

LINDA SITTERLEY

Pastor - GC River Road, Oregon



What skills do you bring to your role at GCI?

I lean into the Team Based — Pastor Led model. I want everyone to play in the sandbox and will mentor anyone willing to step into the sandbox. I value everyone and the gifts that each brings to our sandbox. If anyone wants to serve, I steer them towards the Avenue that fits them best. From my youngest to my oldest, everyone is valued, and they know this.

What makes you a good fit?

I have been a pastor’s wife for many years before taking on the role of pastor. I believe that experience has made me more approachable. I have a connecting and nurturing voice that is a good fit for the people of my congregation. I have been able to find ways to connect us more into our community and to enable my folks to step into those connections.

What excites you about this role?

What is exciting about my role is to see the change in our fellowship when it comes to community interaction, when people step up and volunteer without being “pushed” too hard. I enjoy seeing the transformation in people's lives as they gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a child of God.

What are the challenges?

There are always challenges, as people are people. The biggest challenge is not to wear people out. Finding our rhythm in community events and interactions, along with what we do within our walls, is always a fine dance.

Get to Know Linda



Linda + her husband, Tim



Linda's Ordination



Linda + her family

1.

What is something people don't know about you?

I sit on the board of our local chamber of commerce representing our congregation. I am also on other boards that are part of the business community I belong to.

2.

What are some core values that guide your life and influence your approach to ministry?

I saw these core values awhile back and found that they define me quite a bit, especially the “learn more” part. I always want to be learning.

- Integrity. Know and do what is right. Learn more.
- Respect. Treating others the way you want to be treated. Learn more.
- Responsibility. Embrace opportunities to contribute. Learn more.
- Servant Leadership. Serve the common good. Learn more.

3.

Can you share a memorable experience from your time in this role?

I was never sure that I wanted this role, but the Holy Spirit seemed to think otherwise. My most memorable experience was being ordained while in Israel in a church dedicated to women of the Bible and the ordination being performed by women that I have respected for a long time. This says something about the direction that our denomination has taken — value and respect for all.

4.

What else is important for our readers to know?

I have four beautiful grandchildren. I also play the piano and get to have fun with the worship team from time to time. My family makes up most of the worship team, and that brings me great joy.

I enjoy seeing the transformation in people's lives as they gain a deeper understanding of what it means to be a child of God.