

# TAMAR GRAY

Pastor  
Grace Communion Cleveland

## Background:

**How do you serve in GCI?** I am Pastor of Grace Communion Cleveland. I also serve as a storyteller for the East region and serve on the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council for GCI.

**What are some of your reasons for choosing to participate with GCI in ministry?** I love the trinitarian theology we embrace. The mission of serving others in the name of Jesus has always been the big draw for me.

**What is your ministry or calling?** In this season of ministry, I have found that I am called to serve, speak and teach. I hope that it will be said, “she did what she was called to do,” and that I leave a legacy of others who want to do the same.

**Who are you teaching and equipping to help with this ministry?** We have a ministry team that has been working beside me. We meet each month, text, email, and call each other doing the work that has been entrusted to us. We hold a retreat each year to get to know each other and grow. We also look at GCI resources to help with growth. Our faith avenue leaders just participated in the “We Believe” zoom webinar. They will be leading this study locally later this year.

**Are you involved in any unique ministry opportunities in your community?** We have adopted a couple of schools in the district. Social workers and counselors will contact us when there is a family who needs help. I was actually asked to perform a funeral for a family in the district. We also prepare a meal each month for a center for women and children leaving abusive situations.



## Get to Know Tamar

1.

**For what are you most grateful?** I am most grateful for family, friends, having a job I love, my family's needs being met, and the opportunities that I have been given.

2.

**Describe your perfect day:** From start to finish: I sleep in as long as I want, go to the gym for spin class, visit a spa, go out to lunch, visit friends, then spend time at home relaxing with family.

3.

**How do you experience/feel close to God?** Music is where I experience God and feel close to Him. I love Contemporary Christian and Gospel Music.

4.

**What does your community look like?** Our community is diverse in culture, religion, and economic status. It gives lots of opportunities for conversation, partnering, and ministering.

5.

**Who has invested in you to support you in your ministry?** My mother will never know how her investment in my spiritual life has paid off. She stored up prayers for me. My husband Lenny has been a huge support as well. I am grateful to my uncle whose feet I sat at to learn how to think critically about spiritual matters. I am also grateful for other pastors who are there to answer questions as this is still new to me. David Botha and Jeff Broadnax. I am now finding a sisterhood with other female pastors in leadership. I am also thankful for the support of my congregation. They are a huge part of moving me forward in ministry.

6.

**If you could describe your congregation in one sentence, what would you say?** Our congregation is filled with a dedicated group of people who believe in the power of prayer and sharing the love of Jesus.

7.

**Everyone who knows you knows you love:** To sing.

8.

**What is something in your local congregation that you're excited about?** I am excited about our love avenue. We are connecting with the school district, senior low-income housing, shelters, food banks, and other churches.

9.

**Favorite scripture?** Psalm 46:10: “Be still and know that I am God.”

10.

**Struggle or life lesson you would like to share:** I have learned it is not my job to fix everything and everybody.



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