



Jim Barber BIO

www.barberchurchconsulting.com

Jim Barber was born and raised in rural western Massachusetts. He became a follower of Christ while in Savannah Georgia with the Air Force, and was trained by the Navigators in Illinois. He and his wife Cheri settled in the Midwest, where he received his accounting degree from the University of Minnesota in 1978. From 1978-1990 he progressed into the ranks of corporate accounting management in Honeywell, Inc. During this period, he received his MBA from Mankato State University. In 1990, he was instrumental in the spinoff of Alliant Techsystems (ATK) into a separate legal entity. He held two director roles in ATK reporting to the corporate controller until 1995.



In 1992, Jim began to serve on the board of his church, Constance Free, in Andover (www.constancefree.org). He introduced strategic planning and for the first time saw how God could use his administrative abilities in the church. He enrolled in seminary and the church called him on fulltime staff in 1995. In 1999, he graduated with a MATS degree from Bethel Theological Seminary and was then ordained by the Evangelical Free Church of America in 2000. When Jim began to serve on the church board, the church had 200 in attendance. Today, over 2000 call this church home.

In 2005, he co-founded and became president of a community non-profit affiliated with his church called BridgeLink (www.bridgelinkanoka.org). During his tenure until 2011, this organization formed collaborative relationships with 12 social service and government agencies. Through BridgeLink, hundreds of volunteers and significant funding has been mobilized to share Christ's love and good deeds throughout Anoka County, MN.

From 2003-2010 he voluntarily consulted to other churches primarily in the areas of strategic planning and governance transitions. In 2010, Jim stepped down from his pastoral church role and started his church consulting practice called *Barber Church Consulting* (www.barberchurchconsulting.com). He specializes in facilitating change leadership with four types of services called *VisionTalk*, *VisionTest*, *VisionTune*, and *VisionTeam*. Among other things, these services help churches through leadership coaching and training, church health assessments, strategic planning, revitalization, annual vision alignment, and governance transitions.

In 2010, Jim also became certified by and was asked to be the Executive Director of the Society for Church Consulting (www.churchconsulting.org). The Society is an organization that trains, coaches, and certifies consultants all for the purpose of revitalizing the Church. After more than five years of leadership, Jim was then named president in early 2016. His responsibilities include conducting live and online training, overseeing and coaching those aspiring to become consultants, and developing new consulting tools. From 2017-2019 he has mentored 30 aspiring consultants throughout the U.S. and internationally as they shadowed him on his consultations or were coached by him.

Jim's StrengthsFinder profile is Learner, Analytical, Strategic, Input, and Focus. His Myers Briggs Type Indicator is ISTJ. He enjoys playing acoustic guitar and golf. In 2018, his wife of 43 years went to be with the Lord after a five-year battle with multiple myeloma. Jim resides in Andover, MN and has three sons and five grandchildren. His home church is still Constance Free Church.