

Paul Lee Leeland

Resident Bishop

Alabama-West Florida Conference, The United Methodist Church

Born: October 2, 1948, Washington, D.C.

Family: Married to Janet Elaine Dowell from Washington, D.C. (July 27, 1968 to present)
Three children: Rebekah, Nora, and Paul
Four grandchildren: Ryon, Joshua, Andrew, and Madeline

Education: Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), North Carolina State University, 1990
Master of Theology (Th.M.), Duke Divinity School, 1975
Master of Divinity (M.Div.), Duke Divinity School, 1975
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), North Carolina Wesleyan College, 1971

Elected to Episcopacy:

Elected Bishop of The United Methodist Church on July 17, 2008 at Lake Junaluska, NC; assigned to the Alabama-West Florida Conference on July 18, 2008

Conference Membership:

Ordained Elder, North Carolina Conference, June 7, 1976 (Bishop Robert Blackburn)
Ordained Deacon, North Carolina Conference, 1972

Delegation Membership:

General Conference Delegate: 2000, 2004, 2008
Jurisdictional Conference Delegate: 1988, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008

General Church and Annual Conference Leadership

- Currently serves on General Board of Church and Society, COB Finance Committee
- General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Division of Ordained Ministry (2004-2008)
- Trustee, North Carolina Wesleyan College (2005-2008)
- United Methodist Foundation – Board of Directors (2000-2008)
- Conference Council on Finance and Administration (CFA) – 8 years
- Conference Board of Pensions – 8 years
- Conference Task Force on Clergy Effectiveness
- Conference Task Force on Building Healthy Congregations
- Conference Pastoral Care Committee
- Sexual Ethics Support Team
- Initiated bi-annual meeting of executive committee of Board of Ordained Ministry and Conference Cabinet
- Initiated meeting of Duke Divinity School faculty and Board of Ordained Ministry

Previous Appointments - North Carolina Conference

Assistant to the Bishop / Director of Ministerial Relations

- Served in this position under two Bishops (2001-2008)
- In the North Carolina Conference, this position serves as Assistant to the Bishop, Conference Registrar, Conference Staff Person resourcing the NC Board of Ordained Ministry and Licensed Local Pastors Studies School (Licensing)

Goldsboro District Superintendent 1999-2001
Senior Pastor, St. Luke UMC, Sanford 1994-1999
Pastor, Westminster UMC, Kinston 1989-1994
Pastor, St. Andrews UMC, Raleigh 1982-1989
Pastor, Fairview UMC, 1978-1982
Director of Family Counseling (N. Georgia Annual Conference), Atlanta GA, 1976-1978
Student appointments including 3-point charge

Educational Leadership (for laity and clergy):

- Experience leading seminars in areas of leadership, evangelism and stewardship
- Taught seminars for NC Conference and Western NC Conference
- Led seminars for Asian American Pastor's Association
- Methodist Home for Children Transitional Task Force
- North Carolina Conference Youth Leadership Team (6 years)
- Facilitated African-American congregational leadership retreat
- Led evangelism retreat for cross-racial congregation
- Developed retreats to help local churches redefine their mission
- Part of Sunday school teaching team for Foundry Class, Edenton St. UMC
- Disciple Bible Study leader (taught classes for 17 consecutive years)
- Companions In Christ leader

Experience in Local Church:

- Initiated \$1 million campaign for Hunger and Human Needs (exceeded goal by raising \$1.4 million)
- Initiated community-wide study on Racism
- Initiated Lenoir County Congregations in Action (creating partnerships between congregations of different ethnic backgrounds, resources, denominations, and sizes)
- At two congregations served, built new sanctuaries and church facilities
- Served small, medium and large membership churches in rural and urban settings as evangelist, pastor and teacher

Formational Experiences:

- Emmaus, Heart of Carolina Community, Walk #11
- Emmaus Heart of Carolina Leadership Team
- Academy of Spiritual Formation (Upper Room), Academy #16

Recognitions and Professional Certifications

- Recipient of 2007 Red Shoe Award (Presented by Clergywomen of the NC Annual Conference for "encouragement and support of women in ministry through advocacy, appointment, mentoring and friendship")
- Duke Divinity School Board of Visitors (2005-present)
- Honorary Member of Asian American Pastor's Association in North Carolina Conference
- Clinical Member of American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC), as therapist and pastoral counselor, certification 1978-1998

Contact Information

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