

# ANNE STAPLETON

Pastor - Lemon Grove

**Tell us about your role.**

I am the lead pastor at GC Lemon Grove, where I serve alongside my husband, who is the preaching pastor. We have served this congregation since 2001 when we moved to the San Diego area.

**What makes you a good fit?**

At my core I am a lover of God and of people, which fuels me to use my gifts, talents, and training to serve my congregation and our community. My personality lends to communication, leadership, visioning, administration, connecting, evangelizing, mentoring, and caring for people. I was ordained a decade ago, love Trinitarian Theology, and am taking classes through Ambassador College of Christian Ministry. My husband, who I partner with in ministry, has his master's degree from Grace Communion Seminary.

**What do you want people to know about serving here?**

I absolutely love our denomination, Grace Communion International. I love the Christo-centric Trinitarian Theology that GCI embraces and the team-based leadership that is encouraged and supported. There really isn't another denomination that I would rather be a part of.

**What excites you about this role?**

I am excited about participating with the Holy Spirit in reaching new people with the good news of who God is and how he wants a relationship with them through Jesus.

**What are the challenges?**

There are a lot of challenges to sharing the good news. Almost all include combating a misunderstanding of who God is and what being a Christian is all about. Additionally, so many people are filled with stress and anxiety that they self-medicate in many different ways to distract from dealing with the pain and suffering of life.



Anne and Mark

## Get to Know Anne



Cleaning up Lemon Grove



Anne speaking at conference



Packing food for neighbors in Lemon Grove

1.

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

I believe that God's economy is all about relationships and that all people are built for connection with God, with themselves, and with each other.

2.

**What is something people don't know about you?**

I'm pretty much an open book, so those close to me would know that I am a realistic optimist, I love dark chocolate, watching true crime, and being near the ocean.

3.

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

I resisted ordination for a while, because I think I wanted to prove that you don't have to be ordained to minister. However, God clearly showed me I needed to trust him and say yes to being ordained out of obedience. At my ordination, so many of the male leaders in GCI who I admired and had learned from, got up and shared how they had experienced my ministry over the years.

4.

**What else is important for our readers to know?**

For 19 years I was involved in directing a regional GCI youth camp. I was so passionate about young people; I poured half of each calendar year into planning a one-week camp experience. With our neighborhood-based day camp structure, now I am free to pour all my time into the community that I live in. I see my little city of Lemon Grove as our parish where we get to care for and bless the people in this geographical area.

**"I love the Christo-centric Trinitarian Theology that GCI embraces"**