

# Leonard Fairley

Leonard grew up in Laurinburg, NC, graduating from Scotland High School, Pfeiffer College and Duke University's School of Divinity. He has served the Sanford Circuit, St. Peters UMC in Hamlet and Soapstone UMC in Raleigh before becoming the Rockingham District Superintendent. After serving as DS for 7 years he returned to the local church in 2012 as Lead Pastor at Saint Francis UMC in Cary before being appointed Capital District Superintendent in June of 2015. Leonard has recently been selected by the North Carolina Conference delegation to the General and Southeastern Jurisdictional Conferences as their nominee to be elected a bishop in the United Methodist Church. The election will take place in July, 2016.

Leonard has served on numerous boards and agencies of the conference including Conference Vitalization Consultant, Chair of Congregational Development, Task Force on Lay Academy, Vice Chair of Conference Finance & Administration, Vice-Chair of Conference Board of Church and Society, the NC Conference Transition Team, the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry, the NC Conference Episcopacy Committee and as a previous and current General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate. He has enjoyed participating in Mission Work Teams in Costa Rica, Jamaica, Montserrat, Zimbabwe, Haiti and ASP.

Leonard enjoys preaching, walking, reading and writing (including poetry) and has published a book of poetry, *Who Shall Hear My Voice* and was a contributor to *The Day The Earth Moved Haiti: From Havoc to Healing*.

Leonard was married to his lifelong soulmate, Priscilla Ann Russell before she joined the church triumphant in August of 2013. He is the proud father of two adult children and three grandchildren.