

CONTINUED JOURNEY: MY MARRIAGE

Before I retired, I met Nora Colmenares, another Methodist clergyperson, at an Annual UMC Conference. We started having coffee together and became very close. After serving as the Conference Associate Director of the Office of New Church Development (focused first on developing ministries with Hispanic/Latinos and later with all immigrants), Nora applied for a position at The General Board of Global Ministries (the mission arm of The United Methodist Church). In 2011 she was hired as The Assistant General Secretary for Mission & Evangelism. With the new position, she moved to New York and I asked her to marry me. On September 1, 2012, we were married and on September 15th I moved to New York City where we lived in Riverdale, an area of West Bronx. Nora has two adult daughters, Andrea and Claudia.

CONTINUED JOURNEY: GOD WITH US

Since God is not finished with me, I became the part-time Chaplain for The Methodist Home for Aging and Rehabilitation, the oldest Methodist senior housing program. Having visited the upper New York area, I contacted District Superintendents in New York and asked if a part-time pastor was needed in their areas. Rev. Betsy Ott asked me to serve as the senior pastor for a transitional period of 9 months at Grace UMC in Newburgh. In July of 2013, I was appointed to historic Vail's Gate UMC and to First UMC in the inner city of Newburgh and served with them exploring God's calling for ministry with the community and for a new day. From there, I was appointed to Garrettson Memorial UMC in Rhinebeck. This historic Pre-Revolutionary town is known for frequent visits by George Washington, the summer home of Charles Livingston (who administered the oath to the new President), for being the home of an early Methodist evangelist Rev. Freeborn Garrettson, its first elected American District Superintendent. After a memorable stay in New York, I returned to the Atlanta, Georgia area where I was appointed as Interim Pastor at Locust Grove UMC. During my time there, I assisted in the development and launch of a new contemporary service and prepared for the transition of their new appointed full-time pastor.

I now have come to be the Senior Pastor at Avondale Pattillo UMC. I am looking forward to praying, worshipping, and celebrating God's love and being a part of a church in the center of life, fellowship, and faith in this community. I am humbled and honored to be a part of God's calling here and we will continue to serve and learn God's calling together.

As we walk together,
Pastor Frank



MEET THE PASTOR



We are happy to introduce Reverend Frank Windom and his wife Rev. Dr. Nora Colmenares to Avondale Pattillo UMC. Please help us give them a warm welcome as only we can. We are thankful, hopeful, and excited to have Pastor Frank be a part of our Church, and we know he will be a great fit for all of us.

ABOUT MY FAITH JOURNEY:
THE REVEREND FRANK WINDOM

I have lived most of my life in Atlanta, GA, one of God's locations for change in the rural south, the forming of neighborhoods for families and church life, emerging urbanization, the end of segregation, home of the 1996 Olympics, and an international city.

During World War II, the Lord led my parents to buy a house in suburban College Park, the location of the Atlanta Airport. I was nurtured by its public schools and neighbors.

I became a Methodist because as a young boy I could walk to College Park First United Methodist Church. The pastors, leaders, Boy Scout program, Methodist Youth Ministry, and my peers expanded my faith. Because of them, I became a leader in the youth Conference and grew in my faith.

EDUCATION

Interested in science sparked by Space exploration; I decided to attend Georgia Institute of Technology and to become an engineer. While serving as a summer camp leader at Camp Glisson, God clearly called me into ministry. I transferred to Georgia State University to begin my liberal arts degree. God again placed me in classes with wonderful professors, many of whom were Methodists, who pushed me and deepened my understanding of humankind and our life together. GSU became an intellectual and spiritual home,

supported by the Methodist Student Ministry, fellow students, and my church. I graduated with a major in English and a minor in Psychology.

Seeking a solid and challenging seminary experience, I started at Candler School of Theology, the Spring Quarter of 1963. The professors were very kind and understanding to the newbie who could not speak theology. God pushed me through and directed me in my calling. I quickly became immersed in theology, the Bible, Church History, Wesley's teachings, Social Justice, and Missions. Pastoral Counseling touched me deeply. I graduated as one of the top recognized students in 1966 with the deep understanding that God is Love and He calls us to love Him and one another.

ORDINATION

I was ordained an Elder in The North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church that same year. I was prepared to understand the Bible as the living and challenging Word that helps us to realize and understand the "God moments" in our lives. My faith, my God, My Jesus, and my Holy Spirit are in my everyday life. being. speaking. and living and in all the people that God places

MINISTRY

In the meantime, I served as a local church youth director. I focused on special training in pastoral counseling and after graduation completed a year-long Chaplain Internship at Grady Memorial Hospital. I also began my life long ministry with The Methodist Inner City Ministry (today Action Ministries, Inc). For forty-two years at Action Ministries, God placed me in service with the same type of persons Jesus touched and called to be disciples. The ministries included the poor and the rich, the aged and the young, the lost and the found, the churched and the once churched, the seekers and the un-churchd. There I ministered with the institutions that we have developed to support our life in community and I challenged them when they forgot their purpose and acted unjustly, unfairly, oppressive, or not at all. To develop my understanding of the changing of the world in an Urban Society, I completed a Master's degree in Urban Life (now Public Administration) from GSU in 1975 and a Master's of Business Administration (MBA) in 1985 to prepare me to serve as President/CEO of Action Ministries.

FIRST MARRIAGE

I met my first wife after she became the Director of a Child Care Center that I assisted in organizing. Soon after our marriage, she discovered that she had a fatal health issue. During the years that we struggled for another day, she birthed our daughter Hannah who soon will be 30. Because of her health, we found that divorce enabled us to maintain our relationship and for me to continue to be her primary care giver up to her death.

ALL PEOPLE ARE GOD'S PEOPLE

In the words of John Wesley, founder of Methodism: "The world is my parish." God has given me the opportunity to know persons from North and South and East and West. My MBA program included studying in Japan and time in China. Through the World Methodist Evangelism Institute, I have studied in Paraguay, Chile, Colombia, and Brazil with Methodists from several different South American countries. Through the United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM), I have worked with fellow Cuban Methodists in rebuilding The Methodist Seminary in Havana. I also served on mission teams in Honduras, Monterey, and Mexico. More recently, I was a part of the Bishop's team to El Salvador to establish a Mission Bridge relationship between El Salvadorian Methodists and N GA Methodists. My "active" ministry ended in 2008 after serving as Action Ministries' President/CEO for 25 years and as part-time pastor of two small churches in Barnesville GA for 12 years.

Upon retirement, I served as the minister with older adults at Atlanta First United Methodist Church for four years, leading a weekly Bible study, visitation, and studies and ministry trips. *(Continued on Back)*