



Jacob's Ladder



A NEWSLETTER OF OXFORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. Roger Wilson, Pastor

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Oxford First Has Been On-Boarded

by Rev. Mattie Gipson



On Sunday, June 12, 2022, about twenty (20) members of Oxford First UMC met with Rev. Dr. Stephen Cook and Rev. Dr. Embra K. Jackson to engage in this new process called On-Boarding. The purpose of On-Boarding is to give the incoming pastor and the congregation he/she is being appointed a fast-track start to their

relationship. Questions that usually take months to ask and get answered between the two entities are asked and answered within a three-hour time frame in a relaxed atmosphere.

After a brief introduction of our new pastor, Rev. Roger Wilson, he left the

room as we proceeded to answer 9 poignant questions to give us a kick start in our new pastor/congregation relationship.

These are the questions that guided our afternoon experience:

1. What do you want to know about your new pastor?
2. How would you describe the DNA of your church?
3. What are your hopes and dreams for your church?
4. What do you want most from the leadership of your new pastor?
5. What should be the priorities of your new pastor?
6. What are the land mines, sacred cows, and sensitive areas of this congregation?
7. What should change for the church to be healthy? Is there any unfinished business?

8. Who, in the congregation, should the Pastor know in the early days?
9. What can YOU offer your new pastor?

The attendees were given time to answer these questions without the presence of our new pastor. Rev. Cook and Rev. Jackson guided us through this time of discussion. Once these questions were answered, we had a dessert break during which Rev. Wilson was brought back into the meeting space.

After devouring an assortment of delectable desserts, it was Rev. Wilson's turn to look at the questions and our answers and make his comments and give answers where needed. There was a lively discussion among all attendees and I believe each attendee would agree that it was time well spent getting to know our incoming pastor, Rev. Roger Wilson.



After the On-Boarding process, everyone gathered around Rev. Wilson, laying hands on him, as Minister Gracie Spearman prayed for his success with the pastorship of Oxford First UMC moving forward.

Oxford First U.M. Church

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 13-15

6 until 8

"For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13, NLT).



We had an awesome 3 days of VBS at Oxford First UMC. This was my official last VBS with these kiddos. So it was bitter sweet. They are an awesome group of kids that have a bright future. Thanks to Min. Tressie Johnson for organizing such a great VBS this year. Also, thanks to all the teachers and members who came out to ensure it was a success. God bless each of you.

—Pastor Sapada Thomas



FATHER'S DAY Celebration

JUNE 20

After service on Sunday, June 20, 2022, in celebration of Father's Day, the United Women of Faith of Oxford First UMC provides a special treat to the men of the church. For starters, the men were served a wonderful meal, followed by an array of special gifts, that included T-shirts and jigsaw puzzles of their fathers, personalized fans, coasters, glasses and plates. It was wonderful morning of fellowship and fun.



Father of The Year: On Sunday, June 20th, Kenneth Wortham presented Carl Goolsby with the Male Chorus Father of the Year award.

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Pastor Thomas' Last Day



Sunday, June 26th marked Pastor Sapada Thomas' last day at Oxford First UMC. His family was in attendance. We at OFUMC wish him nothing but the best in his new endeavors.