

FAQ with Greg!

What are your theological absolutes and non-negotiables?

I believe in the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—as the core of the Christian faith. I hold firmly to these foundational biblical truths: Scripture alone is our ultimate authority for faith and practice, faith and grace alone are the means of salvation, Christ alone is our sole mediator and Savior, and our lives and ministry exist for the glory of God alone.

Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ, as a free gift from God, not based on works or human effort (Ephesians 2:8-9). This salvation is a work of God's sovereign grace, as He draws sinners to Himself according to His divine will and purpose (John 6:44, Romans 8:29-30). I firmly believe in the authority of Scripture, that it is inspired and infallible, guiding us in doctrine and practice (2 Timothy 3:16-17). As followers of Christ, holy living should be a joyful response to God's grace, not an obligation (Galatians 5:22-23, James 2:17). These theological truths are foundational, and I hold them as non-negotiable in my life and ministry.

Briefly describe your conversion experience, personal journey, and relationship with God as a follower of Jesus Christ.

I grew up in a loving home where my parents raised us with the values of their Catholic faith. While I followed the traditions of the church, my relationship with God wasn't personal during my teenage years.

After meeting my wife, I began to experience God's transforming grace through her example and the influence of other Christian relationships. Over time, the Holy Spirit convicted my heart, leading me to surrender my life fully to Jesus Christ. As I grew in my faith, God sovereignly guided me into full-time ministry, confirming His call through various experiences and mentors.

Now, my greatest desire is to live for His glory, help others experience the joy and transformation of the gospel, and equip the church for faithful discipleship. My walk with Christ continues to be one of daily dependence on His grace, a deepening love for His Word, and a commitment to shepherding His people well.

How does your spouse (Christy) view your ministry in the local church?

Christy is an integral partner in my ministry. She is my greatest encourager, my strongest voice of wisdom, and my most trusted source of accountability. She fully embraces the calling God has placed on our lives and walks alongside me in faithful obedience to wherever He leads.

Christy has a deep love for the local church and sees ministry not as my job alone but as our shared mission. She is committed to discipling women, building authentic relationships, and supporting the church body in ways that align with her gifts. Her steadfast faith, discernment, and unwavering support have been instrumental in my ability to lead effectively.

She understands both the challenges and joys of ministry life and remains committed to ensuring that our family thrives spiritually, emotionally, and relationally as we serve together.

Who have been key influencers in your life and why?

Throughout my journey, several individuals have profoundly shaped my faith, leadership, and ministry philosophy:

- **David Platt** – His teaching, particularly during my time at Brook Hills, deeply influenced my understanding of discipleship and mission. His book *Something Needs to Change* challenged me to pursue seminary and a deeper commitment to ministry.
- **Jim Ussery** – My mentor in business and leadership for over 25 years. His trust in me to handle major projects shaped my strategic and operational abilities, which have been invaluable in ministry.
- **Dennis Blythe & Jamie Merritt** – Both have been pastoral mentors who gave me opportunities to grow as a lay leader, guiding me in pastoral leadership, organizational change, and spiritual formation.

These men continue to pour wisdom and encouragement into my life, reinforcing my commitment to faithful, Christ-centered leadership.

What do you love most about ministry in the local church?

I love the community that the local church fosters. Jesus' love for His people is evident throughout Scripture, and He calls us to love one another as He loves the Church. The local church provides a place for authentic relationships, where believers encourage one another, grow in their faith, and serve together in unity.

I also love seeing life transformation happen—whether it's someone coming to faith for the first time, believers maturing in their walk with Christ, or leaders being equipped for ministry. The church is not just a place for worship but a launching point for discipleship and mission.

As an Executive Pastor, I have the privilege of helping cultivate a culture where healthy relationships, discipleship, and gospel impact thrive. By equipping leaders, refining structures, and ensuring that ministries align with the church's mission, I can help create an environment where both the staff and congregation grow spiritually and serve effectively. Being part of a church that faithfully proclaims the gospel and actively engages its community brings me great joy.

