded and see it as an answer to prayer and the provision of God.

This role is of great importance for the future effectiveness and growth of the ministry of PBC. Over the past decade, churches (and organisations as a whole) have had to comply with an increasingly complex set of regulations. Also over the past decade, PBC has experienced significant numerical growth and has completed a significant building program resulting in larger and more complex ministry facilities. The bulk of this increased workload has fallen to the pastors and to a small number of volunteers.

Valdi brings a unique set of skills and experience to this new role. He has advanced computer and technology skills as well as extensive qualifications in finance, administration and business management. He has held senior leadership positions in both the private and government sectors, including most recently the NSW Department of Finance, Services and Innovation. Valdi's referees had worked extensively with him and they affirmed not only his skills and ability to perform this role, but also described him using such words as loyal, trustworthy, talented, personable and easy to work with.

Valdi will commence this role as soon as details regarding his employment can be finalised. He will be employed 2 and a half days by PBC and will continue to work externally as well. Given that this is a new position, Valdi's contract of employment will be until 31 January 2019, giving both him and the diaconate sufficient time to evaluate the role with regard to the hours required, the reasonableness of expectations of the role, and any other matters that arise during the first year.

We encourage you to be in prayer for Valdi and his family as he steps into this role and to be at the church meeting. If you have any questions in the meantime, please speak with Steve, Kathy or any of the diaconate.

### And a little bit about Valdi (by Valdi)

Kylie, Talia, Charlotte and I have been attending PBC since mid 2008. We love the Christ-centred values and community of PBC, and I am thrilled to be able to work more closely with, and give something back to, this Kingdom family.

I grew up in a Christian family and knew the Father from a very young age. I would say my upbringing was more Law focussed than Christ focussed and my youth was spent battling my human nature against the perfection of old testament Law requirements.

In my early twenties the combination of life events and small group Bible studies led to my heart being transformed by the Grace of God and the Love of Jesus for all people. This changed the way I lived my life and the way I treated others – both in the world and in my heart.

As I matured as a Christian I also learned to live the tenant 'not my will but yours, Lord' and to use it to accept the directions my life takes, and to do so boldly. The Old Testament's Jonah, Joseph and Daniel are key examples to me and their lessons have shaped me.

When I first heard of this role at PBC I felt an instant calling on my heart that this is something I should get involved in. Suddenly a number of events/outcomes of recent times fell into place and I realised I had been led to this point.

I am overjoyed that God's will is for me to be here, I am looking forward to this Kingdom work, this opportunity to actively support the body of Christ. Please pray for me in this role, and for my family as we adapt to the changes that it will make in our lives.



## Introducing Ben Wilson

Kaye Ryan will be on maternity leave in 2018 from March until October-ish, and during that time, Ben Wilson will step into her role. Ben and Kaye will work together at the beginning of the year to get as much as possible organised in advance.

We asked Ben to tell us a little about himself and what he's looking forward to.

"I put my faith in God in grade 4 and recommitted my life to Jesus at a PBC youth camp 5 years later. Within those interim 5 years and the rest to come, God has been working most evidently in my life through his people— mum and dad, Luke McCoy (my youth pastor), my countless youth leaders and an amazing group of school and church friends who both love and value Jesus most.

Through their imperfect example and in regularly delving into Jesus' life I'm piecing together an ever-evolving understanding on how I should orient and live my life for God. After leaving school I've enjoyed my faith's autonomy in searching out topics and matters of faith that piqued my interest such as creation and psychology. I believe God has used these to strengthen my faith and stir in me a conviction to serve and teach.

Currently I find myself halfway through a Bachelor of Science – Psychology at Uni. When not at Uni I love to spend hours relaxing with a guitar or drum sticks in hand or before a piano. Otherwise, I spend good portions of my time reading, serving and hanging out with the greatest God-honouring people I know.



What I'm looking forward to? The massive Friday night Youth Group growth, gifted leadership teams and the young lives willingly surrendered to God, declare his goodness – and it is EXCITING! I can't wait to see how God will bring together me as interim youth pastor, our skilled leaders and the loving PBC youth parents and families to continually reveal himself to our young people! I'm nervously excited to step into this role, however I feel secure as I know my God is one who equips. I also can't wait to learn from and work closely with such an epic-ly faithful pastoral team, share Jesus with the young people of our local primary school and devoting more time into the ongoing, thriving youth ministry events in 2018."

Remember to pray for Ben as he prepares to step into this role.