

## **Stephen Willis**

Lead Pastor

I have been the lead pastor of LFCN since August of 2001. I am extremely grateful for the tremendous opportunity to lead this growing, authentic and loving family of faith.

Before arriving in Lynchburg I graduated from Campbell University with a degree in Social Science/History in 1995, completed courses in the divinity school at Eastern Mennonite University, and completed my ordination requirements through Northwest Nazarene University where I later earned a masters degree in Spiritual Formation in 2012. I spent three years teaching history and coaching basketball and tennis at Cummings High School in Burlington N.C. I left the public school system in June of 1998 and fulfilled a call to full-time ministry by accepting the youth pastor's position at Community Fellowship Church of the Nazarene in Waynesboro, Virginia.

I married my beautiful wife Lisa in 1998. She currently is a special education teacher in the Bedford County Schools and sees this job as a calling to minister to children who face special needs.

I am convinced more than ever that God has called us to knock down the barriers of the religious establishment that prevent us and others from being true disciples of Jesus Christ. God longs for us to realize that Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit dwells within us giving us the power to live abundant lives full of his presence and hope (Colossians 1:27-28). As the lead pastor of LFCN I desire to be a relevant, authentic, and passionate leader who reflects Christ through my lifelong mission to "Love God, Love Others, and Serve Both."

Hobbies: Golf, tennis, and coaching my boys.

Interesting Fact: I am the youngest of three boys and all three Willis brothers are ordained ministers and lead pastors in the Church of the Nazarene.