

## Rev. Mark A. Fowler, D.Min.

### *Curriculum Vitae*

#### *Professional*

Lead Pastor

First United Methodist Church

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#### Professional Experience in brief

- **Lead Pastor**, First United Methodist Church, Madison, Wisconsin, July, 2016-present.
- **Affiliate Faculty**, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, July, 2016-present.
- **Murray H. Leiffer Associate Professor of Congregational Leadership**, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. May, 2010-June, 2016.
- **Adjunct Faculty**, Methodist Theological School in Ohio, J-term, 2016.
- **Visiting Professor of Church Leadership**, Global Institute of Theology at Yonsei University. Spring, 2015.
- **Coordinator** of Congregational Leadership Track of the Doctor of Ministry Degree Program, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. 2013-June, 2016.
- **Coordinator** of the Congregational Leadership Concentration of the Master of Divinity Degree Program, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. 2013-June, 2016.
- **Executive Director**, Institute for Transformative Leaders & Communities, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. July, 2010-2012
- **Vice President for Vocation in Ministry**, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. June 2006-June, 2010.
- **Associate Professor of Church Leadership**, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. May 2007-June, 2016.
- **Director of the Master of Divinity Program**, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. July 2005-June 2006.
- **Director of Field Education**, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. July 2000-June 2007.
- **Assistant Professor of Church Leadership**, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. July 2000-June 2006.
- **Pastor and Ordained Elder**, The United Methodist Church. Member of the New England Conference. Affiliate Member of the Northern Illinois Conference.
  - Interim Pastor, Frankfort United Methodist Church, Frankfort, IL. August 2009-March 2010.
  - Interim Pastor of Visitation First United Methodist Church, Evanston, IL. April-June 2005.
  - Interim Preacher and Teacher, Wilmette Community Church. August 2004.
  - Senior Pastor, Carter Memorial United Methodist Church, Needham, MA. 1993-2000.
  - Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Framingham, MA. 1988-1993.
  - Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Williamston, MA. 1982-1988.

- Student Local Pastor, Boston Street United Methodist Church, Lynn, MA. 1979-1982.
- Student Intern, Church of All Nations, Boston, MA, 1979.
- Student Local Pastor, Putnamville, IN. 1978-1979.

### Education

- **Doctor of Ministry** (with distinction), Andover-Newton Theological School, Newton, MA. 1995. Project/dissertation: “Refounding Methodism’s Matrix: The Class-meeting and the Reformation of Methodism for the Twenty-first Century.”
- **Master of Divinity**, Boston University School of Theology, Boston, MA. 1982. Major: Church History.
- **Bachelor of Arts**, DePauw University, Greencastle, IN. 1979. Major: Communications Arts and Sciences with a theatre concentration. Minor: Philosophy and Religion.
- **Certificate** from the Institute for Management and Leadership in Education, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University. 2009.

### Seminary Responsibilities and Accomplishments

**Executive Director, Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities** (2010-2012) *The work of the Institute focused on the implementation of the PLUS program. This joint program with the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University is a major post-graduate executive education course for recent Master’s graduates and others who seek to sharpen their leadership and management skills. I have also been a primary teacher along with the Kellogg faculty. In addition, the Institute developed a series of leadership workshops on campus for clergy and laity in collaboration with local judicatories. My work also included many consulting and speaking events in the United States and internationally. The Institute also generated the development of an “alternative” evangelism community that operated as a coffee house called “The Coffee Lab”. This has since spun off into a self-sustaining non-seminary entity under the same mission. In addition, we developed a website as a way of providing resources to local churches and access to church leaders through weekly interviews, a leadership lectionary and presentations . There were six direct reports.*

**Vice-President for Vocation in Ministry and Associate Professor of Church Leadership** (2006-2010) *This position was envisioned and developed by me as a consolidating of various aspects of the seminary, re-focusing and then re-distributing them in the appropriate departments. The focus of the “transitional” department and the vice presidency is to be a strong bridge between the church (in its denominational as well as its general institutions) and the seminary. Advocacy, collaboration and partnership are essential elements that join the seminary curriculum, faculty, student body and administration in a renewed and dynamic relationship with local churches, denominational leaders and institutions as well as the global church. Further major partnerships have been developed with the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and Samaritan Consulting group to carry out the work of the Vocation in Ministry team and the seminary. In its early stages the department included Recruitment and Admissions, Financial Aid, Hospitality and Housing, Marketing and Communications as*

well as the current areas of Field Education, Church Relations, Professional Ministry Development and Course of Study/Escuela del Curso Estudio. The broad portfolio of the first three years of the department has been re-focused in order to develop the major programs and areas currently included in Vocation in Ministry. There were thirteen direct reports.

