

Rev. Dr. Troy D. Benitone

*President of the Board/Executive Director-
Hands of Hope Foundation,*

*Lead General Overseer- Community of Faith Global &
Directing Pastor- Community of Faith Church, Marion
5208 Meadowland Parkway
Marion, IL 62959*



Troy is a 1984 graduate of Memphis University School a prestigious all male college preparatory academy. He attended Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tenn., and graduated with a honors degree in Economics and Finance. He attended Candler School of Theology at Emory University and graduated Cum Laude with a Master of Divinity degree in 1994. He received a Doctor of Ministry in the area of church marketing & development and evangelism from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in 2000.

Before going into the ministry, Troy worked as a ramp agent for Federal Express in Memphis, TN. He worked in the restaurant business in Memphis. Just prior to entering the ministry, Troy became a registered mutual fund & insurance professional who owned his own Insurance & Investment agency in Herrin, IL. Troy began his candidacy for ministry at the Herrin United Methodist Church. He has served the Energy & Hope Chapel UM Churches in Southern Illinois, St. James & Chalybeate Springs UM Churches in Manchester, GA, Immanuel & Noble UM Churches in the Southeastern Illinois. In 1995, he planted a new congregation in Highland, Illinois, called Highland Hope. In 1999, he was assigned to start a 2nd church in Waterloo, Illinois called, Table of Grace. In mid-2001, he was appointed to be the pastor of the Pawnee United Methodist Church, serving that cutting-edge congregation until March 2010. On April 1, 2010, Troy made a ministry change, withdrawing from the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church to become the Directing Pastor of Community of Faith Church, a large independent and spirit-filled congregation located in Southern Illinois. Community of Faith Church is *"Growing Faithful Followers of Christ regionally and globally through prayer, outreach, evangelism, worship and discipleship."* In March 2023, Troy became an Elder in the Global Methodist Church. Troy has been involved in numerous new church development projects and NGO launches in the USA, Honduras, Central America, Liberia-West Africa, Bulgaria and Thailand. Troy became a probationary member of the Southern Illinois Conference of the UMC in 1994 and was ordained an Elder on May 30, 1996. He served as the chairperson of the Mississippi River District's task force on New Congregational Development within the Illinois Great Rivers Conference. He was the project coordinator for *The Spectrum 2000 Report*, a global study conducted by the GBGM. In March of 1999, Troy was invited and inducted into the World Evangelism/World Methodist Council "Order of the FLAME" -Faithful Leaders as Mission Evangelists. At the 1999, Illinois Great Rivers Conference he was honored to receive the Harry S. Denman Award for Evangelism. In 2004, his church received the Rural Witness Award from the IGRC for our church's creative and unique work in missions and outreach to our community. He served as an alternate delegate to the 2000 and as delegate to the 2008 North Central Jurisdiction Conference of the UMC. He has served on the Sangamon River District Board of Ordained Ministry, The District Connectional Table, The Illinois Great Rivers Connectional Table and as the Chair of the IGRC Evangelism Committee 2006-2010. Over the last 30 years, Troy continues to serve as an advisory board member to No Greater Love Ministries, an international ministry that seeks to equip and train leaders in the work of evangelism and spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ locally, nationally and internationally. He has served as the Chair of the Board of Southern Illinois Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). He is the founding board member for the Herrin House of Hope, Herrin, IL that has served over 400,000 clients since launching in 2012. In 2013, he received the honor of being gowned as a Paramount Chief to the people of Margibi County, Liberia, West Africa, to whom he serves as *"The Chief of Hope."* He is also the founder and executive director of the Hands of Hope Foundation, an international ministry with a mission of *"Offering Hope in Christ"* through both Word and Deed according to 1 Peter 3:15. Pastor Troy launched a podcast called "On The Dock with Pastor Troy" in August 2021 to continue his work of offering Hope in Christ. In 2023, Community of Faith formed a "Denominational body & network" to become Community of Faith Global, networking other local Community of Faith Associate, Affiliate and Partner Churches together. Troy's personal mission statement is to *"Dream dreams and plan plans so grand that if God is not in them, they are doomed to fail!"*

