

Rev. Wendy Miller Olapade

105 Brooks Street • Medford, MA 02155 • 617.592.5853 • revwdmiller@gmail.com

Organizational Leadership and Skills

- An experienced executive and visionary leader of secular and religious organizations
- An intuitive and creative organizational consultant with out-of-the-box instincts for process re-engineering and a proven record of bringing about adaptive change to traditional and change resistant organizations
- Exemplary written and verbal communication skills with an inspiring teaching and presentation style
- A warm and inviting interpersonal demeanor
- A proven record as a self-starter, project manager and head of staff
- Eighteen years experience as Field Education Supervisor and advisor and mentor to seminarians in discernment

Church Leadership Experience

Founding Pastor

2013 to Present

Sanctuary United Church of Christ (*formerly The Congregational Church of West Medford*), Medford MA

- Pastor, preacher, teacher and consultant of assessment and discovery process designed to lead a legacy congregation to a “Bold Decision” about the future. The congregation discerned a call to sell the building and hit the streets to follow Jesus into the city square with new forms of church, using their investments to ‘be sanctuary’.
- Church Planter who is collaborating, developing and implementing an inspiring vision for a new church and entirely new model for ministry; includes shared values, a mission designed to turn outward and meet people where they are, a ministry model that empowers members to be disciples (not members), new forms of worship, community organizing principles for evangelism, new forms of income to achieve sustainability and partnerships across the city.

Pastor, Preacher and Teacher, United Church of Christ

1996 to 2012

Senior Interim Pastor, UCC Boxborough, MA

2010 to 2012

Senior Interim Pastor, Hope Central Church, Jamaica Plain, MA

2008 to 2010

Interim Pastor, Second Church, Winchester, MA

2007 to 2009

Served as Intentional Interim Pastor, Teacher, Preacher and Organizational “CEO” to each of these congregations during time of transition

- Guided congregation through loss, conflict, transition and self-assessment
- Led visioning process to develop new mission statement and implementation plan
- Empowered lay leaders in discernment about the call of a new pastor
- Identified and developed new lay leadership in congregations and new ways of “doing business”
- Developed new approaches to fund raising and stewardship
- Designed and implemented congregation’s branding across public relations print materials, monthly newsletter and web site design
- Inspired and negotiated merger of a new church and a 180 year old church organizations and cultures
- Developed organizational structure for new church and flexible, missional by-laws and constitution
- Discerned, developed and trained new ministry teams; including care ministry team; worship, music and art ministry team; leadership circle.

Senior Pastor, First Congregational Church, Reading, MA

2001 to 2007

Successful Senior Pastor of multi-staff, theologically progressive congregation of 500 members. Responsible for all aspects of church life, ministry and business including: excellent preaching, designing and leading creative worship, pastoral care and teaching, staff supervision, leading the volunteer organizational structure and ministries including: Leadership Development, Spiritual Care, Fund Raising and Stewardship, Building Management, Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Church Growth, Administration, and Mentoring of Field Education Students/In Care candidates.

Associate Pastor, Eliot Church of Newton, MA

1996 to 2001

Associate Pastor of 400 member congregation; responsible for all aspects of ordained ministry with a concentration on marketing, church growth, spiritual development and Christian Education programs for all ages

Business Leadership Experience

Interim Business Manager. Law Office of J. Channing Migner, Worcester, MA

2012 to 2013

Administratively savvy Executive Assistant to the firm's principal serving as the face of the firm and the initial point of contact for new and existing clients.

- Developed business practices to improve client experience and improve productivity of principal
- Reframed staff expectations and recruited and trained permanent staff
- Provided client-focused, empathic interface with clients in need
- Lead training and development of other staff to improve the firm's integrity and stability
- Mature, responsible, accountable self-starter with tenacity
- Able to maintain composure while gracefully negotiating interruptions
- Able to assess and implement changing priorities with excellent follow through
- Developed updated branding and marketing for firm

Business and Marketing Manager, AGAPE Property, Reading, MA

2007 to 2008

Managed family business developing leads, marketing the company through internet based resources, managing customer and sub-contractor relationships and providing project management.

District Manager, AT&T Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts

1978 to 1991

Business Process Re-engineering/Marketing & Sales Management

- Six years of Business Process Re-engineering as an internal consultant during the turnaround years for AT&T, post divestiture.
- Ten years of Marketing and Sales Management experience in the telephone and data communications fields.

Education

Boston University School of Theology, Boston, MA

1991 to 1995

Master of Divinity—Cum Laude

- Community Development and Leadership Award
- Excellence in Preaching Award

Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA

1973—1978

Bachelor of Arts—Government and Public Service

Certifications

Center for Progressive Renewal, Atlanta, GA

2014-current

New Church/New Ministry Leader Certification

Interim Ministry Network

2010

Intentional Interim/Transitional Minister Training and Certification

Andover Newton Theological School, Newton, MA

1998

Field Education Supervisor Certification

Metropolitan Boston Association of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ

1996

Ordination to the Ministry of Pastor and Teacher

Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

1995

Clinical Pastoral Education