**Director of Field Education and Assistant Professor of Church Leadership (2000-2006/2007)** As Field Education is included in the Vocation in Ministry Department, many of the initiatives and contributions made as Director of Field Education have continued to grow under the supervision of Vocation in Ministry. There were five direct reports, thirteen small group leaders and upward of 100 site supervisors under covenant.

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

#### Major Programs and Initiatives

- **Vocational Formation and Church Leadership.** *Developed the concept, curriculum, staffing and integration with the experience of field education and the broader curriculum. This is a required three year course for Master of Divinity students and a two year required course for ministry Master's students. Upwards to 150 students are involved in any given year with 15-20 group leaders drawn from area clergy and faculty members overseen by three year/track coordinators. During one year it is concurrent with a field education placement. The course utilizes small group, plenary and workshop settings for instruction. It is a key setting for the development of the integrative final project. Imbedded in the course is a "mock interview" session that prepares persons for ordination and vocational interviews. Clergy from an eight state region help conduct the interviews.*
- **Field Education.** *This is a two-year program. Students are placed following a time of discernment and appropriate settings to challenge and nurture the call. Cross-cultural settings are encouraged. Although a majority of the settings are within three hours of the seminary, an intentional effort has been made to place students internationally and in a variety of experiences at some distance. These (largely summer) settings empower a greater diversity of experience and growth. Upwards to 125 students, site supervisors and site committees are involved in this program each year. We administer seminary stipends of up to \$130,000 for students each year (accounting for approximately 1/3 of stipends given) and negotiate the stipends with agencies on behalf of the balance of students. We also work very closely with area United Methodist cabinets and bishops of other Methodist bodies in the assignment and support of student pastors.*
- **MDivplus.** *This is a three part program developed to follow our Master of Divinity graduates in their first three years of ministry.*
  1. *Intensives in collaboration with the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University that will result in a Certificate in Non-Profit Management granted by both the Seminary and the Kellogg School.*
  2. *Coaching provided by clergy from the jurisdiction that have been trained in collaboration with Samaritan Consulting along a protocol and*

*curriculum jointly developed with the seminary. Coaches will be certified by the National Coaching Federation and will be available to our graduates for personal coaching in the first three years of ministry.*

3. *A continuing education program called “On the Move” will be developed in collaboration with the Annual Conferences of the North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church. Classes, panels and presentations will be presented throughout the jurisdiction in order to deliver the content to a wide audience.*
- **The Institute for Transformative Leaders and Communities.** *As the MDivplus program was being unveiled to church leaders that fall within the immediate constituency of the seminary, it became clear that the resources available through the seminary’s collaboration with the Kellogg School and Samaritan Consulting could be of immense value to the wider leadership of the church. From this idea the Institute was born. It will focus on three major areas of formative and continuing education: church leaders in executive positions, pastors and other leaders who are seeking more challenging and larger leadership roles that will require training and lay education that focuses on bringing together theological thought and education to inform and transform the way in which laity live out their faith in vocation. The Institute will launch in February, 2010 with a conference entitled “Ethical Leadership, the Church and the Global Economy”. The conference will bring together bishops and other ecclesiastical leaders, theologians and laity in a major conference. The Institute will be the umbrella under which MDivplus will now be housed. An aspect of my work that is critical here is to work in collaboration with the Development Department in finding resources for this important new venture in the life of the seminary.*
  - **The United Methodist Course of Study and Escuela del Curso Estudio.** *This director and administration of both of these schools were under my supervision. We consulted closely with the Academic Dean in regard to staffing the faculty and academic rigor. We had moved the schools from the Evanston campus to North Central College, a major administrative accomplishment. We had also negotiated with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to open this school to other Methodist denominations to train pastors who are not seminary educated.*
  - **Coffee House Ministries.** *A rising number of students had expressed a desire to share the gospel in non-sanctuary based settings to reach a wider and more diverse demographic. We developed a pilot program that will teach (and learn from) our students how to reach out to populations not being reached by the mainline churches. In partnership with First United Methodist Church in Chicago’s Loop as well as the Inspiration Corporation, a non-profit organization that provides hospitality training for ex-offenders and the homeless, we have developed a model for “doing church” that is a formative collaboration. In a coffee house setting, the church and the seminary have partnered to utilize Field Education students and church members to work with and mentor ex-offenders and the homeless in a ministry of hospitality, theological reflection, music and other missional/outreach ministries. Bringing together the diversity and dynamic panoply of the city in a community of conversation, theological reflection and*

