

MARGARET COHEN

Elder, Grace Communion Carina
Carina, Queensland, Australia

Background:

My husband Eric and I met in our church congregation in 1970 and married in 1974. We are still a part of that congregation, along with many other long-time members who have become some of our dearest friends. We have had the joy of serving in many areas of church life together throughout our marriage and continue to do so. We feel deeply blessed to have had our lives together shaped, centred, and guided always by the loving presence of God. We have been blessed to serve on the GCI Carina Pastoral Team for the past 25 years. For ten years, I had the privilege of serving on our Australian National Church Board with a focus on the careful and prayerful governance of the church. Over the past seven years, I have had the joy of being involved with Children's Church, first as a helper, and then for the past four years as co-ordinator, working closely with a wonderful team of parents and grandparents.

As a mother of two and grandmother of five, I have deep affection, respect, and empathy across each generation and the rich contribution that each age group, from the very youngest to the most senior, is able to make to the life of the church. I know that truly growing together in Christ is vital to a healthy and relevant church.

As an elder, I pray that I will live in response to God's grace and blessing, that I will be equipped to share the faith, hope, and understanding God blesses me with every day, and that he will help me to see through his eyes and be a faithful expression of his love and deep encouragement.



Get to Know Margaret

Snapshots from Carina.



Our 5 adorable grandchildren.

1.

For what are you most grateful? My wonderful husband and our shared journey, along with our precious family, our church community, freedom to worship in this country, our home, dear friends.

2.

What does hope look like for you in your life right now? Hope for all people. Hope for the creation "waiting in expectation." Looking into the eyes of another person with the sure knowledge that says, "You're included!" This would be a good place to mention just one favourite scripture: Rev. 21:4 - "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

3.

What is one of your greatest accomplishments? Living, growing, and learning through each decade of my life, and hopefully carrying the wisdom, kindness, love, and humility gathered forward to become a more complete soul.

4.

What energizes you? Apart from COFFEE? The beauty of creation in all its forms: natural surroundings, beautiful music, beautifully-crafted words, love, my family, a good book, conversations with friends, concepts, ideas and insights, stillness.

5.

How do you experience/feel close to God? In his book "Everything Belongs," Richard Rohr said, "In mature religion, the secular becomes sacred. There are no longer two worlds. We no longer have to leave the secular world to find sacred space." Our lives are inseparable from God. He touches us all in more ways than we can count in any given day...Everything Belongs...and we can only pray for the eyes to see and the heart to comprehend his loving presence and "still small voice."



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