

# OTTO D. HARRIS III, PH.D.

## PASTORAL MINISTRY AND RELIGIOUS/THEOLOGICAL INSTRUCTOR

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### ----- Summary of Qualifications -----

Pastoral Ministry instructor with three years of experience. Extensive experience in adult learning techniques as a corporate trainer. Community facilitator and pastoral care specialist with more than ten years of pastoral ministry experience in The United Methodist Church. Organizational and program development towards educational development, community, and hope. Extensive public speaking, community service, and interpersonal relations experience.

### ----- Areas of Expertise -----

- Theological/Religious Instruction
- Christian Education
- Ecclesial and Cultural Criticism
- Curriculum Development
- Ministerial Formation
- Adult Learning Techniques
- Pastoral Care
- Organization Administration
- Community Leadership

### ----- Professional Experience -----

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2004 – Present  
ST. MARK'S - CHARLOTTE, NC; UNION MEMORIAL - GREENSBORO, NC; ST.  
MARY'S - Walnut Cove, NC

**Pastor / Ordained Elder in Full Connection to the Western North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church**

- Facilitate opportunities for the congregation to study, strategize, evangelize, fellowship, serve, and build community;
- Provide pastoral care and counseling for members of the congregation and surrounding community;
- Develop leadership skills of officers of the congregation for effective leadership and fruitful ministry;
- Direct and lead the congregation towards organizational effectiveness; and
- Represent the congregation in community and denominational settings.

LAUREL UNIVERSITY – High Point, NC 2012 – Present  
**Instructor**, Preaching for Life Change Course Summer 2012 and Fall 2013

This course provided a careful study of the classification, preparation, construction and delivery of different types of sermons. Inductive Bible study and research skills, outlining, storytelling, finding and filing sermon resource materials and the importance of personal, spiritual, academic and advanced preparation was covered.

**Instructor**, Expository Preaching Fall 2012

This course reviewed the techniques and methodology used in expository preaching. Offered training and practice of skills in exegesis, exposition, inductive Bible study, hermeneutics, homiletics and doing research into the background of biblical books.

**Instructor**, Practical Pastoral Methods Spring 2013

This course was a practical study of the tasks, duties, responsibilities and ethics of the pastor. A major portion of the course work focused on the logistics involved in conducting funerals, weddings, dedications, the Sacraments, church business and board meetings, planning the church year, visitation, counseling and church financing, etc. Placed emphasis on practical instruction and application, as well as theory and principle.

**Instructor, Practical Pastoral Methods** Spring 2015  
This course surveys the new and emerging trends in the church with a study of both their useful insights and dangers. Of concern is the apparent loss of a worldview among many in the church.

LAUREL UNIVERSITY – High Point, NC (continued) 2012 – Present

**Instructor, Priorities and Attitudes in Ministry** Summer 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2015  
This course was designed to provide instruction for the setting of goals, as well as priorities among those goals, with an emphasis upon how those goals and priorities relate to the realities and aspirations of life. The attitude of the individual including other aspects of psychological makeup and how it impacts upon the ability and willingness to set goals and priorities. An emphasis upon how goals, priorities and attitudes can lead to effective and Christian personal management.

**Instructor, Public Reading of the Word** Spring 2014  
The emphasis of this course is upon the communication of thought and feeling from the printed page to the listener. The Bible contains all the major types of literature including poetry, prose, drama, and narrative. As in any communication, our first task is to communicate the effective expression of simple, logical meaning. Diction, pronunciation, breath control, volume, pitch, quality and projection is emphasized.

**Instructor, General Epistles** Spring 2014  
A study of Hebrews; James; I and II Peter; I, II and III John; Jude and Revelation with a special emphasis given to correct hermeneutical principles and procedures. This course emphasized leadership issues, work ethics and corporate relationships against the backdrop postmodern culture.

**Instructor, Biblical Leadership in a Multi-Cultural, Multi-Ethnic Environment** Spring 2014  
This Doctor of Ministry course equipped students for Christian ministry in ethnically/racially diverse settings. It was designed to provide a strong foundation for ministry that takes into account the wide divergence in cultural, historical, sociological, and even theological issues that impact the ministry and leadership context. What is often seen as a “sensitive topic” became the focus as students came to grip with the various issues that the 21st Century Church faces.

