

## **Bio of Pastor Barry Vegter**

Barry Vegter grew up on a dairy farm in rural southern Wisconsin. While he was raised in a Christian home, was deeply involved at his family's church, and saw his parents' faith lived out daily, he did not wholeheartedly embrace his own faith until the age of 19 through the ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ while he was a student athlete at UW-La Crosse. While at UW-La Crosse, he ministered as a Student Discipleship and Summer Mission Project Leader and spent time in the Former Soviet Union on an International Mission Project. In 1989, he married his wife, Lisa, and they now have seven children whose ages range from 11 to 27, a son-in-law, a daughter-in-law, and a grandchild on the way. He enjoys working out at the YMCA, coaching his children's sports teams, riding his motorcycle, playing golf, and continually learning and growing through reading, studying, and attending conferences.

Before entering ministry, Barry received his degree in Physical Education and Spanish from the University of Wisconsin LaCrosse and taught for four years at Leland Community Schools in Leland, Illinois. During this time, he developed an Athletic Bible Study Fellowship for his students and was a counselor for both his students and their families.

In 1990, he felt called to ministry and left Illinois to attend Reformed Theological Seminary in Mississippi. While in seminary, he also pastored at Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church in Water Valley and was heavily involved with Voice of Calvary and their work with inner-city youth. He graduated in 1993 with a Master of Divinity with a concentration in counseling and began his ministry as a youth and family pastor for seven years at First Reformed Church in Friesland, Wisconsin. During his time there, he organized and developed a discipleship process for the church, led numerous youth and family mission trips around the country, and became a Certified Trainer for SONLIFE ministries in discipleship and evangelism. From 1996-2002, he also served on the Wisconsin Classis Outreach Task Force, has been regularly involved with Promise Keepers and Men with No Regrets from 1993 to the present, and has also been a Certified Evangelism Trainer since 1999.

In March of 2000, Barry began his ministry as Lead Pastor at Grace Church in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. During his time there, he became a founding member of the Acts 6:4 Fellowship, has been a trainer in evangelism and discipleship, participated in church planting, and focused on developing unity in the local Body of Christ through facilitating prayer movements, organizing and leading pastors groups in different geographical areas to work together for gospel purposes, and assisting churches in transition. In 2019, he was ordained in the EFCA after leading Grace Church through a five year transition process from the RCA to the EFCA from 2012-2017.

Barry's passion in life is people, whether that be meeting with someone to hear their story and provide counseling or a listening ear, praying with or for anyone he comes into contact with, or equipping pastors and leaders to be disciples that love God and love others through becoming reproducing, dependent followers of Jesus Christ. His deepest desire in life is to lead and equip

others to pursue that same passion so that we can fulfill the Great Commission, all for God's glory.

Life Verses: Galatians 2:20, Acts: 20:24, Matthew 28:18-20