

CARRIE OSBORNE

Pastor Chillicothe, Ohio

Background:

How do you serve in GCI? I am the Senior Pastor of Voice of Hope Church of God. **/ How many years have you been part of GCI?** My entire life. Let's just say over thirty years. **/ What are some of your reasons for choosing to participate with GCI in ministry?** God, of course! As I grew up in our denomination, I always felt love. Even as we went through major and necessary doctrinal changes, I remember getting excited about "someday" working for/with the church. I was about 12-13 years old. At the time, I would never have believed it would be as a pastor, but God had it planned all along. As I continued to deepen my relationship with God and follow my desire to learn (through GCS and other schooling), I realized just how passionate I was to help others see and truly know how loved and precious they are to God. What better organization to remain a part of than the one in which I have always felt love?! There is a lot to read between the lines in my answer. No, not all of the journey had love, nor was I always as certain about my future as my answer may seem. But really, those are the details that don't really matter in the big picture. Yes, they are a part of my story and I share them when needed. But ultimately, it is God and His love that I want others to see and know has led, does lead, and will continue to lead my journey, wherever I go. **/ How has your ministry had an impact on who you are? On who God is to you?** God continues to amaze, surprise, and encourage me. The more I learn, the more I realize I don't know, and the more I want to continue to grow! I have become more of the woman God made me to be - fearless, bold, and courageous - which sometimes scares me! Knowing that God is calling me to be bold and courageous means He is preparing me for something more. And every time I think I have reached the "something more," God says, "Come on, follow me. We aren't done yet." God drives my passion and fuels it with His overwhelming and ever-strengthening love. **/ Who has invested in you to support you in your ministry?** I wish I could list all the names of those who have supported me. Just thinking about them and seeing all of their faces brings tears of joy to my eyes! If I know you personally (and I truly mean this) at all, then consider yourself on my list because I have most likely felt supported by you at some point in my participation in God's ministry! :) My dad, Tom Smith, gets credit for first putting the question of becoming a pastor in my mind. My mom, Pam Smith, gets credit for my desire to work with the church "someday" because I figured I would be a pastor's wife like her.



Get to Know Carrie

THEME SONG FOR MY LIFE?

Happy by Pharrell Williams because I really am happy and joy-filled most of my days!



1.

Struggle or life lesson you would like to share? GRACE: It is a wonderful thing to give, especially when undeserved AND it is a wonderful thing to receive, especially when undeserved.

2.

How do you experience God? There are many ways I experience God and feel close to Him. What I have come to appreciate recently in my life is God in the details. There are times when I think something is trivial and I don't need to worry over it, and God gives it to me anyway. There are other times when I think something is super important and necessary and I worry about not having it, but God keeps it from me, showing me instead that He's got me and all of my needs.

3.

Where do you go to have fun where you live? My husband, Greg, and I have enjoyed many walks and some picnic dates at Yoctangee Park, near the center of downtown Chillicothe. They have a beautiful pond with a fountain, picnic shelters, pools, playgrounds, ball fields, and more! There are several community agencies and organizations who offer events in the park for all ages throughout the year. Seeing my dog chase the geese, ducks, and swan, and trying to ice skate in the winter have been my favorite so far.

4.

For what are you most grateful? My family and my husband.

5.

What are some stand-out memories from your time in GCI? Being able to participate in two trips to Malawi, Africa, and volunteer as a teacher. These trips were incredibly meaningful, Spirit-filled, and life giving. As I got to know and participate in another culture, I learned more about our connectedness as God's children and the ways in which we can show love despite cultural barriers or differences.

Being able to participate in several of our regional camps during the summers has also brought great joy to my heart. As I visited each new-to-me camp, I saw God's love multiplied and overflowing.

Even as I saw different ways to "do" camp, the passion for loving others was all evidence of the Holy Spirit leading and working in the lives of the staff and camp leaders. Building relationships with brothers and sisters both near and far. I've had the opportunity to meet, know, work, and live with members all over the world.

We truly are a family and I have been blessed at every "family reunion" I've been able to attend, whether it has been the International or Regional Conferences, the GenMin gatherings, or even local events and retreats.



Ultimately, it is God and His love that I want others to see and know has led, does lead, and will continue to lead my journey, wherever I go.



GRACE COMMUNION
INTERNATIONAL



GRACECOMMUNION



WEAREGCI