

## The Rev. David J. Ackerman



The Rev. David Ackerman was born and raised in Export PA. He grew up in Denmark Manor United Church of Christ in Export and later joined Smithfield United Church of Christ in Pittsburgh. He is a 1986 graduate of Franklin Regional High School in Murrysville. In 1990, he graduated from Grove City College *summa cum laude* with a B.A. in Literature & Philosophy. In 1993, he graduated with a Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge MA. During this time, he interned at Westmoreland Hospital in Greensburg PA and at Second Congregational United Church of Christ in Beverly MA.

In 1993, David was ordained at Smithfield United Church of Christ, having accepted a call to serve as pastor at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Latrobe (Trauger) PA. He has served at St. Paul's since that time. He is certified as a Pastoral Care Specialist through the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and as a Christian Education Specialist through the Association of United Church Educators. He is also Dean of the Penn West Academy for Ministry, where he once taught Church History and presently teaches Practical Theology. He currently represents the Penn West Conference as a proxy to the Council of Bishops and Judicatory Heads of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania. He also serves on its Theology and Education Committee and recently was on its Executive Minister Search Committee. Over the years, he has served in different capacities in the Westmoreland Association, including its Church and Ministry Committee, Executive Council, Program Committee, and Nominating Committee. He has also served at various times in the Penn West Conference on its Church and Ministry Committee, Christian Nurture Committee, Ministry and Mission Network, Personnel Committee, and Board of Directors. He has directed camps at Living Waters and has been a delegate at two General Synods of the United Church of Christ. He is presently an administrator on the United Church of Christ's *Sermon Seeds* Facebook page. He is the author of several publications, including *Beyond the Lectionary: A Year of Alternatives to the Revised Common Lectionary* (Circle, 2013), *The Bible You Don't Know: Worship and Teaching Resources for "Beyond the Lectionary"* (patheos.com download, 2013), and two components for the United Church of Christ's Faith Practices (*Blessing and Letting Go: UCC History & Identity* and *Living Stewardship: Worship, Music, Arts & Story*). He has also been involved in community organizations such as Christians Uniting (his local ecumenical group), Triangle Meals on Wheels Board of Directors, the Advisory Board of St. Vincent Prevention Projects (on drug and alcohol abuse), and the Westmoreland LGBTQ Interfaith Network.

In 1999, David married his wife Marsha, a high school math teacher in the Ligonier Valley School District. They have resided in Pleasant Unity together since then and hope to look for a home somewhere in the Greensburg/Latrobe area. David's parents, Dan and Becky, presently reside in nearby Murrysville. David enjoys such activities as running (he is a former cross-country coach at Greater Latrobe High School), fly-fishing, hiking, mountain bike riding, cross-country skiing, and reading. He is "over-the-moon" excited at the prospect of serving as the fifth Conference Minister of the Penn West Conference. He has loved the Conference for years and is eager to begin this holy adventure in ministry.