



First United Methodist Church of Moweauqua

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Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors. The People of the First United Methodist Church.

Pastor Jemiriye Fakunle - A Brief Autobiographical Statement

My name is Jemiriye (jeh-mee-ree-yeA) Fakunle (fak-kun-leA). I am originally from Lagos, Nigeria, in the Southwestern part of our country. I moved to the States in 2015, and it's been an interesting, challenging, and fulfilling adventure. I was born into and grew up in a Christian home, but the Christian faith did not become mine until I was eleven years old. Still, I did not fully become aware of and engage in my spiritual formation until sixteen. From then on, my spiritual and ministerial formation took place within the contexts of my family, active local church life, and discipleship. God used my parents to expose me early in life to the things of God and used the active local Church life to build on those early exposures. I preached my first sermon in our home church when I was eleven. Later, I served in different capacities in teenagers' ministry, youth ministry, Sunday School, choir, cell groups, mission, and evangelism teams, to say a few.

As a young teenager, my career ambition was to become a computer scientist specializing in artificial intelligence with a background in electrical engineering. However, I was privileged to discern my call into ministry almost immediately after high school. It was quite a struggle navigating between going into a full-time ministry and pursuing my career dreams. However, God did allow me to have an associate degree in electrical and electronics engineering, after which I submitted myself for ministerial training in the seminary. I was trained at the Baptist College of Theology, Lagos, Nigeria, where I graduated in 2011, and from the Emory University Candler School of Theology in 2015. I am currently studying for my doctor of global leadership degree at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

I see my calling into ministry as a missionary pastor. I am passionate about proclaiming the Gospel of Christ by example and precept. I am persuaded that an effective pastoral ministry occurs within mutual and loving parish-pastor and pastor-parish relationships. The predominant gifts in my life are teaching, evangelism, prayer, a non-anxious presence, and pastoral care. My calling is to disciple believers, making Christ known to them and empowering them to make Christ known to others. I am convinced that the Church is God's agent for the transformation of the world. The Church exists as a training ground for believers' growth and empowerment for service.

I am the middle child and the second son of four children, and my parents and all my siblings are still living. Grace and I have been married for twelve years. We're blessed with three sons and one daughter, TiOluwanimi (11 years), Oluwateniola (9 years), Oluwatomini (7 years), and Oreofe (2 years). The rest of our families are back in Lagos, Nigeria. We try to make new families so we can feel at home on this side of heaven as God brings us into new faith communities. My hobbies and interests outside of the ministry are playing/watching soccer, playing chess and scrabble, listening to music, and meeting new people. I'm still trying to understand American football, but I love watching basketball.

I am looking forward to meeting and knowing each of you. I'm excited about what God will be doing as we journey together.