

Awana Ministry Leadership Transition

Jason & Charity Grahame have been serving as the Awana Ministry Directors since 2010. Prior to that role, they had both served in several capacities through the ministry as their young family was established.

Over the past nine years, God has increased their heart and desire for ministry. Although they had no intention of leaving the area, a sovereignly appointed comment with the president of Cedarville University [link to www.cedarville.edu] (Jason & Charity's alma mater) at a last minute meeting after the Sunday morning service in February 2018 initiated a conversation and relationship that God has overseen and orchestrated over the last 18 months. The story is quite amazing and certainly guided by His Sovereign plan.

In May 2019, the Cedarville University Board of Trustees voted to develop a Christian PA Program [link to <https://www.cedarville.edu/News/2019/New-Physician-Assistant-Program-Planned-for-2022.aspx>] and to ask Jason to help them lead the endeavor. Jason has served as a professor and in leadership for the PA Program at Eastern Virginia Medical School since 2007 and this is a great opportunity that God has given them that is tailored for their gifts and family. Nevertheless, it will be a challenge to leave so many friends and family here in the Hampton Roads area that have developed over their 19 years here. Yet, in light of eternity (the Awana@Colonial theme [link to www.colonialbaptist.church/awana] for next year) and the time we will reconvene there, we know that the time is short, and God will sustain both this ministry and their family.

TRANSITIONS

After serving as commanders for 9 years, the Grahames were already planning for a one-year hiatus prior to the developments with Cedarville. To that end, they had invited Pete & Gloria Schrader to work along side them during 2018-2019 club year and have them take the lead this next year while the Grahames took a less visible role.

Pete & Gloria have been at Colonial for the past few years after moving south from New Jersey to attend seminary at VBTS. Both have finished their MBS degree and Pete is continuing in pursuit of an MDIV. They currently work with the Colonial youth program [link to <https://www.colonialbaptist.church/youth>] and had previously worked with children's ministries in New Jersey.

As God started to reveal His new plans for the Grahame family, God laid another couple on their heart and mind who have been involved with Awana the past few years and have a great servant's heart. After prayer and consideration, Brian and Sarah Shanesy agreed to take the reins and leadership of this ministry going forward. For the upcoming year, they will be supported by the Schraders (who then will be returning to full time ministry with the youth). The Grahames will also support their transition during the first few months of this club year while they are still here locally.

Please pray for the Shanesys and Schraders during the upcoming year and support them in any way that you can. Also, feel free to contact us [link to <https://www.colonialbaptist.church/youth>] if you have any other questions about this transition.