

Bryan Finley

Tell us about your role in GCI.

I'm the pastor of GC Grove City. We're in a revitalization season – strengthening our core (teams, systems, worship/guest experience) and beginning to re-engage one local neighborhood with a simple relational approach we're calling "Here for Good." The long-view goal is a public relaunch at Easter 2027.

What skills make you a good fit for this role?

I'm not intimidated by the current reality – I'm wired to see what could be. For me it's always bigger than getting people in a room. It's becoming a neighborhood church – known, trusted, genuinely helpful – so our city starts to see the church as a force for good they actually want to rally behind. That's how I'm built: preach, shepherd, develop leaders, build systems ... and translate vision into steps we can actually live out.

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

I really do believe in the priesthood of all believers, which means I'm not looking for people to "help me do ministry." I'm looking to help people step into their God-given calling. We'll train you, set you up to win, and build teams that feel like family – not machines that burn people out.

What excites you about this role?

First, I found the You're Included videos and had this "Wait ... there are OTHER people saying this out loud?" moment. I didn't have to keep translating what I believe just to belong.

Second, I'm all-in on the neighborhood church vision – listening first, joining what's already happening, and letting trust grow over time.



Pastor
Grove City, Ohio, US

What are the challenges?

Revitalization is exciting ... and messy. We're rebuilding teams, modernizing spaces, tightening systems, and clarifying a discipleship pathway – while staying relational and not turning church into a project.

And personally? I'm a Pioneer. I can get out ahead of everyone without realizing it. So, I have to lead with intention – making space for the other voices. Guardians protect sustainability. Connectors protect people. Every voice carries something the church needs. That team approach isn't optional in revitalization – it's the whole game.

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

Jesus is the lens. If our theology makes God look less like Jesus, we missed something.

Grace over fear. I'm allergic to transactional religion.

Empowerment. My job isn't to do all the ministry – it's to raise up ministers.

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Presence in the neighborhood.

The church isn't a building we attend; it's a people sent.

What is something people don't know about you?

Nicole and I have three kids (Morgan, Nathan, and Ainsley) ... and yes, they keep us humble. Daily.

What else is important for our readers to know?

I've been in ministry for almost 30 years, and I got a front-row education early on. I served at a large non-denominational church, and over 11 years I watched it grow to nearly 10,000. That shaped me – systems, leadership, vision, strategy, and community impact. About 15 years ago, my theology started shifting toward a Jesus-centered, Trinitarian / incarnational way of seeing God. Over time, it didn't fit mainstream evangelical culture anymore (even charismatic spaces).

I stepped out for a season and worked in tech sales ... but the call never left. I needed a home where the goodness of God isn't a slogan – it's the foundation. GCI theology feels like home.

Get to know Bryan



Bryan and his wife Nicole



The Finley Family



Developed largest church-based sand volleyball facility (East Coast)

