

## Jonathan Whiteside

### Co-Founder and Chair President

Jonathan was born in Medellin, Colombia and came to Canada in 1980 at the age of fifteen.



He graduated from Birchmount Collegiate Institute in Scarborough and then attended the University of Toronto which he graduated from with an Honours Degree in Celtic Studies. Afterwards, he attended Heritage Theological Seminary and Toronto Baptist Seminary which he graduated from with a Master's of Divinity.

As well, Jonathan enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves and spent 11 years serving in the infantry.

In 1995 Jonathan accepted a position as assistant pastor of a Spanish-speaking church, located in the Jane and Finch area of Toronto. In 2003 he became its lead pastor.

Jonathan was one of the founding members of the Canadian Human Rights International Organization (CHRIO) and currently he serves as its president.

Both as a pastor of an ethnic church and as a volunteer with CHRIO, Jonathan has spent 15 years working with the immigrant community in Toronto - helping newcomers to get established, helping them with their physical and legal needs, helping to give them a sense of belonging to a community in an otherwise strange and confusing culture, and in general giving non-native residents of Canada a voice in a land where often they are not heard.