

Meet the chaplains . . .

Gill Robertson



How would you describe your personality and communication style?

I like to encourage people and I like to laugh! I usually look for and assume the best in people. My communication style is direct and after I get to know someone a bit, I'm not afraid to ask hard questions.

Tell us about your family, friends, pets, etc.

I have been happily married since 1984. Our married daughter lives in Milwaukee. Our son is studying Computer Systems Administration at Madison College. All of our extended family is in California and England, so we really value several long-time friends in Wisconsin who have almost become family to us.

How would others describe you?

People tell me I'm compassionate, warm, creative, and adventurous. Everyone seems to love coming over to our home. I've also been told I'm good at building teams and creating a sense of community.

If someone was looking to work with you as their chaplain, what would you like them to know?

If something matters to you, it matters to me too. I want to hear your story, and I want to try to make sure I really understand your point of view. I want you to know that what you say is just between us. And I want to help you reflect and find peace, healing, and clarity. I personally believe God's truth is life-giving and freeing, but if your beliefs are different from mine, I respect your opinions and don't see our differences as a barrier to an honest conversation.

What is, in your opinion, the most interesting thing about you?

I grew up in England and lived there until I married an American in 1984. I love being outside – on my bike, on a lake or river, or in the woods. And I'm an avid member of the Madison Scottish Country Dancers!

Tell us about your career, education and experience that led you to workplace chaplaincy?

About 15 years ago, I felt called to join my husband in full-time ministry. It took me 6 years to get my Masters of Ministry degree and become ordained. I love being a pastor in our church, but I also love meeting people in the community. In 2016 I did an internship as a hospital chaplain at UnityPoint Health-Meriter Hospital. It was an honor to visit so many patients and I still work at Meriter occasionally as a night chaplain. I like the workplace environment because that is where people spend so much of their everyday lives.

What types of life issues do you have the most experience helping others with?

I have done a lot of couples counseling, before and after marriage. Over the years, I've walked with people through various family and relational struggles (including parenting, divorce, remarriage, infertility, and adoption), loss of loved ones (naturally or through suicide), acute and chronic medical crises, spiritual questions, and anxiety and depression.

What do you like most about being a workplace chaplain?

I like being available to people where they spend so much of their time. It's awesome to get to meet so many different people, discover who they are and hear their stories. I hope that through interactions with a chaplain, people in the workplace who feel empty, overwhelmed, or hurt get to experience more of the full, abundant life that Jesus said he came to offer as described in the Gospel of John 10:10.

