



**Russell Atherton**  
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## **OVERVIEW**

God called me to pastoral ministry in 1993. I pursued this call through seminary training, ordination, and then by following the Lord as He directed me into a wonderful variety of Christian ministry positions. I seek to continue using the gifts, skills, and experiences which He has given me for His service in preaching, teaching, discipling, and shepherding through Intentional Interim Ministry.

## **CHURCH EXPERIENCE**

### **Intentional Interim Pastor, Sharpstown Baptist Church, Houston, Texas (2022-2023)**

- Guide the church through the 5-point transition process of Intentional Interim Ministry
- Problem resolution, mission development, pastoral care, and training (Deacons, Council, and Pastor Search committee)
- Preaching and Bible study aimed toward individual and corporate spiritual strengthening

### **Community Group Leader, Fielder Church South Oaks, SBC, Arlington, Texas (2019–2021)**

- Weekly Bible teaching, ministry direction, and pastoral care for a large group of seniors

### **Bi-vocational Pastor, Southfield Christian Fellowship, SBC, Arlington, Texas (2012–2015)**

- Preaching and pastoral care
- Equipping/training small group leaders
- Led a large mission trip group of adults and youth to Cambodia

### **Church-Planter/Pastor, The Bridge, BCNE, Storrs, Connecticut (2008–2011)**

- Began a new church on the campus of University of Connecticut
- Represented Baptist Convention of New England on a University faith committee board
- Served on Baptist Convention of New England collegiate ministry committee

### **Associate Pastor, First Baptist Church, Manchester, Connecticut (2003-2007)**

- Leadership of Youth and Worship, Bible teaching, pastoral care, and occasional preaching
- Youth group tripled in size and grew in spiritual maturity
- Led annual mission trips, organized multiple ministry projects, wrote summer camp curriculum

### **Missionary-in-Residence, Casa View Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas (2002-2003)**

- Lived in on-campus missionary home and availed self to the Sr. Pastor
- Gave missions presentations and counseled those considering becoming missionaries

### **Chaplain and Pastor, SBC IMB International Missionary, Jos, Nigeria (1997-2002)**

- Chaplain and Bible instructor for Hillcrest International MK School, Jos, Nigeria
- Pastor of local English-speaking church

**Associate Pastor, Southfield Christian Fellowship, SBC, Arlington, Texas (1995-1997)**

- Full responsibility for church administration
- Shared pastoral duties of teaching, equipping, member care, and preaching

**CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION EXPERIENCE**

**Operation Christmas Child, Seasonal Processing Center Management, Coppell, Texas (2020)**

- Responsible for set-up, inventory, administration, warehouse employees, and vendors
- Led daily devotions and seized opportunities to pray with workers and volunteers

**GuideStone Financial Services of the SBC, Sr. Manager of Facilities, Dallas, Texas (2012–2019)**

- Oversight of security, safety, operations, vending, emergency evacuation, and maintenance
- Responsible for large events and high visibility projects in conjunction with top management

**EDUCATION / TRAINING**

- Intentional Interim Ministry Training – BGCT (2021)
- Master of Divinity, Southwestern Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas (1996)
- Bachelor of Music Education, University of Texas at Arlington (1980)
- Associate Degree of Art and Science, Mountain View Jr. College, Dallas, Texas (1978)

**PERSONAL**

Wife: Married for 33 years to Cynthia Poulos Atherton, former MK, and Hardin Simmons graduate.

Hobbies: Avid collector of ancient Holy Land coins and artifacts. Playing piano.

Strengths: Discernment. Teaching. Gregarious. Unity-building. Compassion. Humor.

**REFERENCES**

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Mentor/Former Pastor

Additional references available upon request.