

Rev. Dr. Giovanni Arroyo, a native of Puerto Rico, migrated to New York City as a young boy. As he learned English in his new elementary school, his family nurtured him in the faith at Knickerbocker United Methodist church in Brooklyn, N.Y. It was there that Giovanni recognized and answered his call into ministry.

At the age of 10, in his family's home-based children's worship group, which served approximately 15 children four times weekly, Giovanni began his discernment process. From there, Giovanni took on various roles in his local church, as well as roles in both district and annual conference.

Professionally, Giovanni has worked in the research field with The City College of New York in language acquisition and experimental psychology, the New York State Psychiatric Institute in exposure to violence and child abuse studies, the National Development and Research Institute with young adult inject-drug users, and as a grant evaluator for the Long Island Children's Museum. He has also served as adjunct faculty in English as a Second Language and World Religions.

Rev. Dr. Giovanni began his ministry in 2001 as pastor in a shared facility ministry setting in Norwalk, Connecticut in the New York Annual Conference. Upon his appointment, he says that his call was affirmed by baptism by fire experience. He served as one of the three chaplains at Bellevue Hospital in New York City during the 9/11 attack where 278 survivors were receiving medical care as well as the morgue of all those who lost their life in the twin towers. If that was not enough, on November 12<sup>th</sup> 2001 there was another tragic accident in New York City where an American Airlines Flight going towards Dominican Republic exploded 30 seconds from lifting off. He was summoned by new channels to assist as a chaplain during this tragedy because they felt they needed a person who understood how to care for the Latino community.

In 2004, the Baltimore-Washington Conference began to recruit him to go on loan from New York Conference for six years to help in a Latino new church start. For eight years, Giovanni has served Salem/Baltimore Hispanic Ministry in the Baltimore-Washington Conference as the pastor of two congregations, which are housed in the same facility but are offered in two different languages. He was able to move this congregation from a two day a week church to seven day a week church programs. He has served as interim pastor while serving at the general church level within the bounds of his annual conference. He has also served in the Baltimore- Washington Conference in various leadership positions, including chair of Commission on Religion Race, Past chair of Hispanic/Latino Ministries, Annual Conference worship team, clergy recruitment, immigration ministry, Justice for Our Neighbor, and others. Currently, he is an advisor to the Racial Advocacy team, Call to Action Team and Intercultural Competency team. He is an Elder of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference. He is a 2020 General Conference Delegate.

Rev. Dr. Arroyo in 2010 was invited to join The General Commission on Religion and Race and was recently elected as their General Secretary – the first Hispanic/Latino in the denomination's history. He is responsible for overseeing all the administrative,

programmatic initiatives and resources of the agency worldwide. He works in providing trainings, consultations, leading initiatives for the United Methodist Church in addressing racism, tribalism, diversity, inclusion and other forms of ism's.

He holds a Bachelor's of Arts in Psychology and Sociology from City College of New York; Master's of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary; Master's of Science in Management from University of Maryland, a Pastoral Care Skills certificate from Blanton-Peale Graduate Institute of Mental Health and Religion and Doctor of Ministry focused on Transformational Leadership in the Wesleyan Perspective through a joint partnership with Wesley Theological Seminary and Cambridge University: Methodist House of Studies in Cambridge, United Kingdom. He is currently completing a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

For Rev. Dr. Giovanni the most important in the midst of all his journey is to love the people and be in relationship with the people.