

# Rev. Thomas M. Berlin

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## Personal Summary

I grew up attending Braddock Street UMC in Winchester, Virginia, in a family that remains active in the United Methodist Church today in the communities in which they live. I received a calling to ordained ministry while serving as a summer counselor at the Tennessee Outreach Project (Mountain TOP) mission camp in Ozone, Tennessee. When I graduated from Virginia Tech, I attended the Candler School of Theology and then entered the ordained ministry in Virginia in 1988. I am married to Karen Berlin. We have four daughters: Rebekah, Kathryn, Hannah and Sarah.

## Professional Summary

Pastor in the United Methodist Church whose desire is to share the good news of Jesus Christ and lead in the Wesleyan tradition of personal piety, social holiness and vital congregational life. Driven by an aspiration to see the church experience the love and grace of Christ, so that it makes disciples of Jesus Christ, grows numerically and transforms the world, blessing the spiritually lost, the economically poor, and the socially vulnerable.

## Pastoral Appointments

Lead Pastor, Floris United Methodist Church, Herndon VA

July 1997 – present

- Floris UMC has grown from an average worship attendance of 400 persons in 1997 to an average of 1,364 in 2019.
- Floris UMC moved to its second site in 1993. In 2006 the congregation located to a third site to accommodate growth. Multiple capital campaigns were required to purchase land and construct two building phases.
- Floris launched its first satellite campus, Restoration Church, in Reston, Virginia, in January 2015. Restoration Reston currently has an average worship attendance of 140 persons and has established a vital ministry presence, reaching out to those in the community through partnerships with community organizations and the local elementary school in which they meet.
- Floris launched its online campus, Restoration Worldwide, in March 2018.
- Floris launched its Restoration Loudoun campus in February 2019.
- Floris is well-known in Western Fairfax County for its ministry partnerships with several non-profit organizations where the church provides volunteers and financial support. Hutchison Elementary School, FACETS, VOICE, Cornerstones, and others enjoy robust support from Floris members. Since 2006, Floris has given away more than \$3,000,000 to serve the vulnerable and economically poor in its community and in ministries in the U.S. and around the globe through its Christmas Eve Offering.
- An exciting part of Floris UMC's international outreach has been the establishment of the Child Rescue Centre (CRC) for children affected by child labor and trafficking in Bo, Sierra Leone, in July 2000, in partnership with the Sierra Leone Annual Conference of the UMC. Recently, the CRC was renamed the Child Reintegration Centre and has moved its residential children to forever homes in the community. The ministry now serves more than 600 children in the Bo community providing school fees, medical care, mentoring to caregivers, and training so that their families can be self-supporting and independent.
- The Child Rescue Centre became a part of the 501(c)(3) Helping Children Worldwide, Inc. (HCW) in 2003. Currently, 16 partner churches have joined Floris UMC in supporting HCW and its ministries in Sierra Leone.
- In partnership with HCW and the Sierra Leone Annual Conference of the UMC, Mercy Hospital opened in 2007 on the campus of the Child Rescue Centre. Mercy is the only hospital in Bo, Sierra Leone, that treats patients regardless of ability to pay and is primarily focused on community health initiatives including malaria, HIV & AIDS, prenatal care, and nutrition. This 26-bed facility currently treats 10,000 patients per year and recently opened its first operating suite.

- Represented HCW in numerous meetings in Sierra Leone held by Bishops Humper and Yambasu on their board of directors for the CRC and Mercy Hospital.
- For further review of Floris UMC ministries, see [www.florisumc.org](http://www.florisumc.org)

Pastor, Toms Brook United Methodist Church, Toms Brook VA July 1991 - July 1997

- Located in the rural Shenandoah Valley, Toms Brook UMC grew from a 100-280 person worshipping congregation during this time period. It was characterized by a strong sense of community, an active outreach to people in need in Shenandoah County, and a church known for its ministry to children and students.

Pastor, Brucetown-Welltown Charge, Frederick County VA July 1988-July 1991

- Two small membership churches in a two-point charge.

Assistant Pastor, Duluth UMC, Duluth GA August 1986-June 1988

## Ministry and Connectional Experience

Delegation Leader, Virginia Delegation to General Conference	2020
Delegation Leader, Virginia Delegation to Called General Conference	2019
Clergy Member, Commission on a Way Forward	2016 - 2018
Chair, Wesley Theological Seminary Board of Governors	2012 - present
Board of Governors, Wesley Theological Seminary	2010 - present
Southeastern Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy	2008 - present
Committee on Episcopacy, Virginia Conference	2004 - present
Board of Directors, Helping Children Worldwide, Inc.	2003 - 2019
Clergy Leader, Virginia Delegation to General Conference	2016
Co-Chair, Five Talent Academy, Virginia Conference	2012 - 2015
Delegation Leader, Virginia Delegation to General Conference	2012
Board of Directors, Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, Herndon VA	2008 - 2012
All Things New Task Force, Virginia Conference	2008 - 2010
Clergy Leader, Virginia Delegation to General Conference	2008

Board of Ordained Ministry, Virginia Conference	2004 - 2008
Chair, Common Table Task Force, Virginia Conference	2002 - 2004
Clergy Delegate, Virginia Delegation to General Conference	2004
Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty, Virginia Conference	1997 - 2001
Speaker at a variety of District and Conference training events in the United Methodist Church	

## **Publications**

Reckless Love: Jesus' Call to Love Our Neighbor	Abingdon Press, 2019
Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess	Abingdon Press, 2016
Defying Gravity: Breaking Free From the Culture of More	Abingdon Press, 2016
The Generous Church: A Guide for Pastors	Abingdon Press, 2016
High Yield: Seven Disciplines of the Fruitful Leader with Lovett Weems	Abingdon Press, 2014
6 Blocks Small Group Studies – 6 Decisions That will Change Your Life, 6 Things We Should Know About God, 6 Ways We Encounter God	Abingdon Press, 2014
Overflow: Increase Worship Attendance and Bear More Fruit with Lovett Weems	Abingdon Press, 2013
Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results with Lovett Weems	Abingdon Press, 2011

## **Education**

B.A. Public Administration, Virginia Polytechnic and State University	September 1981 – May 1985
M.Div., Candler School of Divinity, Emory University	September 1985 - 1988