

Biography for Reverend Edith (Edie) L. Gleaves

God's prevenient, justifying, and sanctifying grace were at work in the lives of my grandfather, and great-grandfather, who were Methodist Episcopal pastors. In their times African Americans were not included as a full part of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Yet, in hope they chose to remain and serve, to transform the church from within to be the best it could be, and to be transformed themselves within this rich tradition. I too, by God's grace, am committed in hope to offering the gifts God has given me to see our beloved United Methodist Church be the best it can be and continue to make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I believe my gifts include a lively relationship with Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, leading as a non-anxious presence while following the Holy Spirit's direction, building community, invitingly reaching out to ALL neighbors, working through conflict, building bridges towards reconciliation, unity, peace, justice, and open to new, innovative learnings.

I give thanks to God for over thirty-seven years of service at the local, district, Annual Conference, and global levels of our Church which have helped to form and shape me as a Christian rooted deeply in Wesleyan theology and practice in head, heart and life:

- 2020-present, Lead Pastor, Ocean View UMC, Oak Island. Large, multi-staff church, cross-racial appointment. Continue to increase in mission and professions of faith amid COVID pandemic.
- District Superintendent, Harbor District (2016-20). Over 100 rural, small town, suburban and large churches. A particular sense of accomplishment is in the growing partnership with our local UMC churches and African Methodist Episcopal Zion churches in efforts towards fostering racial reconciliation and justice, one of the eleven primary mission strategy foci of the district.
- Associate at Wrightsville UMC (2010-16). Cross-racial, large suburban church. Partnered with laity there to establish what evolved into the NC Conference Mission Partnership Initiative with the Sierra Leone Annual Conference—the Mission of Hope: Rotifunk Hospital.
- Deputy General Secretary for Mission Personnel for the General Board of Global Ministries (2000-10). Led in commissioning and sending four hundred new U.S. and global missionaries in Jesus name and established the Home Missioners and Global Missionaries (focus on Global Health) programs during my leadership.
- Pastor, Resurrection UMC (1995-2000) Mid-sized suburban cross-racial appointment. Awarded the district evangelism award, doubling membership from 200 to 400.
- NC Annual Conference, Director of Multicultural Ministries, Spiritual Formation and Social Concerns. (1990-95) First ordained woman of color to serve as Conference staff.
- Associate pastor, North Raleigh UMC, (1987-90) first ordained cross-racial appointment in NC Conference.
- Pastor, Cokesbury UMC, (1985-87). Small African American church, increased membership by a third in two years. Mentored two new UMC pastors who were laity of that church.
- NC Conference General Conference delegate for 2020. Jurisdictional and reserve various years.
- Served at various General and Jurisdictional Annual Conferences as resource staff for GBGM.

My sister and my three adorable little rescue dogs make up our joyful family. I am grateful for the honor to be the episcopal nominee for the N C Annual Conference and to be considered for such a time as this.