



Carolyn Harris – Deaconess and Lay Leadership Search Team Candidate

I was born in Springfield, Massachusetts and lived there until I was 10 years old. My stepfather was in the Navy and transferred to Quonset Point, RI and I lived there for 4 years. We moved to Virginia in 1958 and I graduated from Annandale High School. I had a government job prior to graduating and worked until I had my daughter Shannon in 1969. I went back to work after a year, enrolling Shannon in a Christian Church school and served as a room mother when I could. Shannon stayed in the school until she graduated high school.

I was not sure what I wanted to be as an adult but after I left the government, I worked in a private industry where a woman I worked for told me she was going to make me a recruiter. I was terrified but I started out interviewing entry-level individuals and eventually became very comfortable. The rest of my career was in recruiting and human resources. I realized how much I enjoyed talking to people and finding out more about them.

I was baptized when I was 10 years old while attending the First Baptist Church in Springfield, and we moved shortly after that. I was involved and attended the Grace Brethren Christian Church where Shannon attended. For many years, I did not attend church after Shannon went to college. I moved into my townhouse in Centreville in 1998. During a conversation several years later, one of my coworkers mentioned her church to me and that it was very close to my home. I drove down and attended on Sunday. Went back the next Sunday and my coworker saw me and introduced me to her mother. The church was CBC and I have been here since 2004. I believe that several events in my life directed me to seek the Lord again. After several months, I answered the call from Billy Ross to come forward if you were interested in joining the church.

I have served in several capacities at CBC in the years since. As a mentor in the Nest and support for baptisms for the last 9 years, I was the women's events coordinator for 5 years. Currently serving for the last 5 years at the Kids Check-in and on the Welcome Team, along with dedicating time to help in the office when there is a need.

I am hoping to make an impact as a deaconess through growing in my spiritual walk, and serving alongside others while continuing to care for, love and pray with our church body.