

KAIRIS JOY CHIAJI

Pastoral Team Member
Sacramento, CA

Background:

How do you serve in GCI? I have the honor of serving on the pastoral team for the GCI congregation Living Grace Fellowship. David Houck, Mike Smith, and I were recently ordained as Elders in GCI, commissioned to serve as a pastoral team in Sacramento.

How did you connect with GCI? I am third generation born into our fellowship. My grandmother and mother came into WCG in the early 60's.

What is your ministry or calling? I think my calling is caring for the caregivers. Taking time out every year to love on the ones who spend all year giving themselves to everyone else is one of my favorite traditions. It's called My Sisters Only Retreat and we are 22 years strong and counting.

What is the legacy you hope to leave? I hope that when I'm finished on planet Earth, every woman who walks into her home starving at the end of a long day will decide to eat instead of folding the laundry. That would be revolutionary.

Who has invested in you to support you in your ministry? That's a long list....everyone who spells my name correctly. If I had to pick one it would be my son Dwight. He pours into me daily.

What is something in your local congregation that you're excited about? I'm excited to watch people who have attended this church for over half a century move into a technological age for sharing the gospel. Who really needs perfect mastery of a pesky mute button during Bible study video chat when you're witnessing about the love of Christ? The enthusiasm and willingness to stretch is contagious!



Get to Know Kairis

1.

Struggle or life lesson you would like to share:
If I could teach anyone anything, it would be that their value is inherent. It doesn't have to be earned because it's already been determined. We get to spend our lives finding things to do that match it.

2.

Everyone who knows you knows you love:
Giraffes. And my big old blended family. And photo books. And black tea with heavy cream and sugar. And writing.

3.

Where do you go to have fun where you live?
I go to a barn. Nearly a year ago I purchased a sweet little mare who is willing to work as hard as I do at our lessons each week and daily training sessions. It's my investment in self-care.

4.

Favorite scripture?
Psalm 23:1 NLT

5.

Are you involved in any unique community ministry opportunities?
I have a full spectrum doula practice, serving my community for over 20 years. That's a fancy way of saying "pregnancy and birth coach." Maternal and infant mortality and morbidity rates are dismal in BIPOC communities, and my job is to support "my tiny employers" and their families so they can enter the world as safely as possible. I also get to offer doula trainings for a global nonprofit and advocate for birth justice in health forums. As a Community Health Advocate, I advise underserved families of their rights and access to pregnancy services, educate politicians and public servants on the need for equitable care for birthing families, and serve on committees for policy development. Some of my favorite opportunities are public radio, national news outlets, and podcast interviews.

6.

Theme song for your life?
"Black Butterfly" by Denise Williams

7.

How do you experience/feel close to God?
When I open my eyes and see my husband, I am assured. Only a perfect God who loved me would gift something so wonderful and let me call it my life.