**Instructor, Fundamentals of Pastoral Ministry** Fall 2014  
This course is an overview of all areas of pastoral ministry. It evaluates biblical, historical and contemporary images of ministry and the student’s own individual personality traits in the context of ministry. Topics include: the pastor’s personal and spiritual disciplines, the pastor’s family, methods of pastoral care, handling church conflict creatively, personal and church finance, writing résumés and interviewing with a church, and the pastor’s leadership and vision.

Western North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church July 2014 – Present

**Facilitator of Residency In Ordained Ministry**  
Direct a cohort of seven residents who are preparing for ordination in The United Methodist Church. Directors follow a set curriculum designed to cultivate life-long fruitful ministry. Directors facilitate monthly sessions in which residents dialogue about assigned readings and writings. Directors also participate in annual retreats with the residents.

GREENSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT 2013 – July 2015

**Volunteer Chaplain**  
The mission of the Police Chaplaincy Program is to provide a voluntary ministry of guidance and counseling to all members of the Greensboro Police Department upon request. The police chaplains perform duties designed to contribute to the nurture and enhancement of a member’s spiritual, personal, private and professional life.

----- Professional Experience (continued)-----

- GMAC INSURANCE – Winston-Salem, NC 1994 – 2012  
**Content Editor**, 2007-2012  
Facilitated interdepartmental communication via website, a knowledge management system, e-mail, and personal meetings.  
**Training Specialist**, 2002-2007  
Facilitated technical and diversity classroom training for new and continuing employees.  
**Computer Programmer**, 1998-2000  
Updated programs using COBOL/JCL/CICS applications.  
**Claims Representative**, 1994-1998, 2000-2002  
Appraised the validity and value of presented claims and negotiated settlements.
- UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS/MARINE CORPS RESERVES 1989-1997  
**Communication Center Operator**  
Worked in vital message and communication centers in the Fleet Marine Force and at bases, posts, and stations. Processed, recorded, and typed messages, data cards, and tapes so that they could be sent or received. Operated teletypewriters, optical character readers, tape transport, and terminal consoles and corrected, retrieved, and logged in messages.

----- Education / Professional Development -----

- UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO – Greensboro, NC 2008 – 2014  
**Ph.D. Educational Studies with a specialization in Cultural Studies**  
The program is concerned with issues of educational theory, cultural analysis, educational leadership and school organization, educational policy, and curriculum studies. The program seeks to prepare thoughtful and effective leaders in education through programs of study that are interdisciplinary in focus and that emphasize questions of moral concern, the cultural context of education, and a reconstructive vision for excellent and equitable schooling.  
**Dissertation:** *Transforming Race, Class, and Gender Relationships within The United Methodist Church through Wesleyan Theology and Black Church Interpretive Traditions.* I analyze the historic and present social conditions of The United Methodist Church within the context of American culture. I also present strategies for reconciliation among estranged Black and White race groups, socioeconomic class groups, gender erotic predisposition groups, and ethnic groups other than Black and White. I use the theoretical lens of Black church interpretive traditions intersecting with Wesleyan theology. I contend that The United Methodist Church has the mandate, heritage, responsibility, organizational structure, and spiritual capacity to contribute to substantive and sustainable reconciliation in the Church and in American society.  
Courses taken:
- Sociology of Education
  - Culturally Responsive Leadership
  - Epistemology and Education
  - Race and Education
  - Introduction to Critical Pedagogy
  - Inquiries for Social Justice
  - Curriculum Theory
  - Moral Dimensions of Education
  - Power, Politics, and Schools
  - Nurture and Authority
  - Servant Leadership
  - Narratives of the Self
  - Statistical Methods in Education
- HOLY LAND TOUR – Israel and Palestine January 27-February 6, 2014  
Spiritual pilgrimage in the Holy Land, experienced the Biblical world to help better situate perspectives and inform preaching and teaching practices.
- HOOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – Salisbury, NC 2003-2007  
**Master of Divinity**, Summa Cum Laude. Theological preparation for pastoral ministry.
- NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY – Greensboro, NC 1990-1993  
**Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology** (with a specialization in Electronics and Computer Technology), Summa Cum Laude.

