

TED JOHNSTON

GCS Faculty / Foley, AL

Background:

How do you serve in GCI? I have been employed in ministry with GCI since 1987, serving as a pastor, district superintendent, director of Generations Ministries, regional pastor, CAD media director, GCI publications editor and special assistant to the Vice President. / **How many years have you been part of GCI?** I began attending WCG in 1969 at age 17. / **What are some stand out memories from your time in GCI?** Above all is the wonderful team I've been privileged to work with as we've travelled together on an amazing 20-year-long journey of doctrinal/theological reformation as God lovingly, but radically transformed us as a fellowship. / **How did you connect with GCI?** My father first introduced me to WCG literature, then Ambassador College, which I entered in 1969. / **What are some of your reasons for choosing to participate with GCI in ministry?** After two years at Ambassador, then three at Cal Poly (Pomona), followed by 15 years as a landscape architect and urban planner, I felt a strong call from God to change careers and devote myself full time to pastoral ministry. / **What makes you choose to give your time and energy to this ministry?** Love for Christ and his mission, coupled with a sense of his calling, saying, "Ted, you must do this—my people need caring shepherds." / **How has your ministry had an impact on who you are?** Involvement in pastoral ministry has transformed me in just about every way---it has transformed my view of God, my dreams, hopes, goals, schedule and worldview. I am most grateful for the way the Spirit has formed me within the crucible of Jesus' ministry. / **How did your ministry develop?** I entered WCG's ordained ministry, first as a deacon, then an elder (both while working full time in business). I then left my business career to devote myself to full-time pastoral ministry, first in Kansas, then Colorado, then Ohio, and now Alabama. / **Who has invested in you to support you in your ministry?** First and foremost is my wife Donna who has made many sacrifices as we've journeyed in ministry together. I have also been blessed by numerous mentors, spiritual guides and teachers, most notably, Ellis LaRavia, Rick Gipe, Hugh Wilson, Joseph Tkach, Mike Feazell, Dan Rogers, Jeb Egbert, John McKenna, Gary Deddo and Greg Williams. / **What makes your region different than other places in the world?** In addition to the white sand beaches of the Gulf Coast, there is the laid-back, year-long warm-weather lifestyle that attracts many tourists and snow-birds. This area is also a mecca for sports of all kinds--Roll Tide! / **Where do you go to have fun where you live?** Donna and I love to spend time outdoors—on the beaches and in the bayous and woods of Lower Alabama. We also love visiting nearby towns and cities like Fairhope, AL; Pensacola, FL and New Orleans, LA.



Get to Know Ted



1.
For what are you most grateful?
I'm most grateful for Jesus, and for all that he means to me as fully God and fully human. Next comes my wife Donna, my two children (Traci and Joe) and my four grandchildren (Lauren, Jack, River and Bodi).

2.
What energizes you?
To discern what Jesus is doing and how I can join in in a meaningful way. In particular, I love equipping others for their part in Jesus' ministry.

3.
What is one of your greatest accomplishments? Contributing to the transformation of our denomination that began in 1986 and continues to this day.

4.
What are 5 things you can't live without? Above all, Jesus. And in and through him the 4 F's: Faith, Family, Friends and Fun.

5.
Describe your perfect day: Interacting with other people who are passionate about life, and, in particular, life with Christ.

FAVORITE SCRIPTURE?
Psalm 37:5

THEME SONG FOR YOUR LIFE?
Amazing Grace.

STRUGGLE OR LIFE LESSON YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE? Wait on the Lord (as my wife Donna has often said, "I married a fast horse").

HOW DO YOU EXPERIENCE/FEEL CLOSE TO GOD? I feel close to God just about any place I can get quiet, experience beauty, and so listen to his voice—time in worship is most profound.

EVERYONE WHO KNOWS YOU KNOWS YOU LOVE seeing young people being equipped and launched in ministry.

WHAT DOES HOPE LOOK LIKE FOR YOU IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW?
As I retire from GCI employment January 2019, I'm listening for God's call to the next phase of serving him and his people in ministry.

I'm optimistic as I peer into GCI's future. But I'm also realistic—our transformation needs to continue—we have not "arrived." To my brothers and sisters, I say, "journey on!"