*whatever may develop from these beginnings promises to be an alternative ecclesiastical model that has roots in the kitchen table spirituality that now has a public presence. Support from the Inspiration Corporation, First United Methodist Church and a pending grant from the Work Force Investment Act sponsored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic opportunity signify the dynamic collaboration we have assembled. It is envisioned that this project will serve as a vital teaching tool in the process of bringing a vision to reality through collaboration, sound business and financial planning and employing the gospel commitment to serve diverse communities. The heart of this effort is a partnership with those who were in prison or who are homeless in being the front line leaders of the ministry.*

- **Partnerships in Korea.** *Traditional partnerships and agreements have been arranged with Yonsei University College of Theology, Hyup Sung University and Methodist University, the next steps in our relationship with Korean Methodists had been shepherded by me. Major initiatives included:*
  1. *Dean Suk Hwan Jueng of Yonsei teaching laity and clergy at a Garrett-Evangelical sponsored “school” focusing on the pastoral care needs of the Korean immigrant community in the United States.*
  2. *Partnering with BuPyoung Methodist Church in Incheon in an effort to provide missionaries to the Chinese diaspora community. Under the direction of Dr. K.K. Yeo of the G-ETS faculty, currently leading in the development of the theology faculty at Peking University in Beijing, a PhD will be offered in missiology to bring research support to this partnership effort.*
  3. *Developing a broader support base for current G-ETS students among pastors and churches in Korea and the United States that have leadership provided by our alumni. This vital network has pledged major support efforts on behalf of the seminary.*
- **Spearheaded the establishment of a new Board of Trustees committee to undergird the vice presidential work and the department’s development. The **Vocational Formation and Church Relations** held its inaugural meeting in the fall of 2009.**

#### Additional Administrative Contributions

- **Member of the Executive Leadership Team.** *Strong, collaborative model of leadership. In addition to the Vocation in Ministry Department and fundamental work with the Academic Dean and Academic Affairs, I have been assigned to work with the Chief Financial Officer in the development of the budget each year. A current focus of the Team is the renovation of the campus with particular attention to issues of sustainability, a “green” footprint and steps to LEED certify our buildings when renovated. In addition, I have worked closely with the ongoing development & oversight of the Strategic Plan. The Leadership Team was also a formative part of the self-study and accreditation process in 2008/2009.*

- **Chair the Webcasting Continuing Education Task Force.** *Charged with developing a new method of delivering “continuing education” to a wider audience. This is envisioned as a new “income stream” for the seminary. A new website for TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP launched in November, 2010 as a result of this task force.*
- **Church Networking and Advocacy.** *The directors in the Vocation in Ministry Department diligently established relationships in a diverse cross-section of local churches, judicatory executives, church related colleges and universities and para-church organizations. This was in order to advocate for the work of the seminary and the importance of theological education as well as to provide a vital feedback loop to the seminary faculty and administration. Church-related programs have been developed from this work and are included below.*
- **Collaboration with Northwestern University.** *In addition to the formative relationship through the Kellogg School of management, I led in the arrangements made with the ecumenical/inter-faith clergy to meet with the new president of Northwestern, Morton Schapiro. Under the invitation of President Amerson, we were able to bridge the town/gown divide that is historic in Evanston and begin to find ways of collaboration, especially around shared principals that spring from our common (religious) mission.*
- **Chaired the Master’s Degrees Committee.** *Instrumental in moving the integrative work of field education to an organizing aspect of the curriculum, giving birth the Vocational Formation and Church Leadership Course. Helped develop the Final Integrative Project for Master of Divinity capstone course.*
- **Chaired the Search Committee** for the new position of the Director of the Jerre and Mary Joy Stead Center for Ethics and Values. Also chaired the search committee for the E. Stanley Jones Chair in Evangelism.
- **Member of the Doctor of Ministry Committee** and participated in the development of the criteria and curriculum for the current degree.
- **Chair of the Inauguration Committee** for President Ted Campbell, Philip Amerson & Lallene Rector.
- **Member of the Handbook Revision Committee** for Administrators
- **Co-leader of Legal Responsibilities and Policies Handbook** revision team with special attention to Field Education and other external student relations.
- **Member of the Ministry Preparation Resource Team of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church** 1995-present.

