

# Pastor Steve Wood

Steven Doyle Wood, Sr. was born and raised in Sandy Springs, Georgia in North Fulton County. He graduated from Ridgeview High School in 1976 and the University of Georgia in 1980 with a BBA in Finance. From 1980-83 Steve was employed as a manufacturer's representative in the office products industry.

After receiving God's call into the ordained ministry he enrolled in Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky in September 1983. While there, he served as a student chaplain at the V.A. Medical Center in Lexington and later as the Youth Pastor of the First UMC of Georgetown, KY.

He received the Master of Divinity degree graduating in May 1986 and was married to the former LeAnne Knowles of Lebanon, Tennessee on June 14, 1986. Five days later he was appointed as the pastor in charge of the Red Oak UMC in College Park, Georgia where he served for 3 years. Under his leadership the Red Oak UMC became a multi-racial congregation and was recognized as the District Town and Country Church of the Year in 1988 and the Conference Small Membership Church of the Year in 1989.

In June, 1989 he was appointed to plant a new church in Douglas County which has become the New Covenant UMC. Starting with 16 interested people the church grew to over 600 members in just seven years. In addition, the congregation built a 10,000 sq. ft. multipurpose facility and added a 12,000 sq. ft. Activities Building complete with gymnasium. The church was recognized as the fastest growing congregation in the Southeastern Jurisdiction in 1991 and one of the top three fastest growing congregations in the conference in 1992. In 1994 the church was recognized as the conference leader in the percentage of members received by profession of faith.

Steve was appointed to the 970 member Sugar Hill UMC in Gwinnett County on January 1, 1997 as the Senior Pastor where he has served for ten years as the membership grew to over 2000. Sugar Hill UMC was blessed to have one of the highest worship attendance/membership ratios in all of Methodism at 70%. In June 2007 Steve was appointed as Senior Pastor to the 7200 member Mount Pisgah UMC in Johns Creek, Georgia which is the third largest UMC congregation by worship attendance.

He has served the Denomination in several roles of leadership including President of the North Georgia Conference Committee on Church Development, Inc., the Board of Ministry, the Loan Guarantee Committee, the Bishop's Leadership Forum, and is currently a member of the Conference Council on Finance and Administration. Steve is also the past President of the North Gwinnett Ministerial Alliance and has served on the pastoral board of the North Gwinnett Co-op. In June 2007 Steve was elected as a Clergy Delegate to the 2008 General Conference in Fort Worth, TX.

Steve was ordained as an elder in 1988 and he has served as a District Youth Coordinator, Chairman of the Board of Governors for the Atlanta/College Park District Enrichment School, and has led various workshops and revivals at the district, conference, and jurisdictional levels. He is past Chairman of the Rome/Carrollton District Council on Ministries, and he served for 7 years as the Community Spiritual Director for the Northwest Georgia Walk to Emmaus movement. Steve has served on the Gwinnett County Leadership Forum for Jones Middle School and as a Task Force Team Member for Mill Creek High School. He is currently a member of the Asbury Seminary Alumni Board and a Steering Committee Member of the Academy for the Practice of Christian Ministry.

Overseas, Steve has preached in and led mission trips to Israel, Jordan, Haiti, Costa Rica, Brazil, and Mexico. In 1994 Steve was chosen to be the launching Community Spiritual Director for the Tres Dias in Moscow, Russia. He has a passion for missions and evangelism in making disciples of Jesus Christ and growing and cultivating Christian leaders for global impact.

Steve and his lovely wife LeAnne of twenty years have three daughters and a son, Lauren (17), Lacey (15), Layne (8), and Steven, Jr. (6). Their family resides in Buford, GA and they enjoy water sports, golf, gardening, snow skiing, tee-ball, basketball, and bike-riding. 11/30/07