

Bio for Pastor Tony Hoefner

I was born at Ft. Riley Kansas in 1956, the second child of four. Mom divorced when I was very young, for the sake of her children. God then sent a wonderful man into her life who later became our father when he adopted us. I was raised in the Methodist Church in Benbrook Texas and baptized at age 11.

Patriotic but not in a zealous sense, I joined the U.S. Marine Corps at age 17 (a funny story involving persistent friends and a really good recruiter). I served from 1974-1978 and was fortunate enough to become an aerial navigator on C-130 aircraft. My final duty station was in Santa Anna California where I regularly went camping and fell in love with the Sierra mountains.

I met my wife Martha in 1980 and she re-introduced me to church at a place where I experienced genuine love—aptly named Grace UMC, in Ft. Worth. Martha and I were married in 1983. She says that she had prayed for a church-going man, but she didn't know God was going to have her start from scratch.

I graduated from University of Texas at Arlington with an electrical engineering degree in 1987. I have always wanted to return to the western states, so when I graduated we moved to Tempe Arizona where I worked for Motorola. In 1991 I went to work for Compaq computer in Houston Texas. I answered a calling to ministry in the United Methodist Church in 1995. My seminary degree is from Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth.

Martha and I have two daughters: Corynne and her family live in Mariposa California, and Amber lives in Austin, TX. Corynne and Billy have two sons, Raymond (age 4), and Killian (6 mos.). My wife Martha has been active in many church small groups; she sings in choir; she is passionate about prison ministry. We enjoy sightseeing, and exploring new places. Camping is a favorite activity (car-camping, not backpacking). I also enjoy restoring old cars.