

View of Ministry:

I believe that for a church to function well it needs to have both strong pastoral and lay leadership and participation. Pastoral leadership is important because that person, or team, is looked to more than anyone to set the tone for a congregation. The pastoral leadership is generally expected to provide direction, vision, and leadership in the life of the church. While expectations and needs regarding pastoral leadership will naturally vary depending on the size of churches, the pastoral leadership will play a vital role in the direction of any church. I believe that God calls certain individuals to the ordained ministry for this very important task.

It is also true that the people, not the pastor, are the church. This is especially true in our itinerant system. To this end God has given gifts to all people to be used for some good for the Kingdom of God in this world. Part of a pastor's job is to identify gifts in people and help direct them into ministries where they can be productive, develop their gifts, and find the greatest satisfaction in their commitment to Christ.

As pastor I want to have strong working relationships with lay leaders and committees. I enjoy working with other people on developing goals, sharing ideas, and charting the best courses of action. I tend to be a vision caster. However, I appreciate getting feedback on the ideas that I offer because I know there are angles that I may not see. I also very much want to hear the goals and ideas that other people have. In my appointments some of the best things we have done have been the result of a layperson's idea or a different angle a layperson applied to something I offered. Strong relationships between clergy and laity are also important because there will be times when each will have to challenge the other. Strong relationships will make that process easier and more successful.

As the spiritual leader I feel that it is my responsibility to help people grow in their relationship with God by offering opportunities for worship, faith development and acting upon their faith. This is done through preaching, working with worship leaders, small group studies, confirmation classes, mission work, evangelism, etc. Other opportunities for spiritual development are: visitation, funerals, and administration of the sacraments.

As spiritual leader I also feel that it is important to encourage safe dialogue. When people share their experiences, ideas, and questions they learn to grow together. Being able to share in this way serves to help people become part of the whole and develops a sense of community in the congregation.



Roy J. (Jim) Cooper, Jr.
Conference Membership
Full Elder

Churches and Appointments Served:

- Caldwell UMC (2010 – Present)
- Apple Creek UMC (2006 – 2010)
- Killbuck UMC (2000 - 2006)
- Howard/Wesley Chapel UMC (1997 – 2000)

Education:

- Methodist Theological School of Ohio, M.Div. (2000)
- Muskingum College, BA (1991)
- John Glenn High School (1987)

Additional Education and Training:

- Ashland Seminary, Pastors of Excellence (2007 – 2010)

Board and Committee Membership:

- Served on Commission on Equitable Compensation for 9 years (5 years as chair)
- Serving on Southern Hills District dCOM (for the past 5 years)

Ministry Gifts:

- Passionate Worship and Preaching – Loves relating scripture to life in a way that is down to earth and meaningful for people's lives and draws them closer to God.
- Intentional Faith Development (Christian Education/Small Groups) – Does well at leading small group discussion and drawing out people's thoughts and feelings and helps create discussion among the group which leads to bonding and faith development. Has helped the church use a spiritual gifts inventory which has helped some people grow in their faith through service and leadership.

Ministry Gifts Continued

- Administration (total oversight of congregational life) – Working with staff and volunteer leaders/ chair persons and empowering lay leadership. Has very good gifts of organization, detail, and working with other leaders to help grow the ministry of the church. Part of working with leaders has been helping people step into ministry they are suited for. Working at developing goals and action steps for ministry is another item he has worked at growing in.
- Pastoral Care/Visitation
- Community Networking

Family:

Spouse: Shannon

BS in Early Childhood Education from Kent State

Children: Two adult children: Rachel and Hannah
Lydia (High School)