

Rev. Jim Ozier appointed to new church development post for area United Methodists

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September 11, 2007
Immediate Release

North Texas United Methodist Bishop Alfred L. Norris has announced the appointment of The Rev. Dr. Jim Ozier, pastor of 3900-member Trietsch Memorial UMC, Flower Mound, to the position of New Church Development Officer for the conference (regional body), effective Nov. 1.

During Dr. Ozier's 18 years at Trietsch Memorial, the congregation has tripled in size, attendance, and stewardship. More than 1500 worshippers attend one of the church's weekend worship services.

"I am pleased beyond words that Jim Ozier agreed to shoulder the responsibility of leading North Texas United Methodism in starting new churches and making God's love in Christ known and experienced. He brings to this office excitement, creativity, a passion for reaching people, and he is not afraid to take risks. He confirms my belief that we have an abundance of talent and expertise 'in our own backyard'," Bishop Norris said.

The new position reflects the commitment and desire of the Bishop and conference leaders to accelerate the starting of new churches in the 20-county North Texas region.

The challenge is significant. Recent statistical reports reflect that, even though the population in the area is growing rapidly, United Methodist church membership is static or slowly declining. "It's not just a numbers game; it is waking up to the fact that many in our area are missing out on a faith relationship with Christ," Dr. Ozier emphasizes.

Dr. Ozier says that his passion is to reach the unchurched and to help make churches creative and culturally relevant, while remaining biblically based. Under his guidance, Trietsch has incorporated state-of-the-art technology into the worship life of a church that offers a choice of worship styles ranging from traditional to contemporary.

In his new capacity, Rev. Ozier will provide guidance and oversight to selecting new church sites, recruiting and training start-up congregation pastors, and helping to create vibrant new congregations. "I will have the opportunity to work with pastors and churches to raise the level of effectiveness and excellence in the United Methodist Church," Dr. Ozier said.

Prior to being appointed to Trietsch, Dr. Ozier was pastor of an urban congregation, Munger Place UMC, Dallas, where he helped build successful mission ministries to Laotian, Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees. His previous service includes appointments as senior associate pastor of First UMC, Dallas; pastor of West Shore UMC,

Richardson; and Oak Haven UMC, Irving. He began his ministry working for famed missionary E. Stanley Jones and became pastor of his first church while still a high school student in Illinois.

Born in Spring, Ill., as the fourth of eight children, Dr. Ozier graduated from Eastern Illinois University in 1971 and earned the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Perkins School of Theology, SMU. Perkins honored him with the coveted "Mustang Award" for leadership.

He is a frequent motivational speaker, seminar leader and presenter for religious groups, civic organizations and corporations throughout the nation.

Dr. Ozier is married to Suzanne, a retired special education teacher. They are parents of four adult children, Eric, Adam, David and Katie.