

# MIKE SMITH

Pastoral Team Member  
Sacramento, CA

## Background:

**What is your role in your local congregation or the denomination as a whole?** I have two main roles within our local congregation. The first is as a pastor. Beyond my speaking duties, I am focused on building and maintaining relationships with our members. My second role is supporting our video ministry which includes editing and publishing our weekly messages. Our video ministry has been supporting and connecting our members and our community for over 20 years.

**How did you connect with GCI?** My connection with GCI extends back to my parents' involvement in this church. I am a third generation member of GCI and now a second generation pastor of GCI. I have always known GCI as my church.

**What are some of your reasons for choosing to participate with GCI in ministry?** The 20 plus year history I have with my fellow church members here in Sacramento. They have encouraged and supported me to be a part of our current pastoral team.

**Who has invested in you to support you in your ministry?** There are a number of people who through their words of encouragement, belief, and confidence in me have made an investment in supporting me to be led into ministry. If I had to identify someone in my life who has supported me the most, I would say my dad. He has been a role model and mentor all of my life.

**What makes your region different than other places in the world?** Sacramento's location in the central valley of California is close to a lot of favorite travel destinations. In less than two hours you can experience beautiful Lake Tahoe and the Sierra mountains for summer or winter recreation, or go to the famous Napa Valley wine country, or within 2 to 3 hours, depending on traffic, you can visit San Francisco and the Pacific Ocean. We are also a little over 3 hours from Yosemite National Park which in my opinion is one of the most beautiful national parks in the country. All in all there are a lot of wonderful places to visit and explore within easy access from Sacramento.



## Get to Know Mike



- 1. For what are you most grateful?** My family
- 2. What is one of your greatest accomplishments?** Personally, in 2017, I completed the 129 mile "Death Ride - Tour of the California Alps" cycling event. Professionally, this year I obtained my Certified Financial Planner™ certification.
- 3. Describe your perfect day:** Being able to have a slow start to my morning, enjoying a wonderful hot breakfast, then going cycling or playing golf, having a special dinner with my family, and then playing a game or watching a movie with them to end the day.
- 4. Favorite scripture?** Philippians 4:13 (NIV) I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

- 5. Struggle or life lesson you would like to share:** Being patient and slow to respond when major events are occurring in my life.
- 6. How do you experience/feel close to God?** When I am in nature and enjoying quiet time.
- 7. Everyone who knows you knows you love:** Cycling
- 8. What does hope look like for you in your life right now?** That what is on the other side of this life in God's kingdom is beyond anything I can imagine.
- 9. What is your ministry or calling?** I feel my calling is to connect with people in their spiritual journey of following Christ and being spirit-led.

- 10. Where do you go to have fun where you live?** One of my favorite things to do here in Sacramento is to go cycling or running on the American River Parkway. The parkway is a wonderful greenbelt that offers a 32-mile paved trail along the American River. You are almost always guaranteed to see turkey or deer. My other fun favorite thing to do where I live is to head up into the Sierras for a long weekend of camping with my family or friends.

