



## **History of Church of the Holy SpiritSong**

Church of the Holy SpiritSong (COHSS), founded in 1999, grew from the evangelical ministry, SpiritSong Ministries, originally founded by Rev. Deanna Jaworski and Jill Andrews in 1997. The church first began meeting as a mid-week worship service for those who were attending other churches on Sunday with 16 founding members. While later transitioning to Sunday services, facilities were rented from the Embassy Suites Hotel in Boca Raton, and later from The Sheraton Suites Hotel in Fort Lauderdale.

In September of 2005, COHSS relocated once again to the Gay and Lesbian Community Center in Fort Lauderdale, creating a safe place for people who are GLBT to attend church.

In October of 2006, Rev. Deanna Jaworski announced the call of God on her life, as well as the lives of her spouse Jill and son Scott, to move to New Jersey. In May of 2007, three new pastors were ordained into service. The new senior pastor was Rev. Tom Millner, and the two new associate pastors were Rev. Suzanne Taczak and Rev. Leslie Tipton. Later, Rev. Taczak relocated to Orlando and the remaining team of two pastors continued ministering to the needs of the communities of South Florida.

In February of 2009, Church of the Holy SpiritSong opened its very own SpiritSong Worship Center, located on the five acre campus of Equality Park, beside the Pride Center, serving the larger community of South Florida, from Wilton Manors. Additionally, Church of the Holy SpiritSong New Jersey (COHSSnj) was officially launched in early 2010, as a sister body serving the needs of the communities in and around the Jersey Shore. ([www.cohssnj.org](http://www.cohssnj.org)).

Rev. Tom Millner retired from his position in January of 2013 becoming our second Pastor Emeritus after our founding paster, Rev. Jaworski. That same month, Rev. Leslie Tipton was installed as Senior Pastor and she continues in that role today with excitement for what God is doing in our community.

In January of 2016, COHSS hired Shawn Thomas as its first Worship Ministry Coordinator overseeing aspects of the Arts in worship, leading music, training volunteers, and coordinating special events.

Church of the Holy SpiritSong provides outreach and counseling to the community at large as well as to its own congregation. COHSS has an active recovery program, a food pantry, spiritual development courses, and Bible study opportunities open to the community. Please email [pastornate@cohss.org](mailto:pastornate@cohss.org) for more information.