

Robert K. Freeman

First United Methodist Church of Geneseo
302 North State Street
Geneseo, IL 61254

Education: Delaware State University, B.S. Agriculture; minor in Chemistry. Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; Master of Divinity.

Pastoral Work:

He started preaching in 1974. He received is Local Preachers License in 1978 and received is Deacons and Elders orders in 1985 with the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. He has been an elder in full connection since 1989 in the United Methodist Church and has been the directing pastor in the communities of Northbrook, Mc Henry, Evanston, Springfield and Rantoul, Illinois and in El Paso, Texas.

Experience:

I am a past president of the Wesley Foundation at Delaware State University. He has served on the following boards: The Church and Society, Religion & Race, Communities of Shalom, the Nehemiah Community of Shalom in Springfield, IL, the first in the Midwest; Eight years on the Board of Ordained Ministry and Coordinator of the Bishop's Convocation on Church and Social Issues. The Children and Poverty Task Force; The "Hispanic Task Force"; A currently member of the Iroquois River District Board of Ordained Ministry, Youth Task Force, and the Racial Inclusively Task Force.

General and Jurisdictional work with the United Methodist Church:

I was a delegate to the General conference Delegate in 2000, 2004 and a delegate to the North Central Jurisdictional Conferences in 1996, 2000 and 2004.

United Methodist Church ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS ANNUAL Conference Boards:

Board of Ordained Ministry 10 years
Conference Merger Task Force 3 years
District Board of Ordained Ministry 14 years (Sangamon and Iroquois)
Church and Society 9 years
Religion and Race 5 years
Communities of Shalom 7 years
Poverty and Children Initiative 1 year
Investigations Committee, Alternate 7 years

Community:

Past President of One Church One Child Advisory Board of Illinois (foster care / adoption programs); Delegate to the World Methodist Council, Brighton, England. Past Board Member of the following groups: Salem Children's Home, Barton W. Stone Retirement Home, Springfield Urban League, Champaign Urban League(s), President of One Church One Child, Governors Task for on the African American Family, Claymont Delaware Community Center Board, Concerned Citizens of Rantoul and Vicinity, Ministerial Alliance of Springfield and the Ministerial Association of Rantoul.

I am currently serving as President of Central Illinois Organizing Project (1997 to present); a faith-based community organization which established a full service bank in a low income neighborhood(s), the first of its kind in this area. I am a commissioner for the Housing Authority of Champaign County, and board

member of the Provena Behavioral Health Center for Champaign County and a board currently Vice President of One Church One Child of Illinois.

Track Record:

Mc Henry Evangelical Free Church – 1982 – 1985; Youth Work (Discipled 5 young men)

Phillips Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, 1985-1987; Senior Pastor

(50% increase in Budget and attendance; Four Persons in the Ministry)

Grace United Methodist Church – 1987-1997; Senior Pastor

(200 % increase in attendance and Budget; 8 persons in the Ministry)

First United Methodist Church of Rantoul – 1997 – 2004, Directing Pastor

(80% increase in Budget and 150% increase in attendance; 15 persons in the Ministry)

First United Methodist Church of Geneseo – 2004 – Present, Directing Pastor

Para Church Groups:

Wesley Foundation – Delaware State University 1976 – 1980

Campus Crusade for Christ – 1977 – 1983

Campus Crusade for Christ Summer Missionary (Chicago Project), 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981

Navigators Summer Camps, 1981 and 1982

Group Workcamps Camp Co-Leader, Co Sponsor and participant for 6 years.

Pastor Freeman is married to Felecia Pailin and has two children and loves to read, talk, and help others who cannot speak for themselves.