

Biographical Sketch For:

**DR. ROBERT LAWSON BRYAN**

Born: June 13, 1950 in Quincy, FL  
Raised in Dothan, AL

1968 - Graduated from Dothan High School.  
1972 - Bachelor of Science, Tulane University,  
New Orleans, LA., *cum laude*.  
1975 - Master of Divinity, Emory University,  
Atlanta, GA, *cum laude*.  
1985 - Doctor of Ministry, Emory University,  
Atlanta, GA.



Married to Sherrill O. Cooper of Thomaston, AL. Their son, Philip, lives in Montgomery and is chief of staff for the present pro-tem of the Alabama State Senate. On October 10, 2015, Philip and Brittany Woodham were married at First UMC Montgomery.

**Pastoral Appointments:**

1975 - Associate Pastor, Trinity UMC, Opelika, AL.  
1976 - Pastor, Hiland Park UMC, Panama City, FL.  
1980 - Pastor, Dexter Avenue UMC, Montgomery, AL.  
1986 - Pastor, First UMC, Brewton, AL.  
1990 - Pastor, Ashland Place UMC, Mobile, AL.  
1997 - Pastor, First UMC, Dothan, AL.  
**2007 - Senior Pastor, First UMC, Montgomery, AL**

**Other Involvement:**

Leadership Mobile, Class of 1992  
Chair of AWF Conference Council on Ministries, 1996-1998  
Dothan District Committee on Ministry, Chair, 2000-2006  
AL-West Florida Conference Board of Ministry, 1980-1988; 2000-2012  
Alzheimer's Association "Walk to Remember", Chair, 2000-2001  
Southeastern Jurisdiction Larger Church Consultation, Chair, 2001-2002  
Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors, 2002-2005  
Huntingdon College Board of Trustees, 2001-present  
Chair of Board of Ordained Ministry, Alabama-West Florida Conference, 2007-2009

Member of Downtown Rotary Club of Montgomery, 2007-present

Chair, Believe It! Montgomery, community partnership for public schools

Author of Pursuing *Science, Finding Faith*, a book on the complementary relationship of faith and science published in 2012

Member of the Committee of 100, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Participant and Leader in Three Year Covenant Community for Spiritual Growth, AWF Conference

Member of Leadership Alabama

Developed partnership between First UMC Montgomery and Huntingdon College to provide intern program for college students to gain experience in ministry with children, youth, adults, missions, technology, and finance. Many of these students will go to seminary and others will become leaders in local churches

Organized and hosted annual Pan-Methodist Pentecost Service uniting AME, AME-Zion, CME, and other churches in the Wesleyan family

Lenten Unity Covenant Group composed with 50% of participants coming from AME church and 50% from First UMC, Montgomery

Academy for Congregational Excellence, board chair: 2011-present

Teaching Parish Supervisor, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Chair of the Visioning Team for Adult Respite Ministry of First UMC Montgomery, resulting in four-day-a-week ministry for persons with memory loss and other disabilities; currently involved 100 volunteers, seven churches and two synagogues.