



Western North Carolina Conference
The United Methodist Church



Welcome Bishop Paul and Janet Leeland

You are invited to welcome Bishop Paul Leeland and his wife, Janet, to the Western North Carolina Conference at one of three Services of Celebration. Each service will begin at 3:00pm and will be followed by a reception.

- ♦ **Sunday, October 9 - St. Paul UMC**, 2400 Dellabrook Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27105
- ♦ **Sunday, October 16 - Trinity UMC**, 587 Haywood Road, Asheville, NC 28806
- ♦ **Sunday, October 23 - University City UMC**, 3835 West W. T. Harris Blvd., Charlotte, NC

On September 1, Bishop Leeland began his ministry in the Western North Carolina Conference as our new bishop. He is originally from North Carolina and a graduate of North Carolina Wesleyan, Duke Divinity School, and North Carolina State University. He was elected to the episcopacy in 2008, and served for 8 years as the bishop of the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

Leeland was ordained by Bishop Robert Blackburn in 1976. As a member of the North Carolina Conference, he served small, medium and large membership churches. He served as the District Superintendent of the Goldsboro District. He was then appointed Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Ministerial Relations serving under two bishops for a total eight years. Paul Leeland was elected as a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference beginning in 1988 and consecutive years through 2008. He was elected as a delegate to General Conference in 2000, 2004 and 2008. He has served general conference boards and agencies. In 2007, he was the recipient of the Red Shoe Award, presented by clergywomen of the North Carolina Annual Conference for "encouragement and support of women in ministry through advocacy, appointment, mentoring and friendship."

In 1968, Janet Elaine Dowell and Paul Lee Leeland were married. They have three married children: Rebekah, Nora and Paul Andrew. They have six grandchildren.