

Dennis W. Bickers

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PERSONAL

Born: August 30, 1948, Madison, Indiana
Family: Wife - Faye Bickers, Born February 11, 1947...
Department Manager, Wal-Mart, Madison, Indiana
Interests - Crafts, Singing
We were married in 1966.

Children - Melissa Bickers French, Born September 12, 1968...
Married...Graduate of University of Kentucky School
of Nursing RN/BSN...Three adopted children.
Timothy Bickers, Born October 10, 1973...Married...
Graduate of Liberty University...Three children.

EDUCATION

Diploma in Christian Ministry, December, 1987
Boyce Bible School, Louisville, Kentucky

Bachelor of General Studies, May, 1995
Indiana University Southeast, New Albany, Indiana

Master of Arts in Religion/Leadership, May 2006
Liberty Theological Seminary

Doctor of Ministry, Current Student
Liberty Theological Seminary

MINISTERIAL EXPERIENCE

Area Minister, American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky, January 2002 - Present

Serve on Executive Staff of the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky. Work with approximately 320 churches in our Region and work specifically with the 78 churches in the Southeast Area. Assist churches with pastoral searches, conflict, and church growth and transformation issues. Led in the development of the Church Leadership Institute which is training lay leaders and bivocational ministers in our Region.

Pastor, Hebron Baptist Church, Madison, Indiana, July 1981 – November 2001

Provided pastoral leadership through preaching, visitation, pastoral care, administration, counseling, and leadership training. Led the church to begin Deacon Family Ministry program. Led church to increase its mission giving to 15% of its budget. Led church in substantial growth in budget and weekly offerings. Led church to “Church of the Year” recognition twice by the state denominational office.

Interim Pastor, Wirt Baptist Church, Madison, Indiana, November 1980 - May 1981

LICENSE AND ORDINATION

Licensed January 13, 1980 by Calvary Baptist Church, Madison, Indiana.

Ordained November 28, 1982 by Hebron Baptist Church, Madison, Indiana.

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

Former co-Owner and President, Madison Heating and Air Conditioning, Madison, IN. September 1994 to May 2008. Responsible for all aspects of the business and ensuring the success of the company and its employees. Sold business May, 2008.

Factory Worker, Cummins Engine Company, Columbus, IN. 1966 –1996. Worked on various machining and assembly lines, receiving dock, and in the quality department. Took early retirement.

US Navy, 1967 – 1971. Stationed three years on board the USS Enterprise. Worked as an electrician in the catapult and elevator shop for the first two years and then became assistant supply petty officer for the electrical division for the final year. Two tours to Vietnam. Left the Navy as an Electrician Mate Second Class Petty Officer, E-5.

DENOMINATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- National Project Director for BivoNet, a ministry to the bivocational ministers in the American Baptist Churches USA
- Member of Advisory Board for The Center for Bivocational Ministry at Campbellsville University, Current.
- Member of the Church Relations Council, Campbellsville University, Currently serve as Chairman.
- Moderator, Madison Baptist Association, 1990.
- Vice-Moderator, Madison Baptist Association, 1989.
- Chairman, Scholarship Committee, Madison Baptist Association, 1989.
- Mission Cluster Director for Alive in Mission, American Baptist Churches, USA., 1985.

SPECIAL HONORS AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Wrote *The Tentmaking Pastor: The Joy of Bivocational Ministry*, published by Baker Book House, 2000.
- Wrote *The Bivocational Pastor: Two Jobs, One Ministry*, published by Beacon Hill Press, 2004.
- Wrote *The Healthy Small Church: Diagnosis and Treatment for the Big Issues*, published by Beacon Hill Press, 2006.
- Wrote *The Work of the Bivocational Pastor*, published by Judson Press in April 2007.
- Wrote *Transforming the Small Church: From Maintenance-Minded to Missional*, scheduled to be released by Beacon Hill Press in March 2009.
- Former church received the “Church of the Year” award from the American Baptist Churches of Indiana in 1987 and in 1993.
- Attended the Billy Graham School of Evangelism, 1980
- Attended Lay Evangelism Through Personal Witness, 1988
- Attended Calling and Caring Ministries, Lab I, 1989
- Attended Role and Skills of the Church Consultant, 1990
- Attended Clergy Misconduct Prevention Training, 2002
- Attended Faithful Leadership conference, 2002
- Attended Pastors and Church Leaders Conference, 2002
- Attended eight Church Alive conferences on church transformation from 2002 – 2004.
- Attended two day church conflict mediation training workshop, 2005.
- Attended four day training on Foundations of Christian Coaching.
- Led three workshops on “The Healthy Small Church” for the American Baptist Churches/ Rocky Mountains in 2008.

- Led workshops on “Bivocational Ministry for the 21st Century” at the National Pastors Gathering for the American Baptist Churches, USA in 2008.
- Led four workshops on “The Healthy Small Church” for the Atlantic Baptist Mission in New Brunswick, Canada in 2008.
- Scheduled to lead workshops on “The Healthy Small Church” for the Salvation Army in Michigan in fall 2008.
- Keynote speaker for LeaderShop at the national Mission and Evangelism Conference for the USA/Canada Church of the Nazarene in February, 2007.
- Led workshops on healthy small churches for American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky and for a conference hosted by Campbellsville University and the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 2006.
- Led Conference on Bivocational Ministry for the Indianapolis Center for Congregations, 2005.
- Led Conference on Bivocational Ministry for the Kansas – Nebraska State Convention, 2001.
- Led Seminar on Bivocational Ministry for the 21st Century for Campbellsville University, 2001.
- Keynote speaker and workshop leader for Leadership Conference hosted by Oakland City University in 2002 and 2003.
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HOBBIES

- Golf, Motorcycle riding, Fishing, Reading

REFERENCES

Mr. Steve Hale
4430 N. Olive Branch Road
Madison, IN 47250
(812) 265-2703
Layperson

Rev. Preston Siler
Thixton Lane Baptist Church
7700 Thixton Lane
Louisville, KY 40229
(502) 966-4924
Pastor

Rev. John Chowning
Campbellsville University
1 University Drive
Campbellsville, KY 42718
(270) 789-5000
Vice President for Church and External Relations