Troy shares, *"My heart's desire is to be involved in leading the church in the area of new church starts and church development. I consider myself to be an apostolic-evangelist."* Troy has led numerous camps, conferences, revivals, crusades and seminars on church development and is the author of the book *Making a Church from Scratch* published by Bristol House Ltd. He is also working on a new book entitled *The Essence of Ministry*. Troy enjoys cooking, hunting and has served as a youth football coach for over 25 years. Troy shares that the most influential books in his ministry, other than the Bible, include *Father Arseny 1893-1973 Priest, Prisoner, Spiritual Father*, *Jesus CEO* by Laurie Beth Jones, *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership* by John Maxwell, most recently *Church as a Team Sport* by Jim Puttman and Oswald Chamber's *My Utmost for His Highest*. His favorite long-standing writer is TD Jakes. Troy & Beth have four beautiful children: Heather, Joshua, Caleb and Megan. Heather, our oldest, resides in the Memphis Metro Area, along with our first grand-daughter, Addison Elizabeth Rogers. Troy's son, Joshua, also married his childhood sweetheart, Sarah Nations in July 2011 and has one granddaughter, Ezra and are expecting their second child in late 2024. Josh is a graduate of McKendree University and has become a successful pastor and serves today as the owner of Crown Brew Coffee Co. His son, Caleb has his Doctor of Pharmacy degree (2018) from the prestigious St. Louis College of Pharmacy and married Jessica Kowalski, also a graduate from STLCOF, in 2018. They live & work in Seattle, WA. His daughter, Megan, who is still daddy's little princess, graduated from McKendree University in 2019, she received her master's degree from Southern Illinois University and is working in the outdoors & nature tourism industry in Breckenridge, Colorado.

Rev. Dr. Troy & Beth Benitone

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Personal & Family Info:

Born: September 23, 1966

Married: August 5, 1989 to Elizabeth Ann Provart

- Elizabeth (Beth) Ann Benitone Spouse
- Heather Nicole Rogers Daughter (RN)
 - Addison (Granddaughter)
- Joshua Troy Benitone Son (Pastor)
 - Sarah (Spouse)
 - Ezra (Granddaughter)
- Caleb Wesley Benitone Son (Dr. of Pharmacy)
 - Jessica (Spouse)
- Megan Marie Benitone Daughter (Resort GM)



Residence: DATE | ADDRESS | CITY | STATE

- 1984-1988 East Parkway Memphis TN
- 1988-1992 617 N. 11th St. Herrin IL
- 1992-1994 16 Johnson Ave. Manchester GA
- 1994-1995 430 S. Richland St. Olney IL
- 1995-1999 23 Triland Ct. Highland IL
- 1999-2000 6887 Fountain Oaks Ln Waterloo IL
- 2000-2010 507 Jefferson St. Pawnee IL
- 2010-2015 713 Ruggeri Dr. Herrin IL
- 2015-Present 5200 Meadowland Pkwy. Marion IL

Education: DATE | DEGREE EARNED | EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

- 1980-1982 High School Caruthersville High School, Caruthersville, MO
- 1982-1984 High School Memphis University School, Memphis, TN
- 1984-1988 BS in Business Admin. Christian Brothers University, Memphis, TN
- 1992-1994 Masters of Divinity Emory University Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, GA
- 1996-2000 Doctorate of Ministry Southern Methodist University Perkins School of Theology Dallas, TX

