



Biographical Statement
Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade
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The Reverend Wendy Miller Olapade is originally from suburban Philadelphia where her family's church history included German Lutherans and Pennsylvania Dutch Mennonites. But she considers herself amongst the great "de-churched" children of the 70's after discovering hippie heaven in college. A few years after graduating from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, she moved to the greater Boston area and barrelled boldly through the 80's as a business leader (and 'wild child') in the information and high-tech industry. Fortunately, Rev. Wendy found God and twelve-step-spirituality in church basements across the country and a few years

later, The Holy Spirit called her to the Boston University School of Theology to prepare for ordained ministry.

She was ordained by the United Church of Christ at Church of the Covenant in Boston on Pentecost in 1996 and has since served Jesus in a variety of roles including as church consultant, hospice chaplain, pastor and teacher. After 12 years as a settled pastor, Rev. Wendy worked as an Intentional Interim Pastor - celebrating her leadership gifts as an agent of transformation. She has successfully lead numerous congregations through times of significant transition while at the same time building improved stewardship, identifying and empowering new leadership, growing and training lay leaders for "called-to-care" ministries, reframing justice and witness ministries for mission, and experimenting with new forms of worship and sacred music.

In 2013, The Congregational Church of West Medford, UCC called Rev. Wendy to be their lead pastor and together they embarked on a deliberate discernment process designed to bring the congregation to a bold decision about her future. Sanctuary United Church of Christ (www.sanctuaryucc.org) and her new ministries are the result of that process.

With a passion for creative and emerging worship, a heart for extravagant welcome and the provocative instincts of a prophet, Rev. Wendy inspires others to be their best selves and brings holy joy, an evangelist's spin and a sense of celebration to all that she does.

Rev. Miller Olapade mentors students in ministry as a Field Education Supervisor and advisor to student in discernment. She regularly leads workshops and training events. She has served the wider church as a member of the Committee on Ministerial Standing in the Metropolitan Boston Association of the UCC and as a member of the Clergy Development Council of the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC. She is a fan of classical, jazz and gospel music, loves theatre and film and is the proud mother of Alexander, age 22 and Aaron, age 15.

Most importantly - she loves Jesus and is ever-so-grateful to be saved by grace!