Academic Contributions (many bridge church and academy)

- **Courses Taught**
  - Developing Personal Leadership *is a Doctor of Ministry seminar taught in conjunction with the faculty of the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.*
  - Vocational Formation and Church Leadership *(see above).*

- The Experience of the Local Church: this course was originally developed under the leadership of Rev. Dr. William Ritter at First, United Methodist Church, Birmingham, MI. Due to curricular requirements at the seminary it has migrated to a cross-cultural immersion in the Detroit area taught in collaboration with Rev. Faith Fowler at Cass Community UMC, Rev. Dr. Carlyle Fielding Stewart at Hope UMC and Rev. Dr. Jack Harnish at First UMC, Birmingham.
  - Church Administration *an on-site course taught in collaboration with the pastoral staff and laity of an area church.*
  - Planning and Planting *a course taught in partnership with the Professor of Evangelism related to renewing the mission, vision, compelling narrative and strategic planning for new church starts and the renewal of existing congregations.*
  - Wesley and the 19<sup>th</sup> century: United Methodist History, Doctrine and Polity. *I teach this as a travel class to England. The principal host in England is The Rev. Leslie Griffiths at Wesley's Chapel, London. Other hosts are Claire Potter at Epworth, Dr. Ralph Waller at Oxford and David Worthington in Bristol. The course is also under development to be taught in Philadelphia in partnership with Mother Bethel AME and Old St. George's UMC. These courses will also be open to laity in order to present the content of the course and open a wider appreciation of the resources of the seminary.*
  - United Methodist History, Doctrine and Polity: The 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present.
  - Pastor and the People
  - Planning and Planting *a workshop course that combines leadership and evangelism and utilizes specific local churches as laboratories for the class project.*
  - Preaching
  - Doctor of Ministry Course in Church Leadership and Administration
  - Independent Study opportunity each year in Christian Ethics and the United States Federal Court. *This course is taught in collaboration with Judge William G. Young of the U.S. Federal Court in Boston, an ethicist from G-ETS and me. Our first student, Elizabeth Agnew provided substantial research in the area of sentencing guidelines. Her work was utilized as foundational for a brief written by Judge Young challenging the legislative authority vis a vis the judiciary. It came before the Supreme Court of the United States.*
  - Adjunct work with Louisville Presbyterian Seminary in teaching Supervision to Field Educators.
  - Adjunct work with Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit teaching the United Methodist History, Doctrine and Polity courses.
- **Publications**
    - Mentoring Into Vocation: Touchstones for the Journey (Revised Edition). Nashville: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2010.

- Mentoring Into Vocation: Touchstones for the Journey. Nashville: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2006.
- *The Presence of Church in the Work Environment: Renewing the Methodist KOINONIA from a New England Ethos* in Presence: An International Journal of Spiritual Direction. September, 2006, Volume 12, Number 3.
- *Biblical and Theological Reflections on Mentoring in Readiness to Effectiveness: Preparation for Professional Ministry in the United Methodist Church,* Edited by James W. Haun and Anita D. Wood. Nashville: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2006.
- *The Marinating Process of the Seminary* in What the Church Should Know About Seminary Education: A Culture of the Call Resource. Edited by Gary E. Peluso-Verdend. Evanston: Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2004.
- *Supervision in Field Education: Emerging patterns from Creative chaos* in Journal of Supervision and Training in Ministry. Volume 24, 2004.
- *Responding to a New Vision and a New World Order* in The New Zion's Herald. Volume 177, Issue 6, November/December, 2003.
- *Today is Easter and Restored to Life* in Unfinished Business: Sermons by Ziegler Award Preachers. William C. Coleman, ed. Boston: Wesleyan Press, 2001.
- Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Supervision and Training in Ministry, 2004-2006.
- *Endorsement:* Young J. Choe's Authentic Pastor, Authentic Leadership. Lanham, Md.: Hamilton Books, 2012.
- *Endorsement: Eunjoo Mary Kim & Deborah Beth Creamer's* Women, Church, Leadership. Eugene, OR, 2012.
- **Panels, Papers, Presentations, Sermons & Workshops for the Academy and Church**
  - Chaplain of the Week at Lakeside Chautauqua, Ohio. Preaching theme: *The Courage of Leadership and the Constancy of Christ,* August, 2011.
  - Chaplain of the Week at Bay View Chautauqua, Michigan. Lecture theme: *The Courage of Christian Leadership,* August, 2011.
  - *Discernment for Ministry* presented at the Louisiana Discerner's Academy, spring, 2010 and spring, 2012.
  - *Wesleyan Spiritual Disciplines for Pastoral Ministry* presented at the West Michigan Annual Conference Pastor's Academy, spring, 2010.
  - *Candidacy: Recovering an ethos of entry into connectional ministry* presented at The Ministry Symposium sponsored by Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2009.
  - *Ethics and the role of the religious community* panel presentation at an Economic Summit sponsored by First United Methodist Church, Birmingham, MI, 2009. *Other panelists included Robert Kleine , Michigan State Treasurer; Dana Johnson, Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist for Comerica Bank; John Smith, Vice-president for Global Planning, General Motors Corporation and Sarah McClelland, President of JP MorganChase Michigan Markets.*