Work History Time-Line: DATES FROM-TO | COMPANY | JOB TITLE-POSITION

- 1984-1988 John Wills BBQ , Memphis. TN Waiter/Counter/Manager
- 1985-1988 Federal Express Corp, Memphis. TN Handler/Checker/Tug/Ramp Agent
- 1988-1992 Benitone Insurance Agency, Inc., Herrin, IL P&C-L&H Agent/Broker-Owner
- 1990-1992 United Methodist Church- Energy/Colp, ILLocal Pastor-Part-time/Self-Employed
- 1992-1994 UMC- Manchester/Chalybeate Springs, GALocal Pastor-Part-time/Self-Employed
- 1994-1995 UMC- Olney/Noble, IL Deacon-Pastor-Full-time/Self Employed
- 1995-1999 UMC- Highland, IL Elder-Pastor-Full-time/Self Employed
- 1999-2000 UMC- Waterloo, IL Elder-Pastor-Full-time/Self Employed
- 2000-2010 UMC- Pawnee, IL Elder-Pastor-Full-time/Self Employed
- 2008-Present Hands of Hope Foundation, Marion, IL USA Executive Director/Founder
- 2010-Present Community of Faith Church, Marion, IL Directing Pastor
- 2012-Present Herrin House of Hope, Herrin, IL President & Founder

Major Organization, Leadership Positions and Additional Work-Related Info: (beyond normal pastoral responsibilities): DATES FROM-TO | REFERENCED ACTIVITY

- 1984-2010 Youth Football Head Coach various levels and ages- Memphis-TN/Herrin-IL/Manchester-GA/Highland-IL/Columbia-IL/Waterloo-IL/Pawnee-IL
- 1984-1988 BS in Business Admin. Christian Brothers University, Memphis, TN. Was recognized at graduation as the top honors graduate in the Economics & Finance Department.
- 1985-Present Pi Kappa Phi-Epsilon Sigma, General Fraternity, Christian Brothers University
- 1986-Present Delta Sigma Pi- Business Honors Fraternity, Christian Brothers University
- 1988-1992 Property & Casualty (P&C)/Life & Health (L&H) Illinois Insurance Producers License
- 1989-1992 North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) Series 63 License
- 1989-1992 Founding Board Member for Xplofest, Inc. A Southern Illinois 501c3 that partnered with area leaders to hold large youth festival and special outreach events from 1989-1992.
- 1990-Present Advisory Board Member/Volunteer, No Greater Love Ministries
- 1990 Local Pastor License United Methodist Church (UMC)
- 1992-1994 Masters of Divinity Emory University Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, GA Graduated Cum Laude while serving as a student pastor to two United Methodist Churches.
- 1994 Deacon-Probational Member, Illinois Great Rivers Conference (IGRC) UMC
- 1995-1999 Established & Planted a New Church, Highland Hope in partnership with the United Methodist Church in Highland, IL USA
- 1996 Elder-Full Member, IGRC-UMC
- 1996-2000 Received a Doctor of Ministry from Southern Methodist University Perkins School of Theology Dallas, TX. My doctoral work was done in the area of church marketing church development and evangelism.
- 1996-2000 Chair, Mississippi River District Taskforce on New Congregational Development
- 1997-1999 Founding Board/Chair/Volunteer, Highland Area Christian Service Ministry, Highland, IL
- 1998 Published Author, *Making a Church from Scratch*, Bristol House Publishing
- 1998-2000 Project Coordinator, *Spectrum 2000 Project*, General Board of Global Ministries UMC
- 1999 Awarded- Harry S. Denman Award for Evangelism
- 1999 to 2000 Established & Planted a New Church, Table of Grace in partnership with the United Methodist Church in Waterloo, IL USA
- 1999 to Present Invited & Inducted into the World Evangelism/World Methodist Council-Order of the Flame
- 2000 Alternative Delegate, 2000 North Central Jurisdictional Conference UMC
- 2003-2010 Founding Board Member, Pawnee Food Pantry, Pawnee, IL
- 2004 Awarded as the Rural Witness Award winner for IGRC-UMC
- 2005-2010 Board Member, Sangamon River District Connectional Table
- 2006-2010 Chair of the IGRC-UMC Evangelism Committee
- 2007-2010 Board Member, Sangamon River District Board of Ordained Ministry UMC
- 2007-Present Illinois Food Service Sanitation Manager Certification
- 2008 Delegate, 2008 North Central Jurisdictional Conference UMC
- 2008-Present Executive Director/Founder, Hands of Hope Foundation, Marion, IL
- 2008-Present Established & Planted a series of 10- Station Churches with as many as 100 additional preaching points in Partnership with the Weala District of the United Methodist Church of the Liberian Annual Conference, Liberia, West Africa.
- 2010 Established & Planted a New Church in partnership with Ministerio Internacional La Cosecha from San Pedro Sula, Honduras in La Entrada, Honduras, Central America
- 2010-Present Elder & Directing Pastor, Community of Faith Church, Marion, IL
- 2010-2020 Board Member/Prev. Chair/Volunteer, Southern Illinois Fellowship of Christian Athletes