What about ministry in the local church frustrates you?

One of the greatest frustrations in ministry is when a consumeristic mindset creeps into the church. Instead of seeing the church as a place of worship, discipleship, and mission, people sometimes approach it with expectations of being served rather than serving. However, I believe this presents an opportunity rather than just a frustration. It challenges church leaders to assess how we are discipling our people and equipping them for ministry.

Another challenge is when vision and execution are misaligned. The church may have a strong biblical vision, but without clear communication, strategic planning, and alignment, ministries can become disconnected from the mission. I am passionate about helping churches bridge this gap—ensuring that structure and strategy empower the vision rather than hinder it.

How would you describe your ideal work environment and culture?

I thrive in a work environment that is collaborative, mission-driven, and rooted in biblical values. I believe a healthy church culture is one where trust, accountability, and encouragement are present among the staff and leadership. Honest communication, clarity of expectations, and shared vision create an environment where people feel valued and empowered.

I appreciate a culture that prioritizes spiritual growth, where leaders not only work well together but also challenge one another to grow in Christ. A healthy staff culture also includes a balance of excellence and grace—pursuing high standards while understanding that ministry is ultimately about people, not just productivity.

I also value a team-oriented approach to leadership, where individuals are encouraged to contribute their gifts and strengths toward the greater mission of the church. A culture that celebrates wins, learns from challenges, and remains flexible in the face of change fosters long-term success and sustainability in ministry.

Ultimately, a strong church culture doesn't just impact the staff—it influences the entire congregation. When leadership is unified, spiritually healthy, and aligned to the church's mission, the body of Christ flourishes. My goal as an Executive Pastor is to help cultivate an environment where both staff and congregation thrive, discipleship deepens, and the gospel is lived out daily.

How would you describe your leadership style?

I am a relational and strategic leader who values both people and processes. I believe that leadership is best exercised through trust, empowerment, and clear expectations. My approach is rooted in mentorship-driven leadership, where I invest in and develop individuals to grow in their roles and calling.

I adapt my leadership style to the needs of the team. Some individuals thrive with autonomy, while others benefit from more direct guidance and coaching. My role is to discern what each person needs to be successful and provide the right balance of support and responsibility.

I also believe that vision and execution must go hand in hand. A strong leader not only sets direction but ensures that the team has the tools, structure, and encouragement needed to carry it out. My goal is to lead with wisdom, clarity, and humility, fostering a team culture where people feel valued, challenged, and equipped to serve effectively.

As an Executive Pastor, I see leadership as a calling to shepherd both staff and congregation. My role is not just about organizational efficiency but about creating a culture where people grow spiritually, serve joyfully, and remain engaged in the mission of the church. Leadership is

about stewarding people and resources well so that the church can faithfully fulfill its mission to make disciples and glorify God.

How do you handle the stress of ministry?

Ministry can be demanding, but I believe that healthy rhythms, strong relationships, and spiritual discipline are essential for sustaining longevity in leadership.

First, I prioritize my walk with the Lord through regular time in Scripture, prayer, and personal worship. Staying spiritually grounded ensures that I lead from a place of dependence on God rather than self-sufficiency.

Second, I am intentional about guarding time with my family. My wife and children are my first ministry, and ensuring that we have quality time together keeps me spiritually and emotionally healthy.

I also lean into trusted relationships with mentors and peers in ministry. Having people who offer wisdom, encouragement, and accountability allows me to process challenges in a healthy way.

Finally, I recognize the importance of physical and mental renewal. I enjoy cycling and woodworking, which give me space to recharge. Engaging in hobbies and regular exercise helps me maintain clarity, endurance, and a balanced perspective in ministry.

Stress in ministry is inevitable, but by staying spiritually grounded, relationally connected, and intentional about rest, I can lead with wisdom, joy, and resilience.