

SHAWNA M. (DIEHL) CARPENTER

5572 Sisson Road, Titusville Florida (willing to relocate)

(616)819-9220; Shawns48@gmail.com



Ministry Objective

I am a pastor theologian with 20+ years experience. I am seeking an opportunity to positively impact the church community by using my leadership and communication skills to serve people and influence them towards intimacy with Jesus and commitment to the mission of Christ. I am seeking to lead a community focused church with a team-leadership approach to discipleship and empowerment for mission. Please see page 3 of this document for more details on my theology, preaching style, and leadership philosophy.

Education

Ph.D. in Renewal Theology, Regent Divinity School

Currently in Dissertation Phase, working in the research area of a Pauline Theology of Leadership; GPA: 3.87

Th.M. In Christian Theology, Regent Divinity School

May 2018; Major Concentration: Biblical Studies; GPA: 4.0

Masters of Theological Studies, Regent Divinity School

May 2016; Major: Theological Studies; Concentration: Interdisciplinary GPA: 3.85

B.A. in Biblical and Theological Studies, Regent University

August 2013; Concentration: Biblical Studies; GPA 3.82

Experience

Life Church of Titusville, Florida; Pastor Jeff Pfingston

Associate Pastor; February 2020 – Current; See attached reference letter.

Oversee Community and Guest Engagement including oversight of the Website/Social Media, Guest Follow-up, the Shepherd's Initiative (pastoral care), Living Waters (Prayer ministry), and Creative Arts (Worship and aesthetics). I oversee several leaders and volunteers, participate regularly in preaching, teaching, and leading worship, coordinate the service schedule, and help develop plans for strategy and vision.

Regent University, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Adjunct Professor of Bible and Theology for the College of Arts & Sciences; Jan 2018 – Jan 2022

Better Life Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Pastor Clint Abbot

Interim Worship Leader; Jan 2017 to Nov 2017; See attached reference letter.

Church on Fire, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Founder, Lead Pastor/Teaching Pastor May 2014 to Nov 2016.

New Life Christian Fellowship, Grand Rapids, Michigan; Pastor Jon Hazeltine

Associate Pastor, Worship Pastor, Ministry School Director; Sep 2006 to Aug 2012

Certifications

Licensed for Ministry(2004); Ordained Pastor (2013)

Ordained by The River Fellowship, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma (Riverfellowship.net). I currently serve as the Area Leader for Florida in the River network.

Loving on Purpose Life Academy Certification, 2016

Completed tracks in leadership, communication, and parenting.

Publications & Curriculum

Full of God: The Inward and Upward Journey into the Heavenly Realms

Self Published October 2019. Paul prays in Ephesians 3:19 that we would be filled with the fullness of God. Through Jesus, God has made his home in humanity. This means that the heavenly realm isn't just around us, but within those who believe in Jesus. How much does this heavenly realm interact with our seen realm? Shawna addresses this question by looking at the teaching and metaphors of Scripture and guiding us on a journey of discovering the heavenly realms as the Bible portrays it. Available on Amazon.

The Stories Jesus Told: And What They Are Saying to the Church Today

Self Published June 2018, *The Stories Jesus Told* explores the context of eschatological crisis in which Jesus delivered his parables and how a Jewish-Christian audience in particular would relate to this context; the implication being that how the parables are interpreted and applied must be reconsidered. Available on Amazon.

Crisis and Hope: The Confrontation and Transformation of Eschatological Expectations through Jesus' Use of Parable, Th.M. Thesis submitted to Regent School of Divinity April 2018, Available on academia.edu.

The Invitation: How to Encounter God in His Word

Self Published in 2013, *The Invitation* was written to help disciples of Jesus engage the Bible in a transformative way so that they are encountering Jesus everyday. It is written on the premise that every passage of Scripture is an invitation into an encounter with God. Available on Amazon.

Cultivating Spiritual Hunger

Curriculum designed to give the learner a comprehensive understanding of what it means to be spiritually hungry, how we pursue God's presence, and how the presence of God draws the lost. More importantly, the learner will be activated in a life of spiritual hunger and encountering the presence of God so that he or she becomes a conduit for the presence of God into other's lives.

Curriculum Developed for Great Lakes Ministry School at New Life Christian Fellowship

Courses included Basic Bible Study Methods; History of Revival; Experiencing the Father's Embrace; Victorious Living in Christ; Spiritual Warfare; Advanced Bible Study Methods; and Leadership Development.

