



Introducing James Paton (Lead Pastor Candidate)

“Where are you from?” This is probably the hardest question for James to answer. Originally from Scotland, James grew up in Northern Ireland, where he met his wife Gillian. After studying economics at the University of Glasgow he began a successful career, qualifying as a Chartered Tax Advisor with EY. Gillian studied music at Glasgow and currently plays violin with Het Orkest in Amsterdam, as well as working in administration at the British School.

Sensing God’s call to pastoral ministry, James studied at the University of Manchester before serving in his first church in Perth, Scotland. He was soon assigned overseas to an international church in Switzerland, which he describes as one of the most formative periods of his life.

By this time they had three children. Today they are almost empty nesters. John lives in Uppsala, Sweden, where he is completing his masters in Theoretical Physics. Callum lives in Maastricht, The Netherlands, and has two years left in his degree in European Studies. Eilidh is finishing grade 12 and plans to study Public Health next year.

While in Switzerland James won a Beeson Scholarship from Asbury Theological Seminary. The family moved to Kentucky while James completed the residential portion of his doctoral degree. It was here they first encountered The Christian and Missionary Alliance, attending First Alliance Church in Lexington. Ian Trigg at Foothills Alliance Church here in Calgary got to know James during this time and on the first weekend of May 2002 the Patons visited Calgary. There was a blizzard! Hopefully we’ll do better this time.

James served as Associate Lead Pastor at Foothills for almost 10 years before accepting a call to become the Teaching Pastor at Crossroads International Church in Amsterdam. Crossroads is a flagship church in Europe with a vibrant ministry to people who are far from God. It is full of singles and young families who are discovering the wonder of Jesus. Their mission is to serve the city, share the gospel, and shape the culture.

James has also lectured in pastoral and historical theology for Ambrose University and Tyndale Theological Seminary. Most recently he has been appointed as a PhD supervisor at the University of Manchester. He loves books and movies, especially spy stories and science fiction. He enjoys hiking and is also very proud of the new bike he received for his 50th birthday. He says he’s worried about lack of sleep with the Flames in the playoffs and an 8-hour time difference - but being a coffee guy, he’ll survive!

*James will be preaching at all four services on May 2/3, 2015 at First Alliance Church. The Board of Elders invites you to a **Congregational Meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, 7:30 pm** in the Auditorium here at FAC where members of First Alliance Church will be asked to vote regarding inviting Pastor James Paton to become the new Lead Pastor of First Alliance Church. (To inquire about church membership, contact Pastor Heather Brown hbrown@faccalgary.com / 403-212-8854.)*

Proxy ballots are available at the Info Desk, and online under this weekend’s resources for those unable to attend.