

LEADERSHIP GIFTS AND STYLE

I would describe my leadership style as collaborative and empowering. I trust that the people I lead will follow through with their ministries, accept input, and grow in their work. I empower others to be creative, constructive, and cooperative, and then I let them carry out their work. I do not micro-manage. I am open to suggestions and constructive criticism, taking seriously the inputs which I receive.

WHY I WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING ALEXANDRIA UMC

I see great potential and promise in Alexandria UMC. I believe that together we can discern/discover God's plan for us. Working together we can grow in God's love for us; we can grow in our love for God; and we can grow in love and witness for our neighbors in Alexandria, Minnesota.

WHAT I DO FOR FUN AND ENJOYMENT

I love to walk, ride bicycle, read, play trumpet, play guitar, travel, and spend time in solitude.

Minnesota Annual Conference Of The United Methodist Church

Bruce Ough, Bishop



INTRODUCING

**Pastor Gary Taylor
to Alexandria United
Methodist Church**

**NORTH STAR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT
THE REV. MARK MILLER**

Introducing Gary Taylor



PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

I was born in Modesto, California. My father was career Air Force and so we moved all over the United States. I graduated high school in Mountain Home, Idaho and went to college at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music Education. I taught K-12 music at Deer Creek Public Schools (band, choir, elementary music, jazz band, etc.) from 1979 to 1984. In 1983, I married Cheryl Fagerberg and together we have raised three wonderful children. Our oldest is Megan, who is married to Jeremiah Zahnow and they have a daughter Teagan. Our next oldest is Jennifer who, with her partner, have a daughter, Leighana, and a son, Preston. Our youngest, Zachary, lives and works in Fargo, North Dakota.

After teaching at Deer Creek, I went back to school at Wadena Technical Institute to become a bookkeeper and accountant. In 1988, I was hired by Long Prairie Packing Company as a cost accountant. During my tenure there I was promoted to Manager both in Long Prairie and in a sister company in South St. Paul. During this time, I studied online to earn my Masters of Business Administration, but never completed my final dissertation on the use of electronic inventory management

when Long Prairie Packing changed course away from its use.

In 1998, I became a Lay Speaker for Communities of Faith UM Parish. Feeling a call to pastoral ministry, I attended Licensing School in Dubuque, Iowa in 2000 and was appointed to serve Communities of Faith by Bishop Hopkins. I completed my theological education through the United Methodist seminary in Kansas City, St. Paul School of Theology, in their Course of Study program, graduating in 2007. In 2008 I was approved by the Board of Ordained Ministry for Associate Membership in the Minnesota Annual Conference. That year I was appointed to serve Peace United Church in Long Prairie, and Grey Eagle UMC.

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS AND MINISTRY RELATED WORK

2000 to 2008 – Communities of Faith UM Parish (Bertha UMC until 2001, Clarissa UMC, Clotho UMC, and Eagle Bend UMC), Northwest/North Star District.

2008 to present – Peace United Church, Long Prairie (a combined United Church of Christ and United Methodist congregation), and Grey Eagle UMC, North Star District

2001 to 2007 – Course of Study, Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Missouri.

2008 to 2016 – Served on the Minnesota Annual Conference Council on Finance and Administration, chairperson from 2015 to 2016.

VISION FOR THE CHURCH

The Church is the gathering of the followers of Jesus Christ. The followers come together as the Church to worship God, learn from Jesus (the meaning of “disciple”), receive the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, fellowship with each other, and to be sent into the world (the meaning of the word “apostle”) with the Good News/Gospel of God’s Culture (Kingdom, Reign). In being sent, we serve our community whenever and wherever it is hurting and in need of care. We witness to the forgiveness, grace, love, hope, and peace of God and invite others to share in that joy.