



## Christopher Jackson

Finding restoration in self and others

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### Education and Training

- Currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership at Harding University.
- Completed two years of spiritual direction training with Lipscomb University's Institute of Christian Spirituality in 2022 and certified as a member of the Evangelical Association of Spiritual Directors.
- Graduated with honors with Masters of Divinity from Lipscomb University in May 2020.
- Graduated with honors from Harding University in 2015 with a degree in Youth and Family Ministry.

### Experience

#### **ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR, HARDING UNIVERSITY. SEARCY, AR: OCTOBER 2023-CURRENT**

- Recruit prospective students for the Harding School of Theology (HST), assisting them in discerning their calling to ministry and seminary education.
- Conduct one-on-one consultations with individuals, actively listening to their stories and providing guidance in understanding God's call.
- Serve as a persuasive communicator, representing the value of theological education at conferences and gatherings.
- Provide instruction on spiritual formation for seminary students.
- Regularly speak in HST chapel for students and faculty.
- Actively contribute to the HST Academic Transition Team, facilitating the campus relocation process from Tennessee to Arkansas.

#### **SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR, PRAYERFUL COMPANION. SEARCY, AR: MAY 2022-CURRENT**

- Facilitate personal growth by guiding individuals in exploring their spiritual beliefs, values, and experiences to foster personal growth and self-awareness.
- Give emotional support by offering compassionate listening and non-judgmental guidance to help clients navigate challenges and find solace in their spiritual journeys.
- Lead and teach others to lead meditation sessions, prayer groups, and other spiritual practices to promote mindfulness and spiritual well-being among participants.
- Prayerful Companion is a private practice that I have built and maintained from the ground up.

#### **YOUTH MINISTER, OP CHURCH. OVERLAND PARK, KS: JANUARY 2020-APRIL 2021**

- Navigated unprecedented times in ministry with flexible vision, creative ideas, and faithful teaching.
- Focused on one-on-one ministry and small group teaching both online and in-person.
- Built and equipped a team of volunteers to work alongside youth ministers.
- Led OP Church's online presence during the pandemic shutdown, including filming and editing videos with Final Cut Pro, and managing the church's YouTube channel to ensure consistent virtual engagement.

#### **YOUTH MINISTRY APPRENTICE, SYCAMORE VIEW CHURCH. MEMPHIS, TN: AUGUST 2018-DECEMBER 2019**

- My apprenticeship here served to meet the requirements of the Master of Divinity program at Lipscomb University.
- Mentored by long-time ministers to learn practical lessons about how to apply what I was learning in grad school.
- Learned to manage a large team of volunteers.
- Full-time during the summer, leading middle and high school mission trips and managing volunteer teams.

#### **YOUTH MINISTER, HIGHLAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST. TULLAHOMA, TN: MAY 2016-AUGUST 2018**

- First full-time youth minister hired at Highland Hills.
- Developed six-year scope and sequence for Sunday morning classes.
- Preached once a month.
- Set and maintained youth ministry budget.



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### Mission Statement

My ministry flows from a deep burden within me. I am burdened by the thought of people turning away from God because they have been made to misunderstand God's nature. My life's purpose is to reflect who God really is by displaying God's very nature. I will strive to be compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, forgiving, and just.

I am burdened by the stories of those whom, in their time of vulnerability, have been wounded by the church. I wish to serve as a guiding light in that darkness, and I aspire to create a space of healing for those who seek solace and restoration.

Moreover, I feel a calling to stand beside those in search of truth and meaning. I want to be a prayerful companion as together they find The Way.

I have been given eyes to see the masses troubled and helpless. I simply want to be a laborer in God's field. All the glory goes to God.

As I strive to become more like my Father, reflecting God's character for others to witness, I will teach the message of transformation. I will show others that Scripture is full of examples of people who were restored by the grace of God, a reality that is still happening today.

As I follow the example of Christ and tell God's redeeming story, I pray that Spirit will empower me to go where God sends me, do what God has for me to do, and speak the words God wants me to speak. This message is a fire in my bones, igniting everything I do with passion and purpose.

### Philosophy of Ministry

*Ephesians 4:13 ...until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

I firmly believe that God is inviting us all to live a life in communion with God, and my role in that invitation is to provide a space to build spiritual maturity in every seeker, volunteer, and staff member that is a part of our ministry. I wish to walk alongside others as they learn to recognize the redemptive work of God already taking place in our midst and become people who desire to be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus does, offering grace, hope, love, and reconciliation.

Practically speaking, I cannot do this on my own. I seek to be a missional leader, equipping missional partners from within the body of Christ so that they may join in the transforming work that Holy Spirit is doing in the lives of others. Together, we teach others to love our magnificent Father by following the perfect example of the Son as much as Spirit enables us.

As a missional leader, I see myself as a gardener, creating an environment for growth. Providing seekers and leaders with the resources they need to flourish. Always being attentive to what God is doing for us, what God is doing through us, and what God is doing in us, I seek to be a leader who is deeply formed by living into and out of the fullness of who God is, what God has done, and what God is doing with respect to my personal life, the ministry our God has entrusted to me, the church of which I am a part, and the world around me.