

The Rev. R. Christian Harrison, J.D., M. Div.

The Rev. Christian Harrison has had a distinguished career both as a longtime attorney and an ordained minister. He graduated from the University of Texas Law School with honors and spent the next twenty years as a State and Federal prosecutor. As an Assistant United States Attorney, he gained recognition and many national awards for taking on the battle against deep seated corruption in East Texas. He won the conviction of many judges, sheriffs, county commissioners, and police officials who used their position to demand kickbacks and payoffs, run drug, auto theft, and prostitutions rings, while engaging in reigns of terror that included intimidation, arson, and murder. In every case, he found that these public officials also were elders and deacons in East Texas Bible churches, using their faith as a cover for criminal activity. Then, after three years of active private practice, he successfully defended a series of murder cases and won the freedom of other clients who had been wrongfully convicted by prosecutors who withheld exculpatory evidence.

In 1997, Rev. Harrison answered a call to attend Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and has now served as the minister at the First Presbyterian Church in Giddings for twenty years. In that time, the Church has become an active community supporter, establishing and funding local support organizations, including Rejuvenation, the Local Animal Shelter, and The Giddings Food Bank. The church has also been a main contributor for the Relay for Life, awarded annual scholarships to deserving students, and provided various types of support to other individuals in need. Ten years ago, Rev. Harrison observed that young students school had no place to go after school and in the summertime and there was no supervision available while their parents were working. He began the Lee County Youth Center, refurbishing and utilizing an abandoned elementary school, providing educational programs, nutritional meals, and English language training support both during the school year and in the summer. As a result, grades and State-wide test results soared and a close-knit caring community was established to help young people properly mature. He is currently heading up fundraising and development plans as a new Youth Center Facility is being built in Giddings.

As a theologian, Rev Harrison strongly believes that the Christian life requires a constant ministry of action and service. Rev. Harrison is looking forward to working with other men who seek purpose and active Christian discipleship in the Man of God Program. Pastor Harrison understands the importance of total well-being: spiritual, emotional, mental, and physical. As such, Rev. Harrison is a strong believer in maintaining active physical health. He has been a daily distance runner and exerciser for over fifty years and plays on a tennis team that several times won the USTA State Championship.