GCI EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Joe Foister



Pastoral Resident
Surrey Hills, Oklahoma, US

Tell us about your role in your congregation.
I am in my first year as a pastoral resident at GC Surrey Hills in Yukon, Oklahoma. I'm blessed to lead our Youth Ministry as we mentor teenagers in their faith and guide them toward a deeper relationship with Jesus, including both the opportunity and the challenge of leading messages, games, and events. These experiences have drawn me closer to Jesus and strengthened my own walk of faith.

What skills do you bring to the role that make you a good fit?
I also serve as a full-time police officer, which has equipped me with strong skills in communication, public interaction, and leadership under pressure. Throughout my life, God has given me opportunities to grow as a leader, teaching me how to mentor others, in discovering and developing the gifts he has placed within them. I hope to continue to grow in this.

What do you want people to know about working/serving here?
This community truly shows the love of Jesus as we do life together. Church does not end on Sundays at noon — ministry happens together 24/7. GCI has shown me what that looks like in real life. You gain a second family here, one that supports you even when you feel unqualified or unsure in your calling.

What excites you about this role?
I am excited to see what God has planned for my future in ministry. While not certain exactly where God is calling me, I know he has placed a desire in my heart to lead and teach others. I grow into that calling by learning from incredible mentors and building new relationships within the body of Christ.

What are the challenges?
One of my challenges is balancing the time required to ensure the Youth Ministry runs smoothly. However, I am incredibly blessed and grateful to have a strong sponsor team that helps keep everything on track.

Get to know Joe

What are some core values that guide your life and influence your approach to ministry?
One is being a mentor who walks alongside others and helps them grow. Another is maintaining a healthy, prayerful relationship with Jesus — everything in ministry flows from him.

Can you share a memorable experience or testimony from your time in this role?
I vividly remember giving my first Wednesday night youth lesson. Extremely nervous, I had prepared what I thought was a 30-minute lesson.
The seven teenagers seemed barely interested at first, but by the end they were listening intently. In my nervousness, I spoke quickly. I finished in just 10 minutes, leaving 20 minutes unplanned.
That unexpected time turned into an opportunity to build relationships, ask questions, and learn more about the students and their walk with Jesus.

What is something people don't know about you?
I enjoy hiking and white-water rafting, especially early in the morning in colder mountain environments.

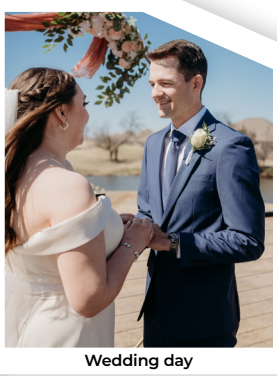
What hobbies or pastimes bring you the most joy?
I enjoy fellowshipping with friends and family, especially when it involves tabletop games. I am also a fan of the NAHL Oklahoma Warriors and enjoy attending games with my wife.

What's a simple blessing you're grateful for recently?
I was blessed to take a short getaway with my wife to a cabin on a lake near hiking trails. It has been a while since I was able to step away, slow down, and enjoy the outdoors.

What else is important for our readers to know?
I am still learning and growing in this calling. I approach ministry with humility and a willingness to be shaped by Jesus. I do not have everything figured out, but I am committed to showing up faithfully, loving people well, and being obedient wherever God leads. I am deeply grateful for the support, encouragement, and grace of this congregation. And I count it a privilege to serve alongside such a Christ-centered community as we point others to Jesus together.

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Commissioning as Pastoral Resident


Wedding day


Police Academy Graduation with family

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