- *Transitions in Ministry* is a yearly workshop I lead for the Wisconsin Annual Conference to provide a healthy and effective model of transition at the time when pastors are moving in and out of appointments.
  - *Servant Leadership* training event for lay leadership at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, IL, 2008.
  - Featured Preacher for the Wisconsin Annual Conference, The United Methodist Church Camp Meeting, 2008.
  - *The Future of the Order of Deacon in The United Methodist Church* panel presentation at the Deacon Dialogue sponsored by Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2007.
  - Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary representative to the Episcopal (ECUSA) and United Methodist Church dialogue on the episcopacy.
  - *How Can Deacons and Elders be in team Ministry?* Presented at the Deacon Dialogue sponsored by Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2005.
  - Commissioning Service Preacher at the Wisconsin Annual Conference, 2005.
  - Led a variety of workshops on Clergy Mentoring including: a national gathering of Board of Ordained Ministry executive committees in Houston; The Northern Illinois Annual Conference, the Iowa Annual Conference, the Mississippi Annual Conference, the Detroit Annual Conference and a Jurisdiction-wide gathering of district and conference Boards of Ordained Ministry for a workshop called, “Caring for Candidates.” 2001-present.
  - Numerous preaching and teaching opportunities in local church settings.
- **Global Responsibilities and Contributions** (including work that pre-dates G-ETS)
    - LITHUANIA, LATVIA & ESTONIA: In conjunction with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, taught three multi-day workshops on clergy mentoring. I also lectured at the United Methodist Seminary of the Baltic in Tallinn, Estonia, 2007.
    - SOUTH AFRICA: During the last years of apartheid I was involved in an information and communications network that supplied support to Methodist Churches making a witness for justice and transformation. Through an Annual Conference Partnership we brought pastors from South Africa to New England for a Sabbath respite from the struggle with apartheid. More recently I have been consultant and resource person for the development of district training of pastors in Pietermaritzburg, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, Johannesburg and Bloemfontein 2004. In 2012 I taught, consulted and taught at the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary in Pietermaritzburg on the subject of leadership and contextual immersion education.
    - SOUTH AFRICA: Guest lecturer in Church Leadership at John Wesley College, Kilnerton, Pretoria 2004.

- SOUTH AFRICA: Preach the opening convocation at the Methodist Seminary in Pietermaritzburg and teach a seminar in leadership, 2012.
- KOREA: The scope of my work in Korea is outlined above in the section dealing with Major Responsibilities for the Vocation in Ministry area. Guest preacher at Mil Al Methodist Church, April, 2009 and BuPyoung & Dae Won Methodist Churches, October, 2009.
- UNITED KINGDOM: The scope of this partnership is outlined in the Courses taught section.
- LATIN AMERICA: Although it is located In Evanston, the *Escuela del Curso Estudio* has had a global scope in its relationship to the Cuban and Central American churches in receiving persons for its student body.
- JAMAICA: while serving as a pastor, we renewed the mission linkage to a church and school that was built by Carter Memorial United Methodist Church in Needham, MA and provided a youth-led Vacation Bible School to the churches in Blue Mountain.
- ZIMBABWE: while serving as a pastor, I invited Rev. Nathan Goto to be the Missionary in Residence at Carter Memorial United Methodist Church. Nathan was the former director of Africa Church Growth and Development and involved the church in supporting ministry for those with HIV/AIDS and completing churches that sheltered orphans and other homeless persons from this tragedy.
- NICARAGUA: active in the Witness for Peace program in Nicaragua and participated in the efforts of that organization for many years through the work of the First United Methodist Church of Williamstown, MA.

