

## About Lin Harris

My name is Lin Harrison, and I am a servant-leader who enjoys being a catalyst for community transformation. My passion is discovering the strengths of individuals, groups, organizations, and sectors within a community, and connecting them for collaborative action to achieve collective goals. I am energized by new perspectives on familiar challenges and believe true leadership happens in relational interaction, careful listening, and honest dialogue. Collaborative conversation is music to my ears. My contribution to this “music” is the union of my experience as a minister with a deep interest in assisting community stakeholders to see how their story (or melody) intersects the stories (melodies) of others and connects to a larger narrative (to create harmony).

My passion for collaborating and creating *with* others began to develop with my experiences in 4<sup>th</sup> grade band (I wasn't a very good clarinet player but it was fun “music-making” with my friends). The creative arts played a major role in my life through high school band, chorus and drama. I went on to major in music in college (vocal performance and music education) and my first job was as choral director at my high school alma mater.

After several years of rewarding music-making with young people, I sensed a calling into church-based ministry. And what began as a part-time choir director position in a small suburban church became thirty-eight years of adventurous community-building in an area that seemingly overnight became urban. During this time, I have worn the hats of creative arts director, people equipper and community developer. My “choir” has progressively become larger numerically, wider geographically and more diverse ethnically. Now, music-making has taken on a whole new meaning.

My wife Nancy and I have been making beautiful music together for 38 years. We live in Acworth and are the proud parents of 4 children: Austin, age 34; Aaron, age 31; Zachary, age 28; Anna Claire, age 25. Nancy is a retired special education specialist. We have three grandkids - ages 5, 3 and 11 months. I get away by hiking and backpacking while eating bitter dark chocolate, fig Newtons, Gouda cheese, muscadines and sunflower seeds; and listening to Mozart.