

GCI MEMBER PROFILE

Afrika Afeni Mills

Tell us about your role in your local congregation.

I serve as assistant pastor and Faith Avenue champion. I support our congregation administratively, help shape discipleship and ministry leadership development, and serve on our leadership team. I also volunteer as a children's ministry co-teacher and with the Hope Avenue team, opening our gatherings with the call to worship.

What skills do you bring to the role?

I bring skills in teaching, spiritual direction, and facilitation, shaped by my years as an educator, consultant, and writer. I love listening deeply and equipping others with practical tools to live out their faith.

What makes you a good fit?

I believe God has called me to create spaces of belonging, racial healing, and spiritual formation. I also enjoy the practical side of ministry – supporting teams administratively, organizing systems, and helping leaders thrive in their roles. This combination of spiritual care and organizational support makes me a strong fit for serving our congregation and aligning with GCI's vision.

What do you want people to know about working/serving here?

Serving at Grace Communion Steele Creek is life-giving. I love being part of a family of faith that reflects the beauty of God's kingdom through our multiethnic and multigenerational community. Together, we live out our core values of belonging, celebration, restorative justice, truth, and unity – not just in words, but in the way we worship, serve, and care for one another.

What excites you about this role?

I'm excited to be part of a faith community that has come together in such a unique and beautiful way – through the joining of a church plant and an already established congregation. It's been powerful to watch God knit us into one family and to see new neighbors find belonging. This reflects the very heart of the gospel – unity, wholeness, and belonging in Christ.

What are the challenges?

We're navigating ministry in a post-COVID world, where people are often more connected to devices than to in-person community. Some carry wounds from past church experiences, which makes it especially important for us to reflect the love of Jesus in ways that offer healing and rebuild trust. Several members live outside the neighborhood, making consistent community connection harder, and busy schedules can limit small group gatherings. Even so, we trust God's Spirit to guide us in building authentic connections.

What is something people don't know about you?

I'm actually pretty introverted and sometimes a little socially anxious – but you might not guess it because I can also be really silly, love a good laugh, and can be a bit of a playful menace with my youngest-child energy.

What else is important for our readers to know?

I'm excited that my TED-Ed Talk, "Four Ways to Have Healthy Conversations About Race," has received over 1.1 million views, and I'll be featured in the upcoming Black@ documentary. Alongside my pastoral work, I serve as a spiritual director. I'm also writing a book with InterVarsity Press about racial healing as spiritual formation, which reflects my hope that the church can be a place of wholeness, belonging, and joy. I am part of ongoing formation through communities like Transforming Community, Anam Cara, and the School of Formation, which continually remind me of the importance of sacred listening, deepening in Christ, and creating space for others to encounter God's presence. I'm grateful to be part of a denomination that values discipleship and community, and I'm hopeful about how we will continue growing together in Christ.

"I believe God has called me to create spaces of belonging, racial healing, and spiritual formation."

Get to know Afrika



Me and Dishon



Doing a TED-Ed Talk



Me and our family at our son Cairo's graduation



GRACE COMMUNION
INTERNATIONAL



GRACECOMMUNION

WEAREGCI