

2023 Appointment

Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church Saint Paul, Minnesota



Introducing

Rev. Dennis M. Oglesby, Jr.

Dennis Michael Oglesby Jr. is an Ordained Elder and member in full connection of the Northern Illinois Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Oglesby has been in active ministry for 32 years and is known as an experienced, creative, engaging change agent, pastor, leader, trainer, and planning strategist.



Lanette Plambeck, Bishop

Cynthia Williams, Twin Cities District Superintendent

Family

Born: Chicago, Illinois
Parents: Dennis M. Oglesby, Sr. and Sylvia Jo Oglesby
Married: Greta L. Curington-Oglesby
Children: Meghann Dominique and Chase Michael

Grands: Morgan D. Oglesby (7)
Roman Chase Oglesby (3)

Education

MDIV, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL
Bachelor of Arts, Rust College, Holly Springs, MS
Assoc. of Arts, Mary Holmes Jr. College, West Point, MS

Appointment/Ministry Experience

Sherman UMC, Evanston, IL (Pastor) 2020-June 2023
Transformation Community UMC, Harvey, IL (Senior Pastor) 2015-2020
First Wesley Academy UMC, Harvey, IL 2013-2015
Park Avenue UMC, Minneapolis, MN (Senior Pastor) 2006-2013
Hennepin Avenue UMC, Minneapolis, MN (Senior Associate for Evangelism and Equipping Ministries & Minister to the City) 2000-2006
Faith United Methodist Church, Dolton, IL 1997-August 2000
Sherman United Methodist Church Evanston, IL (Lead Pastor) 1991-1997

Continuing Education and Training

Evanston Community Foundation - Cohort Leadership Evanston 2021-2022

The Junius B. Dotson Institute for Music and Worship, GETS, and UM Discipleship Ministries February 15-18, 2022.

4 CEU Credits

Denomination, Community, and Civic Involvement

- Former Member of the Connectional Table, Chair of the North Central Jurisdiction Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc (NCJBMCR), National BMCR, and the Black Pastors of United Methodist Churches Convocation. (end leadership December, 2022)
- Director of SBC 21 of the Northern Illinois Conference,
- Conference Board of Ordained Ministry
- Chair of the Lake North District Board of Ordained Ministry.

Member, Christian Unity, and Interreligious Concerns

Northern Illinois Conference 2020-Present

Constitution and Bylaws Chair, Evanston On It- Evanston Black Clergy and Leaders Fellowship Bylaws 2020-Present

Member, Reparations Stakeholders Authority

Call to Ministry

I believe God's call upon my life is reflected in Ezekiel 33:7, "***Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me.***

For me, God's call to ministry is to represent the things of God (God's Will) to the people of God, all in an effort to bring about transformation and wholeness. The call of God is also a burden. God in Christ is continually inviting and calling the people into a holy and wholesome relationship with God through Christ Jesus, and yet we continue to pay more attention to the cultural influences around us rather than heeding the "Word of the Lord." This is reflected in Ezekiel's call. One might refer to this condition as "brokenness" or "Sin."

However, if the people hear from God and turn toward God's righteousness, then life, new life, occurs. But if the people continue to go after their own righteousness, they will die in their sins. Jesus said, in John 10:10, "***the thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].***"

Aspirations for Ministry and for Serving the Local Church

I am a seasoned servant leader, having served in local, district, conference, Jurisdiction, and General church bodies and communities for well over 32 years. I aspire to work collaboratively with God's people to grow spiritual leaders for the building up of the Kin-dom of God. To preach the good news to all who need to experience God's love and grace in their lives and to help address the varied challenges of life in the communities where we find ourselves, seeking the welfare of the community because it is only in wholesome relationships that transformation occurs (Jeremiah 29:7).

Gifts for the Ministry

- Denominational and Pastoral Leader
- Christ-Centered and People Oriented
- Positive and Visionary
- Committed to Equity & Inclusion
- Fosters collaboration and team building
- Approaches challenges with innovation and creativity

Passion for Ministry

My skill set and passion for the Good News of Jesus Christ and all of God's people are paramount in my desire to serve this present age. I believe the lyrics of an old church hymn represent my passion for ministry.

"A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify,
A never-dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky.
To serve the present age, my calling to fulfill:
Oh, may it all my powers engage
To do my Master's will."

I am passionate about sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, reaching out to all of God's people, and creating outreach initiatives that

meet real human needs.

Vision of the Church

My vision for the Church of Jesus Christ continues to be

Acts 2:42-47:

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day, they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

The first Church of believers were devoted to the Apostles’ Teaching (Growth in Christ and the faith). They were all together in one place and had everything in common (community). They gave to anyone who had need (stewardship), and they broke bread in their homes with glad and sincere hearts (fellowship), and they enjoyed the favor of all the people (outreach). As a servant leader in all my appointments, this has been the overarching theme and vision for ministry.

Theological Perspective

I believe in God, creator of all life, and in Jesus Christ as redeemer and rescuer of humanity. I believe in the Holy Spirit that leads, guides, directs, empowers, and brings to our remembrance the Word of God, and it is God's Word that influences our daily Christian lives. I understand that in our Methodist tradition, the Wesleyan Quadrilateral (Scripture, Tradition, Experience, and Reason) enables us to discern the breadth and width of God's Word and equips the body of Christ for the task of ministry. My theological perspective bends towards black liberation theology. Christianity has been corrupted by racism, class, and social standing in the church and society. Through this lens, the Word of God helps those of African descent overcome oppression, injustice, racism, and classism. Jesus is our liberator, and through Christ, we experience renewal and transformation as overcomers against the atrocities committed against us. Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that:

"our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil the in the heavenly realms."

Leadership Style

In one of my past lives, I served as Adjunct Professor for Leadership and Ethics at St. Mary's University in St. Paul, MN, and developed and created my own understanding of what it means to be a leader. **"Leadership is the ability to help others get to a place where they couldn't get to by themselves."** Throughout my career, I have sought to replicate this in whatever capacity I found myself engaged. However, I have realized that the focus on leadership must also include the word "servant." Jesus modeled this understanding for us as He declares in Matthew 20:28, ***"just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."***

Then again, Jesus describes the role of a disciple, which I believe reflects servanthood, Luke 9:23: Then Jesus said to all of them, "***If anyone wants to come after Me, he/she must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me.***" Jesus' Leadership was sacrificial, always other-focused, and not inwardly driven. This is the type of example I have sought to reflect in my pastoral career. I have been called a "learning leader," which means that I avail myself to books, webinars, workshops, and conferences to improve upon the servant leadership skills developed over the years to include new practices and information to enhance my ability to help others get to a place where they couldn't get to by themselves.

Spiritual Disciplines and Study

I maintain three Fs in my approach to life, my faith, my family, and my friendships. To strengthen my faith, I maintain a covenant prayer and accountability relationship with colleagues throughout the UM Connection and spend time reflecting on current events and how they impact the communities of which I am a part. I love morning devotions, teaching, and participating in Bible studies and faith-based discussions. I have engaged a counselor to help me sort through the many challenges and concerns of ministry and have been blessed to participate in a coaching relationship sponsored by the SBC 21 Committee of the Northern Illinois Conference. I enjoy my family and make sure that I see and spend time and make room (with intentionality) for my family and friends. These relationships are life-giving and life-enriching. I have also learned that spending quiet time away from activities is helpful in discerning "what saith the Lord." I also am an active member of several community-based and fraternal activities and find great enjoyment in these as well.

February 2023



Minnesota
Annual Conference
of the United Methodist Church