

Rick Rufenacht

Name	Consulting Specialties
Rick Rufenacht	TIPs Pastor

Rick and Eileen have been married 43 years and have spent most of that time doing ministry together. They were both music education majors at Heidelberg University in Tiffin, OH.

Rick has a Bachelors in Music Education from Heidelberg and has done pastoral graduate work at Huntington University Graduate School of Ministry in Indiana.

After a brief stint in public education, Rick began serving as the choir director and worship leader at First Church of God in Defiance, OH. Sensing a call to full-time ministry, Rick was blessed to be afforded the opportunity to join the staff as an associate pastor, a role in which he served for eight years. Due to an unforeseen departure of the Senior Pastor, Rick was called as the Senior Pastor of First Church in 1996, and ministered in that role until his retirement in June of 2021.

Through his longevity of 34 years in ministry, Rick led the church through several financial campaigns to retire debt, build a youth facility, and most recently, renovate the church worship space. He was also instrumental in encouraging the church to transition its fellowship hall into a dedicated children's ministry space in order to reach more families with small children. Rick was instrumental in leading the church to adopt sermon-based small groups.

Rick has a heart for worship, believes that small group relationships are essential for spiritual growth, is passionate about the Word of God, and is a gifted communicator. He is also quite adept at technology, computer systems, and the use of media in ministry.

Rick has served the Church of God in various leadership capacities. Rick has twice been the president of the Ohio Northwest District, served on the COG State Governing Board, and serves as part of the Northwest District Credentials board.

Rick and Eileen have two grown children. David, who serves in the US Army, is married to Sydney and they are parents to daughter Wren who arrived on July 4 of 2022. They currently reside in Indiana. Their daughter Rachel is married to Andrew and are the parents of grandson Jack (age 3) and Henry who is six months old. Rachel and Andrew are teachers in a community near Denver, Colorado.

When not preaching or helping in worship, you will find Rick playing trombone in a local community band or big band. He may also be found chasing the little white ball around on the golf course.

Eileen enjoys entertaining, reading, playing the piano, and spending time with grandchildren whenever possible.