### Pastoral Contributions

*Although this Curriculum Vita is prepared to reflect my work in an academic context, I will include here some relevant accomplishments from my 21 years in pastoral ministry. This is by no means comprehensive, but indicative of areas in which I have been engaged.*

- **Local Church**

- Served inner-city neighborhood congregations. One was predominantly African-American and recent immigrant. The other was predominantly white working-class.
- Served in a college-town church with a mixture of ethnic backgrounds. Both town and gown were represented. We began a strong student *Koinonia* ministry that was intentionally multi-national, multi-cultural and multi-ethnic.
- Served in two suburban churches that stretched to become more inclusive and more global during my tenure as their pastor. They also experienced numerical growth and developed a vision and strategic plan.
- Conducted four capital campaigns to renovate the sanctuaries of two churches, purchase a new parsonage and ameliorate lead and asbestos.

- Served as president of two clergy associations. In Williamstown we established a town-wide network of churches and businesses to aid transient and homeless persons with a full range of services and support. In Needham we received a state grant and I became a director of a public-school based initiative that linked variety of human service institutions in common “ministry.”
- Honored by the Lilly Foundation and the Division of Ordained Ministry of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church and the Association of Theological Schools for my work in encouraging United Methodists to respond to the call into ordained ministry by invitation to “Celebrating the Call: the future of the ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church”, 1990.
- Active member of the Lynn Clergy Committee that dealt with racial justice during a time of tension and violence and “white flight” that was experienced as a response to the court order of Judge Arthur W. Garrity, Jr. to de-segregate the Boston Public Schools. By implication, Lynn moved to comply with the spirit of the court order and experienced a tense and sometimes-violent response. The city’s population plummeted rapidly and its economic viability diminished. Among public meetings and informational events as well as direct action with the school committee and local government agencies, we brought Rev. Dr. Ralph Abernathy to Lynn for a major rally, march and “teach-in” on racial justice and non-violent direct action.
- **Annual Conference**
  - Served on the New England Conference Board of the Ordained Ministry as a member of the executive committee. Elected to currently serve on the Board of Ordained Ministry in New England and on the recruitment committee.
  - Chaired the Central Massachusetts District Committee on the Ministry.
  - Served on the New England Conference Council on Finance and Administration.
  - Founding member of the Lynn Clergy Cluster, a co-operative model of United Methodist Ministry in the city. *(From my positive experience with this model, I have been asked to consult on similar attempts in Wisconsin and other Annual Conferences of the UMC).*
  - Established an endowment to benefit inner-city youth from Lynn, MA, primarily through the New England Annual Conference Camping Program and similar programs. This was funded by the proceeds from the sale of the Boston Street UMC parsonage and church building.
- **Other**
  - Served on the Merit Selection Panel for the Federal District Court of Boston as one of three non-lawyer members. The panel was a statutory requirement to recommend to the Federal Court a slate of candidates to fill a vacancy in the Magistrate Judge’s position.

- Served as an ecumenical consultant to the Boston and New Hampshire Diocese of the Episcopal Church (USA) as Bishop Roy (Bud) Cedarholm's candidacy was brought to successful completion. He was ordained bishop in 2000.
- President of the Board of Directors of the Williamstown Council on Aging.
- President of the Board of Directors of the Williamstown Day Care Center.
- Member of the Board of Director of the Carter Memorial Day Care center.
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Berkshire County SANE/Freeze Movement.

#### Professional Associations and Committees

- Ordained Elder and Full Member of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church.
- Member of the Academy for Religious Leadership.
- Member of the American Academy of Religion.
- Charter Member of the Ministry Preparation Resource Team of the Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church.
- Member of the Jonathan Edwards Honor Society at Andover Newton Theological School.
- Member of the Association of Theological Field Educators.
- Member of the United Methodist Association of Theological Field Educators.