

WILLIAM C. NOLTE - BIOGRAPHY

Education

Doctor of Ministry (DMin) – Leadership. Western Seminary, Portland, OR. 2001
Doctoral Project: A Leadership Strategy for Revitalization in a Local Congregation Experiencing Plateau and Decline

Master of Divinity (MDiv) - American Baptist Seminary of the West, Berkeley, CA. 1984

Master of Arts (MA) – OT Biblical Studies. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL. 1982

Bachelor of Arts (BA) – Religion and Philosophy. Judson College, Elgin, IL. 1978

Congregational Ministry

Ordained – August 1984. First Baptist Church, Castro Valley, CA. American Baptist Churches of the West

1995- Present: Fresno First Baptist Church, Fresno, CA. Senior Pastor

1987-1995: First Baptist Church of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA. Senior Pastor

1984-1987: First Baptist Church of Castro Valley, Castro Valley, CA. Associate Pastor

1983-1984: First Baptist Church of Burlingame, Burlingame, CA. Youth Ministry/Seminary Intern

1981-1982: Irving Park Baptist Church, Chicago, IL. Seminary Intern

1979-1981: Fox Valley Bible Church, St. Charles, IL. Youth Ministry

Additional Involvement in Local Congregational Ministry

American Baptist Churches of the West/Growing Healthy Churches - since 1983

- Member of Board of Directors currently and for most of the past 20 years
- Youth Commission
- Director of Camps (ages Junior thru HS) at Sierra Pines – 1983 to 1990
- Search Committee member for past two Executive Minister searches
- Currently Mentoring Pastor: leading a monthly mentoring/training cluster
- Currently a Congregational Coach thru Hit the Bullseye. Congregations worked or working with: Bethel Open Bible Church, Lodi, CA; Rosemead Open Bible Church, Rosemead, CA.
- Presenter in Hit The Bullseye Conferences: Topic – Engaging the Community

Local Involvement/Engagement in Fresno

- Care Fresno, Board of Directors. A non-profit partnership between the Police Dept. and congregations targeting high crime neighborhoods. Offering after school programs for children.

- One by One Leadership, Board of Directors. A non-profit organization which was formed to facilitate multi-sector collaboration for community enrichment, economic development, and neighborhood revitalization.
- Evangelicals for Social Action/Love in the Name of Christ (Love Inc.), Board of Directors, 1996 – 2002.
- Pastor Cluster Facilitator. Facilitating one of the 13 Pastor Clusters formed based on geographical location throughout the city for the purpose of engaging neighborhoods and dealing with various needs in the community.
- Heart of the City Neighborhood Foundation, Founder and current CEO. A Christian non-profit established to provide a vehicle for ministry and engagement in the broader context of the city where a local congregation might not have access.

Brief Summary of Fresno First Baptist

In my current position as Senior Pastor of Fresno First, the journey over the past fifteen years and the ministry as it has developed represent to a great extent my approach to leadership in a congregation, commitment to a Kingdom perspective, engagement in community, and partnership in a network of congregations committed to grow healthy and effective churches.

- A turnaround congregation: From approximately 200 and declining in 1995 to 800 currently.
- Currently 5 services per Sunday: 2 in Large auditorium; Lao service in Chapel; Youth service in Education Wing; College/Young Adult service Sunday evening.
- Television Broadcast Ministry on local Fox affiliate – full one hour service each week.
- A significant re-envisioning process which led to a commitment to be outward focused.
- Capital improvements totaling 5 million dollars between 1998 – 2004.
- Two highly successful church plants.
- Established a separate foundation to facilitate community engagement.
- Original site for nationally recognized community program – Care Fresno. Currently running two Care Fresno Programs.
- Purchased land and developed a Community Garden in the neighborhood of the church.
- Operate a small Thrift Store on site.
- Operate a small Food Pantry on site.
- Partnered with profit and not for profit organizations in building a new housing facility across the street from the church.
- Developed and opened First Steps Pre-School/Day Care center.
- Sponsored and partnered in establishing a Lay Counseling Ministry Center on campus.
- Helped establish and remain a primary partner of Southeast Asian Friendship Ministries (SEAFM) – A ministry of community development, leadership training, church planting, medical supplies in Laos.
- Financed the building of a satellite clinic in Bakin Kogi, Nigeria, as part of the work of the Faith Alive Foundation in Jos, Nigeria.

Personal Information

Married the former Joy McBain in 1979

Four children: ages 26, 24, 20, 13

Hobbies: I talk golf and play once in a while; fishing; gardening; restore and maintain old Volvo automobiles