Hearing God in His Word Webinar: <https://youtu.be/4r45m3oiiK4>

References

Pastor Jeff Pfingston, Life Church of Titusville

Work Phone: 321-252-8367
Mobile Phone: 863-272-4578
Email: lifechurchoftitusville@gmail.com

Overseer Richard Oliver, The River Fellowship

Mobile Phone: 916-591-0123
Email: rivergo@msn.com

Pastor Cynthia Buck, A.B.I.D.E. Ministries

Mobile Phone: 910-789-2973
Email: abidingone@att.net

Minister Desiree Lamphier, Love Him More

Mobile Phone: 269-501-9507
Email: lovehimmore2@gmail.com

Pastor Ed Krampitz

Mobile Phone: 616-550-4702

Pastor Jon Hazeltine, New Life Christian Fellowship

Mobile Phone: 616-308-7946
Email: jhazeltine@gmail.com

Philosophy of Preaching & Teaching

(Matt. 4:17; Luke 24:26, 32; John 14:16; Rom. 1:16-17; Eph. 3:7; 1 Thess. 1:5; 2 Tim. 4:1-3; James 3:1).

I differentiate between preaching and teaching; preaching being a message focused on the Gospel and teaching being a time of expounding on the Scripture for the purpose of discipleship. The correct approach is dependent on the context. If Sunday mornings is a time where people are inviting unsaved friends and family then the focus should be on the Gospel message. The Bible is full of stories that demonstrate the plan of God in redemption. If, however, the service is primarily for the discipleship of believers, (such as in a Bible study or weeknight service), I use a more teacherly approach.

I am an expository teacher which means I begin with a passage of Scripture, seek to explain what that passage means, and then help the listener to apply the passage to his or her life. My preference is to work through one book of the Bible at a time or explore what the Bible says about a particular topic (for example repentance, prayer, or healing) over a series of weeks. I prepare for preaching/teaching first by letting the Holy Spirit prepare me (consecration and spiritual discipline), secondly, by a careful exegetical study of the passage within its literary and historical context, thirdly in focused prayer for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and the receptive heart of the congregation. I use a variety of Bible translations in my preparations and preaching including ESV, CSB, and NIV.

Philosophy of Ministry and Leadership

(Matt. 20:25-28; John 13:12-17; Eph. 4:12-16; Col. 1:24-29; 3:16; 1 Peter 5:2-4).

I believe that the call to leadership is a call to serve, train, and empower those whom God has entrusted to me as a spiritual mother. I believe that when you see the best in people and encourage the potential that they have in Christ, that they will most often rise to the occasion and increasingly become more of who God has created them to be. I believe that as a leader I am both responsible to speak the truth in love to others, and to hear the truth from others; being approachable and accountable, especially to others on the leadership team. I believe in a team approach to leadership rather than attention being focused on a single pastor or personality.

Theology (Statement of Faith)

My theological foundations were in the Missionary Church which is an evangelical Christian denomination of Anabaptist origins with Wesleyan and Pietist influences (mcusa.org). My theological education has been ecumenical with exposure to Reformed, Baptist, Episcopal, Wesleyan, and Pentecostal theologians. While my core beliefs have remained true to my roots, I am ordained through the River Network (non-denominational) and have served in non-denominational, Vineyard, and Assembly of God churches. I am willing to seek ordination in any denomination with which I have theological agreement.

As previously mentioned, I was raised in a tradition influenced by Wesleyan and Pietist thought. I have also served in charismatic and Pentecostal churches and have been influenced by those theologies to a degree. Although I embrace the gifts of the Spirit discussed by Paul in 1 Corinthians 12, I do not believe that tongues is the only gift that initially evidences the infilling of the Spirit. In the Wesleyan tradition, I would emphasize love as the primary evidence that a person has been filled and transformed by the power of the Spirit. I also believe that the power of God should be evident in a person's life as he or she witnesses to the truth of the Gospel to those around them. I believe that Jesus set the example we are to follow as disciples; compassionate, full of grace and truth, doing what the Father is doing, and bringing freedom, healing, and deliverance into the lives of others.

I believe in the inerrancy of Scripture, the sovereignty of God, the human and divine nature of Jesus Christ the Son of God born through the virgin Mary, salvation by grace through faith in Jesus alone because of His atoning work on the cross, the literal resurrection of Jesus from the dead, the mandate on believers to live a sanctified life through the power of the Spirit, the infilling of the Holy Spirit to empower believers to witness, the church as the Body of Christ here on the earth commissioned to make disciples of all nations, the return of the Lord Jesus to consummate His Kingdom on earth, and the eternal destiny of each person being either separation from God in hell, or communion with God in heaven.