



### **Elder Candidate Bio: Matt Deardorff**

I'm the oldest of three siblings (two sisters/one brother) and I grew up as a "military brat" with my dad in the Air Force since I was two years old. As a child, we lived in Idaho, Washington, Hawaii and Virginia. I don't really remember the actual day I came to Christ. I grew up in the church and was raised by Christian parents that love the Lord. As far back as I can remember, I have been involved in church and even went to a private Christian school. At the age of eleven, I fully understood my commitment to Christ and realized I had options and chose to follow Him. Throughout high school I was active in my church and youth group, however I don't believe my faith was truly my own faith which led to problems down the road.

After high school I went to Virginia Tech on a military ROTC scholarship. During my college years, I began to slide away from God. By sophomore year, I was far from God and didn't return to Him for five years.

While at Virginia Tech during sophomore year, I met my wife Megan and we were married in Dec 2005 after graduation. After college, I joined the active duty Air Force and we have lived in Oklahoma, Texas, and Japan. Megan and I have two children, Logan (2008) and Carsyn (2011).

Two years into our marriage in 2007, I felt empty, out of control, and knew I had to come back to Christ. In my search to return we came across Proverbs 19:21, "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails". This verse was perfectly timed and was the turning point in both of our lives. This is when Jesus really started to transform my life. From that point forward, Meg and I have been actively engaged and growing more in Christ.

In 2012 the military moved us to Japan where our faith grew immensely. In Japan we worshiped at a small church called Kanto Plains and I became heavily involved in men's ministry, Sunday morning audio/visual, and I was a deacon in 2014.

The military moved us to Connecticut in 2015 and I transitioned from active duty military to the Connecticut Air National Guard in 2018 allowing us as a family to stay in Connecticut and grow "roots".

While house hunting for our move to Connecticut, we found VBCC on the internet. It just so happened that our real estate agent attended VBCC as well and introduced us to the staff in between looking at houses. Before we even moved to Connecticut, we knew VBCC was going to be the church God wanted us to invest in and continue to grow.

Over the last seven years at VBCC I have served as life group leader, Children's ministry teacher, Kid's Alive leader, and member of the landscape team. God is continuing to transform my life and stretch my boundaries.