- 2012-2013 Led Hands of Hope Foundation effort to launch new orphanage “Hope for the Little Ones” in partnership with Ventsislav Stoykov, Bulgarian Church of God General Overseer, Sophia, Bulgaria
- 2012-Present Founding Board Member/Chair/Volunteer, Herrin House of Hope, Herrin, IL
- 2012-Present Herrin House of Hope Family Fun Day Event Director raising funds for our Herrin House of Hope Feeding, Education, Food Pantry & GED Program which has served over 400,000 meals in its first 10 years of operation (2013 to 2022). Family Fun Day Event has raised over \$1 Million USD for this center’s operations in its inaugural 11 years.
- 2013-Present Paramount Chief, Margibi County, Liberia, West Africa.
- 2013-Present Weala Medical Center: Coordinating Overseas Partner for Medical Operations & Support, Margibi County, Liberia, West Africa
- 2013-Present Direct & Coordinate Liberia Medical-Surgical, Education & Agricultural Outreach Teams in coordination with the Liberia Ministry of Health and the LAC-UMC, Liberia, West Africa
- 2014-2015 Hands of Hope Foundation: Liberia Ebola Response Coordinator for the Logistical Support of Medical Supplies through a 5-container shipment to Ministry of Health Partners, Liberia, West Africa.
- 2015-Present Coordinate Community Health Outreach Clinics to the Slum Communities with Hands of Hope Medical Teams in partnership with our in-country partner Hand to Hand Foundation, Pattaya, Thailand
- 2015-Present Established Indigenous Leadership and Planted Community of Faith Sister Churches in 5 locations scattered across Pattaya, Thailand including campuses at Soi 6, 3rd Road, Kao Talo, Nongprue, Therapist and growing with additional house/home church gatherings happening with the 26 local pastors we have equipped and trained since 2015,
- 2016 Herrin Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year- Herrin, IL USA
- 2019-2020 Surgical Wing Expansion Coordinator for Supplies and Equipment to JFK Medical Center, Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa
- 2023-Present Recognized as an Ordained Elder in the Global Methodist Church on 3-24-23 by the Transitional Leadership Council of the Global Methodist Church and Bishop Scott Jameson Jones.
- 2023-Present Hands of Hope Foundation becomes the Parent 501©3 non-for-profit corporation to both the Herrin House of Hope a subsidiary corporation that is also a 501©3 that serves the underprivileged of our region and Community of Faith Church Global. Pastor Troy has established daughter churches and trained pastors in Liberia, Thailand & Honduras, along with sister churches partnering who have helped partner with those efforts here in the USA. The Hands of Hope Foundation with Pastor Troy as the President of the Board oversees this effort through its various Executive Directors as a newly formed conglomerate Foundation.
- 2023-Present Begins the development of a new cutting-edge ministry under the Hands of Hope Foundation & Herrin House of Hope Partnership in Southern Illinois to launch with the support of the Williamson County Emergency Management Agency (WMEMA) the Hope Community Wellness “GAP” Clinic & Mobile Hope Community Wellness “GAP” on Wheels Trailer and the Hope Emergency Housing Shelter in their facility currently under construction.