

# Paul Lee Leeland

---

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

**Family:** Married Janet Elaine Dowell from Washington, D.C.  
40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this July  
Three children: Rebekah, Nora, and Paul; Four grandchildren

**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

**Conference Membership:**

Ordained Elder, North Carolina Conference, 1976  
Ordained Deacon, North Carolina Conference, 1972

**Delegation Membership:**

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

**Current Appointment:**

*Assistant to the Bishop / Director of Ministerial Relations*

- Currently in 7<sup>th</sup> year; served in this position with two Bishops
- 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)

**Previous Appointments:**

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 (North Georgia Annual Conference), Atlanta GA, 1976-78  
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, 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

### **General Church and Annual Conference Leadership**

- General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Division of Ordained Ministry (2004-present)
- Trustee, North Carolina Wesleyan College (2005-present)
- United Methodist Foundation – Board of Directors (2000-present)
- 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

### **Formational Experiences:**

- Emmaus, Heart of Carolina Community, Walk #11
- Emmaus Heart of Carolina Leadership Team
- Academy for 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 NC Conference
- Clinical Member of American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC), as therapist and pastoral counselor, certification 1978-1998