----- Professional Presentations and Facilitations -----

- Western North Carolina United Methodist Men "Just For Men" Retreat, Asheboro, NC September 2014  
**Session Presenter**, Wisdom: Determining to Be a Man of Strength. The retreat emphasized building stronger relationships and promoting spiritual growth of men by expanding the sacredness of the Holy Scriptures. The "Determining to Be a Man of Strength" presentation critiqued the dominant cultural perception of strength and constructed an alternate model of strength through honoring covenant through the narrative of Samson.
- Servant Learning and Leadership Mentoring Program, Western North Carolina 2012 – 2013  
**Program Coordinator**, This initiative was designed for dialog and mission work among Western North Carolina United Methodist youth and young adults. The program equipped youth and young adults with leadership skills and mentoring support that helped young people to identify, develop and implement mission, ministry and advocacy projects in their local church, annual conference and global community. The initiative included a mission and learning trip to Washington, DC where program participants visited historical and political sites, connected with advocacy groups, and met with members of Congress and Senate.
- Our Multicultural Church: Strengthening Outreach to the African-American Community, Greensboro, NC October 2013  
**Design Team Member**, This workshop was designed to provide tools for Western North Carolina clergy and laity to reflect more faithfully on the gift of diversity that God has given us and to learn to see the world through the eyes of others.
- Western North Carolina Conference Kaleidoscope, King, NC April 2013  
**Featured Speaker**, Kaleidoscope is a special weekend that gives middle school students an opportunity to deepen their relationship with God in a fun, relaxing atmosphere. Kaleidoscope is led by the Western North Carolina Conference Council on Youth Ministry. The presentations centered around the need for persons to fit "IN," the dangers of uncritically fitting "IN," and considerations related to what to fit "IN."
- The Urban Review March 2012  
**Author**, "From Margin to Center: Participating in Village Pedagogy at Historically Black Colleges and Universities" Peer reviewed. In this article, I survey histories, missions, and academic and social environments of HBCUs. I contend that HBCUs offer alternate higher education experiences for Black educators and students who find themselves on the margins of the U.S. American academic center. Demonstrating the parallels of HBCU settings to villages, I illustrate how these HBCU village contexts contribute to pedagogy. Ultimately, I appeal to HBCU stakeholders to intentionally and consistently promote "village" environments to cultivate the academic and social sensibilities of its constituents.
- GREENSBORO DISTRICT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE – Greensboro, NC February 2012  
**Workshop Facilitator**, "Laity/Clergy" Partnerships.
- Laity Empowerment Workshop December 2011  
**Event Planner**, The Laity Empowerment workshop was designed to understand the challenges and rewards of leadership, explore John Maxwell's "Five Levels of Leadership," develop spiritual discipline, and create personal development plans.
- Real Talk Youth Summit – Greensboro, NC September 2011  
**Event Planner**, The Real Talk Youth Summit was designed to facilitate dialogue between youth and other church members about the challenges facing young persons in church engagement, church leadership, and the world.
- GREENSBORO DISTRICT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE – Greensboro, NC April 2010  
**Workshop Facilitator**, "Strengthening the Black Church."

----- Professional Presentations and Facilitations (continued) -----

SOUTH ATLANTIC PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION SOCIETY (SAPES) CONFERENCE – Greensboro, NC October 2010

**Panelist**, “Resurrection of Hope: The Necessity of Social Hope in the Midst of Recession, Depression and Bankruptcy” in “When Hope is Not Enough: Engaging Philosophy, Faith, and Fear in the Obama Era.”

The presidential candidacy of then-Senator Barack Obama ascended with an expectation for a greater experience than the pre-election U.S. American setting, evident in the campaign slogan “Yes, we can.” Upon the election of President Obama, the victory chant for many was “Yes, we did.” The rhetorical shift from “Yes, we can” to “Yes, we did” suggested that the expectation with which the Obama campaign was filled had been fulfilled. However inspiring the campaign and election of President Obama may have been, unfortunately, the national social setting did not significantly change because of the election. At best, the expectation was in critical condition. At worst, the expectation was dead. Drawing primarily from Paulo Freire and Cornel West, I investigate sources of hope and despondency prior to, during, and after the Obama presidential candidacy. I propose conditions that can contribute to a different social setting for the despondent, for which “yes, we can” still hope.

AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION (AESAS) Conference – Pittsburg, PA November 2009

**Panelist**, From Margin to Center: “From Margin to Center: Participating in Village Pedagogy”

in “The Value of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and the Survival of African Americans in Education as Students and Potential Educators.”

On this panel, I discussed the continued necessity of HBCUs in the so-called “post-racial” U.S. American context. I contended that HBCUs continue to offer pedagogy through providing an environment similar to a village through which students can be nurtured and prepared for a larger social context that is often hostile towards them.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA BLACK CLERGY/LAITY CONVOCATION – Greensboro, NC September 2009

**Workshop Facilitator**, “Leading a Generation into Proliferation: Youth Preparing to be Church Leaders.”

----- Community Associations and Honors -----

UNION MEMORIAL COMMUNITY AFTER SCHOOL AND RELATIONSHIPS IN EDUCATION (C.A.R.E) 2014-Present

**Co-organizer**, Union Memorial United Methodist Church, in partnership with representatives from local campus ministries, college chaplaincy programs, and civic organizations, provides family meals and tutorial services for community primary and secondary school students.

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL CONVOCATION AND PASTORS SCHOOL 2013-Present

**Member of the Board of Managers**, The annual Divinity School Convocation & Pastors’ School is a cooperative endeavor with the North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences of the United Methodist Church, which brings together ministers and laity for several days of lectures, sermons, and course intensives, along with multiple venues for alumni/ae reunions and opportunities for shared meals and social interaction.

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL ON CAMPUS MINISTRIES 2009 – Present

**Vice-Chair of the Council**, Provides support for and direction to campus ministries to provide intentional ministries to and with twelve college communities in Western North Carolina. Served the Wesley-Luther Foundation serving the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and currently serving the S.L.A.M. Wesley Foundation serving North Carolina A&T State University as liaison and ex-officio board member of.

GUILFORD COUNTY POLICE ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES LEAGUE (GPAL) 2008 – Present

**Founding Board Chair and Current Board Member**, Formed to provide a link between the residential community, educational community, law enforcement community, and faith community and to provide young persons “somewhere to go, something to do, someone to be.”

POTTER’S HOUSE FAMILY MINISTRIES OF WINSTON-SALEM 2004-Present

**Board Chair (2004-2007) and Current Board Member**. The mission of The Potter’s House is to build a strong community by enriching the quality of life for individuals and families through personal involvement in lives by investing in education, welfare, and improvement of living conditions.

----- Community Associations and Honors (continued) -----

- OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INCORPORATED 2015-Present  
**Member.** Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. is an international fraternal organization whose cardinal principles are Manhood, Scholarship, Perseverance and Uplift.
- NORTHERN PIEDMONT DISTRICT CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY TEAM 2014-Present  
**Executive Board Member,** Lead the subcommittee on Diversity to provide resources and support for congregations working towards reflecting the demographics of their communities.
- GREENSBORO DISTRICT HISPANIC COMMITTEE 2007-2010  
**Board Member,** Provide support for and direction to a Hispanic/Latino community of faith in Greensboro, NC.
- COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS – HIGH POINT, NC 2007-2008  
**Volunteer,** Chaperoned middle and high school students to High Point, NC, Washington, DC, and Memphis, TN to launch the Pen or Pencil initiative.
- SOUTH ATLANTIC PHILOSOPHIES OF EDUCATION SOCIETY (SAPES) Member 2010  
Scholars from various disciplinary backgrounds who meet annually to discuss issues related to the philosophy of education and other foundational concerns.
- GOLDEN KEY INTERNATIONAL HONOUR SOCIETY Member 2009  
The premier collegiate honor society, recognizing outstanding academic achievement and connecting high-achieving individuals locally, regionally, and globally with lifetime opportunity, reward, and success.
- AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION (AESAS) Member 2009  
An international learned society for students, teachers, research scholars, and administrators who are interested in the foundations of education.
- THE PRESIDENT’S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD 2009  
Presented by the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation in recognition and appreciation of your commitment to strengthening our Nation and for making a difference through volunteer service.
- GREENSBORO POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF’S AWARD 2008  
Presented in acknowledgement of the initiative to implement the Guilford County Police Athletic and Activities League (GPAL).