

Early Calling & Foundation

The story of **Grace Covenant Church Of Mid Missouri and Damascus Ministries** is not one of human ambition but of divine commission. In 2014, **Bishop Carlton Howell Jr.** was sent—not by man, but by the voice of the Lord—to birth a work of spiritual rescue and transformation. That heavenly mandate was affirmed prophetically by **Prophet Charles Howard** of **AGAPE Love, Faith Church**, and grounded in a lineage of apostolic leadership that continues to shape the ministry today.

Bishop Howell's spiritual journey traces back to his **baptism in 1988** by **Rev. Ralph David Abernathy** in Atlanta, Georgia. With early ministry experience in Georgia, he eventually relocated to Missouri, where his calling unfolded through successive stages of public ministry and ordination:

- **2012:** Ordained as **Deacon** by **Apostle Fredrick J. Powell** (New Life Ministries and Foundations – Waynesville, MO)
- **2014:** Received a **prophetic mantle and impartation** from **Prophet Brian Parker**, witnessed by **Prophet Charles Howard**
- **2015:** Ordained **Elder** by Prophet Howard
- **2018:** Consecrated as **Pastor** by Apostle Powell
- **2024:** Ordained **Overseer** by **Bishop Dr. Derrick D. Robinson Sr.** (Kingdom Destiny Fellowship International – St. Louis, MO)
- **August 2025:** Ordained as **Bishop in the Lord's Church** and formally **inducted into the House of Bishops** by **Bishop Dr. Derrick D. Robinson Sr.**

These ordinations weren't merely titles, they were spiritual thresholds. With each, Bishop Howell took on greater levels of responsibility, spiritual authority, and servant leadership for the people God assigned to his care.

Damascus Ministries: From Living Room to House of Prayer

Before "Grace Covenant Church" had a name, it had a **burden**: to reach the forgotten. That burden birthed **Damascus Ministries**, launched in the living room of **Bishop Carlton and Lady Ivy Howell**. Thursday night family Bible studies became a lifeline for the spiritually hungry. Soon, Sunday evening worship gatherings followed. After two years of home worship and outreach, the church was officially founded on **March 20, 2015**.

The name **Damascus** was no accident—it echoes the radical transformation of the Apostle Paul on the road to Damascus. In the same way, Damascus Ministries exists as a place where lives are interrupted and reoriented by divine encounter.

Rooted in Isaiah 56:7, the church was—and remains—“*a house of prayer for all nations.*” Its earliest works included **feeding the poor, ministering to the homeless, and reaching those rejected by traditional church systems.** These weren’t programs; they were *foundational expressions of the gospel.* Outreach wasn’t secondary; it was the church’s DNA.

Transition to Grace Covenant Church Of Mid-Missouri

As the work matured and the spiritual assignment expanded, **Damascus Ministries** transitioned into **Grace Covenant Church Of Mid Missouri**—a covenant-driven, Christ-centered, Spirit-led church called to raise, equip, and send mature believers into the world. Today, the ministry operates out of its campus at **577 Old Route 66, Saint Robert, MO.**

The mission remains firm:

Mission: *“To develop all of God’s people who desire to learn of the Glory of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ while teaching, coaching, and mentoring the mind and spirit through the reading and understanding of the Word.”*

Vision: *“To bring people to Jesus and membership in His family, develop them to Christ-like maturity, and equip them for their ministry in the church and their life mission in the world—so that God may be glorified.”*

The church continues to serve a diverse congregation through **Sunday afternoon worship, Wednesday night teaching, and a weekly prayer call on Wednesday mornings.** From the sanctuary to the street, Grace Covenant continues to answer the call to be a refuge for “*the unchurched, the unwanted, and the called.*”

Leadership and Milestones

At the heart of this vision stands **Bishop Carlton Howell Jr.**, a servant-leader whose life embodies the transformative power of obedience. Alongside him is **Lady Ivy Howell**, a Spirit-filled preacher and partner in ministry whose compassion and wisdom have shaped countless lives. Her early calling, prophetic fire, and love for the rejected have made her a pillar in both the church and community.

Grace Covenant / Damascus has flourished under their shared leadership, with growing ministries, outreach partnerships, leadership development programs, and a strong foundation in **Word and Prayer.**

Spiritual Mentors & Apostolic Covering

The ministry is covered, guided, and shaped by a lineage of wise apostolic and prophetic voices:

- **Apostle Fredrick J. Powell** – father in the faith, first ordaining Bishop Howell and offering early apostolic support
- **Prophet Charles Howard** – prophet and spiritual confirmer of the Damascus mandate
- **Bishop Dr. Derrick D. Robinson Sr., DD** – fathering apostolic voice and ordaining Bishop Howell as both Overseer and Bishop
- **Bishop Dr. Willie J. Curry** – *mentor, seat of wisdom, and friend*; his presence has been a wellspring of encouragement, wisdom, and unwavering support during seasons of transition and elevation

This apostolic network is not just honorary—it is active, present, and invested. It represents the covering under which **Grace Covenant Church of Mid Missouri and Damascus Ministries** continue to grow.

Growth, Legacy & Forward Movement

Now celebrating **11 years of transformative ministry** (as of 2025), Grace Covenant / Damascus looks ahead with renewed fire. The ministry has survived the transition from living room to sanctuary, from outreach to organizational structure, from local impact to regional influence.

But one thing has never changed: the heart for *the least, the last, and the lost*.

In a world chasing comfort, **GCCMO** still chooses the commission to go, to teach, to heal, to raise, to release to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” The leadership remains committed to training ministers, strengthening families, planting spiritual disciplines, and living out the Gospel in real and relevant ways.

This isn't just a church.

This is a movement of transformation—rooted in covenant, grounded in grace, and empowered by the Spirit.