

JEROME ELLARD

Pastor - Big Sandy, TX

Tell us about your role in your local congregation.

I am the pastor of Grace Communion in Big Sandy, Texas.

What skills do you bring to the role?

After 36 years working in administrative positions with three different oil companies, I'd say I have learned effective communication and people skills. I'm also pretty good with paperwork, though you wouldn't know it looking at my office!

What makes you a good fit?

I'd say I'm a good fit because of my many experiences learning to be a servant to the church with my wife. When we met, she led hospitality at church, and I helped her with that role. Also, I like people and hearing their stories.

What do you want people to know about working here?

It's great! Our church isn't large in numbers, but it is big in heart. I think of it as "the little church that can!" Our church is also blessed with many experienced ministry leaders. They make my job much easier, and they are my friends! Also, Grace Communion Big Sandy is the 5th oldest congregation in GCI/WCG history. We just celebrated our 70th anniversary! It is a great honor to be part of this historic church!

What excites you about this role?

Seeing people make relational connections excites me – connections with God, with each other, and with our neighbors here in Big Sandy, Texas. I am excited about the possibilities here!



Jerome and his wonderful wife Helen.

Get to Know Jerome

1.

What are the challenges?

I am aware of the energy and availability of people. I need to be careful about trying to go faster than the people are able to go. My Avenue champions are great, but they also have full-time jobs and care for family. I'm retired from my "tent-making" job, so I have more time available than they do. But I need to remember to be sensitive to where others are in life.

2.

What is something people don't know about you?

I grew up watching the space program and wanted to be an astronaut. I planned out that career, even planning on becoming an Air Force pilot (which was an astronaut prerequisite in the 1960s). But when I had to get glasses in the 9th grade, that stalled out my ambition to be an astronaut – you had to have perfect vision to qualify. Also, I love The Lord of the Rings books – I've read the 1400-page trilogy at least ten times since my sophomore year in high school.

3.

What else is important for our readers to know?

I am head-over-heels in love with Jesus and my family!

4.

How are you learning to be rooted in place?

I am learning that God really does place us in the church and in the places he puts us. Getting to really know a community and seeing how you can be a positive part of it is a true blessing!

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My family.



A Hope Avenue blessing of the students.



Serving meals at our Wednesday Gathering.



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