

BIO – JOSEPH S. GIRDLER

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, KENTUCKY MINISTRY NETWORK, ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

“Pastor Joe” went to college on a music scholarship. His focus was trumpet and flugelhorn and studied jazz. He graduated from the University of Kentucky with two undergraduate degrees (Psychology and Communications), opting to pursue ministry rather than a career in music. Upon his college graduation he entered Asbury Theological Seminary graduating with his Masters in Missions and Evangelism. While serving as Superintendent of the Kentucky Assemblies of God he decided to multi-task and began rigorous studies at Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, further completing an M.Div. Equiv. and graduating with his Doctorate of Ministry degree, Spring, 2018.

“Pastor Joe” served as the Kentucky District Missions Secretary for 7 years, and served on staff and then pastored one of the great Kentucky Assemblies churches, King’s Way Assembly in the Lexington, KY area for a total of 16 years, prior to his election as District Superintendent in 2004. A revitalization project, the King’s Way congregation overcame paramount obstacles when he took the pastorate meeting in a local Middle School for Sunday services only, then underwent three building programs and grew to a regular weekly attendance of over 400 people, with annual Missions Giving of over \$430,000.00 the last year of his pastorate (’03). The church was honored, of over 12,000 Assemblies of God congregations (at the time), to achieve Top 100 status in the Assemblies of God World Missions Giving. Their ministry site, which grew to almost 40 acres and assets into the millions of dollars at the time of his transition, had become one of the strongest Assemblies of God congregations in the Kentucky Network, baptizing new converts in nearly every Sunday morning service.

Radically born again while in college, Pastor Joe received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit shortly thereafter. He has an extensive background in music and in personal evangelism, and has a heart for student and campus ministries (beginning his ministry as an Associate at Morehead State University Chi Alpha). He attributes as that of his most meaningful ministries to which he had privilege to help found, being The Nile Maternity Home, home for unwed mothers and their children, Versailles, Kentucky. Pastor Joe and Renee both serve on numerous Boards throughout the Assemblies of God. Of many global travels, missions ministries have included: Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador, Brazil, Italy, Germany, Austria, Spain, France, Holland, Belgium, England, Turkey, Bulgaria, and more.

Joe’s wife, Dr. Renee V. Girdler is board certified in Family Medicine with personalized specialties in diabetes and women’s health care. Renee was awarded the prestigious “ Louisville Top Doc” award for Family Medicine in 2017. Renee also holds the distinct privilege of being the first female in the history of the Assemblies of God (invited by former General Superintendent, Dr. Thomas Trask) to be a member of the Assemblies of God World Missions Board. And, was recently awarded by former General Superintendent George Wood, the distinguished Superintendent’s Medal of Honor, the Fellowship’s highest honor for lay individuals in the Assemblies of God (received at General Council 2011, Phoenix, Arizona).

Joe and Renee have two children. Steven and Rachel. Steven and his wife, Julia are both medical students in NYC. Steven graduated with a degree in Religion from NYU (New York University), and is presently a 4<sup>th</sup> year medical student at Einstein College of Medicine (Bronx, NY) pursuing Orthopedic Surgery Residencies. Julia is in her 2<sup>nd</sup> year of medical school at NYU (NYC). Daughter, Rachel, is a graduate of Evangel University (Springfield, MO) and is in a Masters program at the University of Pittsburgh (PA), studying Social Work.