

Report to the 2009 Church Conference  
Providence United Methodist Church  
Charlotte, North Carolina

Marcia Conston

I am continuing to serve as a Student Assistant Pastor at Providence United Methodist Church as I complete my program of studies at Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, North Carolina. This is my final year in the Master's of Divinity program and I look forward to completion in December 2010. The past several years have benefitted me greatly by expanding my knowledge of bible, history, preaching, and administration. More importantly, the in-depth training afforded to me on the theology of Methodism – doctrine and polity – has aided in my performance at Providence. I am also blessed by the United Methodist professors, and the fellowship of other Methodist students who are also studying at Hood. I am prayerful that an opportunity will be open for me to visit Oxford, England to see Wesleyan and Methodists sites in May 2010.

My ministerial activities at Providence United Methodist Church include participating at both worship services and in communion. I have become accustomed to the order of worship services, and feel very comfortable in any task I perform. I thank God for any opportunity to serve at church. This past January, I preached at the 8:30 am service, and I look forward to preaching again in the coming months. Earlier this year, I was the guest speaker at the United Methodist Women's monthly meeting. In addition, the Crosstalkers Sunday School class continues to provide opportunities for me to teach and share my faith journey. I have also preached in Sunday evening Chapel Services and will give the homily at the Methodist's Men Thanksgiving program on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.

In May of 2009, I went to Haiti on a mission trip with several members of Providence. This was an excellent opportunity for me to serve others. My primary duty on the trip was to visit the Haiti School of Mercy and participate in a fact-finding mission about micro-credit lending. Both initiatives were successful. Since that trip, the micro-credit team has awarded approximately \$9,600 in small loans to 48 women in Haiti. Also, funds and donations have been provided to continue the work of the School of Mercy. While in Haiti, I was privileged to preach at the United Methodist church. I was blessed by this opportunity and look forward to many subsequent trips to Haiti. In addition to Haiti, my desire is to continue my connection with Africa University and I look forward to a financial contribution being made on behalf of the Church to respond to the needs of the AU students. At Providence, I serve as a member of the Global Missions Committee.

Having attended Providence United Methodist since 2002, I feel blessed and privileged for the opportunities and support given to me by the staff and members. I am blessed for the opportunity to have attended local pastor's school in 2007 and to receive the designation of local pastor. I look forward to continuing on this ministerial journey, growing stronger in the grace and love of God and ultimately becoming an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church.