

Providence United Methodist Church Welcomes Senior Pastor Steve Autrey

We are excited to announce that The Rev. Steve Autrey has been appointed Senior Pastor of Providence United Methodist Church by Bishop Carter and the Appointive Cabinet.

Steve brings more than 30 years of ministry experience within the Western North Carolina Conference. Since 2016, he has served as Senior Pastor of Denver United Methodist Church, where his leadership has strengthened the congregation's financial health, cultivated a strong and effective staff team, expanded facilities, and guided the development of a dedicated ministry center. He also led the church through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and played a key role in the discernment process that affirmed the congregation's commitment to remain within the United Methodist Church.

In addition to his local church leadership, Steve has been actively engaged in conference life. He has served on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (2007–2016; 2020–2024), participated in various District Committees of Ordained Ministry for 14 years, and currently serves as Chair of the Catawba Valley District Committee. He is also a member of the Conference Board of Episcopacy and the Conference Board of Trustees.

Steve holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from UNC Asheville (1992) and a Master of Divinity from Duke Divinity School (1996). He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry in Missional Innovation at Duke Divinity School, with an anticipated completion date of May 2027. His commitment to lifelong learning also includes Clinical Pastoral Education at Carolinas Medical Center (now Atrium Health) and participation in the Reynolds Ministry L.E.A.D. Academy.

Passionate about preaching, teaching, and guiding congregations to innovate and adapt, Steve is dedicated to helping churches faithfully engage the opportunities and challenges of today's world.

A native of Yancey County, Steve has been married to Marcy Cooper Autrey since 2000. They have two daughters, Elizabeth and Maggie.

In his leisure time, Steve enjoys hiking, backpacking, landscaping, and reading across a wide range of topics, including theology, history, and leadership. He also enjoys golf—though, by his own admission, with limited improvement.

To watch sermons from Denver UMC, visit:

[\[https://www.youtube.com/@denverumc3910/streams\]](https://www.youtube.com/@denverumc3910/streams)(<https://www.youtube.com/@denverumc3910/streams>)