

# ELIZABETH MULLINS

Community Developer Hickory, NC

## Background:

**How do you serve in GCI?** In April, I was hired part time as the Community Developer by my local church and I was accepted into the GCI Pastoral Resident Program. **/How did you connect with GCI?** My mother and father began taking me to this denomination when I was a toddler. **/What are some stand out memories from your time in GCI?** I had the tremendous opportunity to travel to the Philippines in 2016 and to speak at their annual gathering in Luzon with my husband, Anthony. I was overwhelmed by the warmth and generosity of my GCI sisters and brothers in the Philippines, and made deep, lasting friendships that continue to this day. I love that GCI truly is a global family! **/What are some of your reasons for choosing to participate with GCI in ministry?** GCI is home, my family of origin, so to speak. I am GCI! But more importantly, I've chosen to stay because this is where I learned Trinitarian, Incarnational theology and because I see a growing awareness and desire to include the entire Bride of Christ, in all her diversity. **/How did your ministry develop?** Like many women, I imagine, it flowed out of seeing a need, as in, "Oh here's a gap that needs to be filled". And the areas where I served, followed the progression of my own children aging: church nursery, facilitating a small group for moms, Sunday school, teen youth group. I learned so much, but in retrospect, I wish I had received more intentional leadership development. I'm encouraged by the type of leadership development I see in GCI now. We're investing in young people, including young women. Okay, not just young people! I'm one of the oldest GCI residents and the leadership development I'm receiving through this program is invaluable!



## Get to Know Elizabeth



### FOR THE LOVE OF Camps

Some of my most impactful ministry experiences have been at camp. I've been to at least one GenMin camp every year since 2002. There is something unique and powerful about getting outside of the normal rhythms of life and being immersed in a very intentional community. And our camp staff do an incredible job crafting intentional, meaningful community! There is an intimacy in the camp setting that I don't believe can be replicated. It's a communal intimacy that fosters vulnerability and paradigm shifts!

### FOR WHAT ARE YOU MOST GRATEFUL?

I cannot pick just one. I'm grateful I had to wrestle with the question: "where is God when everything falls apart?" I'm grateful for second, and third, and fourth chances, and that God is the redeemer of relationships. I'm grateful for my beautiful, messy, blended family that has been grafted together by Love!

### DESCRIBE YOUR PERFECT DAY.

A perfect day would be a warm, sunny day playing in the river in the Pisgah National Forest with my two grown daughters and my granddaughter. And I'd be trying to make them laugh because the sound of their unbridled laughter is one of my favorite sounds! Of course, any day hiking with my husband is a perfect day!

I have been employed by and volunteered for various nonprofits and service providers. The experiences have been invaluable. **ONE THING I'VE LEARNED THOUGH: CHARITY WITHOUT HEALTHY, MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY AND RELATIONSHIPS IS OFTEN DEMEANING.**

Today, I only want to serve in the context of the Church, His Body. **I WANT TO POINT OTHERS TO THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL; TO ENVELOP PEOPLE INTO THE RADICAL HOSPITALITY OF THE CHURCH.** I believe God's work of liberation and transformation occurs within the stability of the Body's community and I want to join Jesus in His work there.