

Oral History with Rob Harter
November 11, 2020

This is an Oral History of Rob Harter, a Christian man in his forties, married to Leah and they have three teenage daughters. Rob describes his growing up years in Indiana to loving parents and the youngest of five children. He relates hobbies such as sports, music and youth church group service. Rob describes his education at Wheaton College, Denver Divinity School and his career as a Pastor and humanitarian.

Rob is currently the Director of the Park City Christian Center, a non-denominational humanitarian service organization serving Park City and extending out to the state of Utah. He tells of the modified operations and staff adjustments during COVID-19, their mission and service programs as well as his observations about the positives and negatives of COVID on their patrons. He recants the new ways his family has approached Sunday worship, online style. Rob expresses the joy he feels spending Sunday mornings with his family fixing breakfast together and watching online church in their pajamas. Historically a tremendously busy family, he hopes their new family connections will not diminish post-COVID. In the summer, 2020, they twice held Communion in their home and he called it “special.” Rob relates the Capitol Church’s -- the church his family attends -- response to COVID restrictions, along with the way their family has held Communion.

The Christian Center never did fully close on account of their essential service status. The center provides food, rent assistance, mental health services, has a thrift store, and conducts several programs throughout the year to support needy folks in the area. For patrons of the Christian Center, there have been pros and cons during the pandemic. These dynamics are described in detail during the interview including the ways patrons’ faith has been challenged and strengthened.

Rob is an energetic, caring, and accomplished person. He is well respected in his community for the work that he does and the way he approaches life. These characteristics are on full display in this interview.

Diane Livingston, Interviewer
December 14, 2020
Dr. Patrick Mason, professor

History 6420
Utah State University Graduate Student

Interview with Rob Harter
November 11, 2020

Time Stamp

- 1:18 Birth and growing up years in Indiana
- 2:35 Sports, music, family time watching family slides
- 6:19 Wheaton and meeting Leah, Willow Church
- 8:48 Denver Divinity School
- 10:06 Park City Christian Center beginnings, organization today
- 12:32 Reasons for PCCC growth
- 14:09 Patron makeup described
- 16:14 Rob's church choices outlined
- 19:02 Church modifications per COVID
- 20:02 Family Sunday breakfast and pajamas with online church
- 21:19 Children
- 23:22 Communion modifications
- 25:13 PCCC operations
- 29:32 Challenges for patrons because of COVID
- 31:10 Positives for patrons because of COVID
- 31:59 Mental Health challenges because of COVID
- 37:17 Domestic Violence rise because of COVID
- 39:48 Reinforcement of his happiness of more family time during COVID
- 45:29 Community response to needs of the poor during COVID