

## ***David Graves***

David Graves's passion is sharing Jesus, seeing the overlooked, joining God in transforming lives, and changing the world one person at a time. David's study of leadership permeates all his work as a pastor and district superintendent. He led a small-membership church to become a medium-sized congregation and later a medium-sized church to become a large-membership congregation. Under David's leadership, Ooltewah United Methodist Church grew over 200% while he helped the church in a journey of expansions and renovations totaling over \$4 million. David has a heart and hands for missions. He served and led several short-term (local, national, and international) mission teams. The Acts 1:8 model for missions came alive in the churches David served. These churches raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for mission work, plus trained laity in hands-on ministry.

As a District Superintendent, David implemented a district strategy that empowered both clergy and laity with leadership tools for effective and vital ministry. This strategy revitalized several churches that experienced growth in both professions of faith and worship attendance. For example, during 2014, 34 of the 58 churches in the District grew in worship attendance and membership, and 33 increased in Sunday school and small group discipleship. In addition, in 2014, 56 of the 58 churches in the Kingsport District paid 100% of Conference Fair Share Tithe; all 58 churches paid 100% their District Fair Share and Direct Invoicing, which was a huge turnaround from 2008. Also, for 5 of the 6 years, the District increased in professions of faith, overcoming 35 years of decline. Furthermore, from 2009 to 2014, professions of faith grew 200%. On Christmas Eve 2014, through a district offering, the Kingsport District generously gave more \$230,000 for the District Partnership with Giru, South Sudan.

Rev. Graves currently serves as the Senior Pastor of Church Street United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. Prior to Church Street, he served six years as the District Superintendent for the Kingsport District of the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church. In 2011 and 2012, he served as Dean of the Cabinet. David has been an ordained pastor in the United Methodist Church for over 27 years and previously served as Senior Pastor of Ooltewah United

Methodist Church a large-membership church in Chattanooga, Tennessee for 11 years. Prior, he served as pastor of two Kingsport area churches, St. Matthew and Mountain View United Methodist. He was on staff and was given his first appointment at Hixson United Methodist Church in the Chattanooga area where he served for 11 years.

At the 2015 Holston Annual Conference, David was elected first clergy delegate to the 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. The Holston Delegation selected him to lead the delegation and unanimously selected David to be the Holston Nominee for Bishop. At its 2013 session, the Holston Annual Conference recognized David's passion for sharing Jesus by presenting him with the Clergy Denman Award.

David is a native of Knoxville, Tennessee, and graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, with a Master of Divinity.

David is married to Nancy, an Executive Administrative Assistant in the Maryville City School System Central Office, and they have shared 34 years of marriage. They have two children: Casey and Gregg. Casey is married to her husband Bryan, and they reside in Kingsport with their son Brooks. David and Nancy's son, Gregg, lives and works in the Chattanooga area. One of David's best friends with whom he enjoys spending long walks is his golden retriever, Charley.

Sometimes life goes smoothly, sometimes it is rather difficult, and at times it is just hard. Regardless of what life offers, two thoughts guide David's daily life: "If we can get to a better place today, then tomorrow looks much brighter" and "the best is always yet to come!"

David Graves lives his life with a greater sense of purpose in God's Kingdom work which can be summarized as - *David Graves: child of God, husband, father, grandfather, servant, District Superintendent, Dean of the Cabinet, Senior Pastor, and leader in the United Methodist Church.*

Email: [dgraves@churchstreetumc.org](mailto:dgraves@churchstreetumc.org)

Phone: office-(865) 524-3048

Mailing address: PO Box 1303, Knoxville, Tn. 37901