

**Rev. Michael A. Howard
called as Association's Minister of Faith in Action**

We are delighted to announce that on March 22 the Rev. Michael A. Howard will join the Living Water Association's staff team as the Minister of Faith in Action.

Michael is a passionate, intellectually and spiritually engaged pastor, teacher, community organizer, and leader. He has taught and served around the world, including Peru, Brazil, India, Ethiopia and the US. He currently serves as the Interim Transitional Pastor of Brookside Community UCC in Brookside, NJ. He has also served congregations in Kentucky and Virginia in lay and ordained capacities. He holds a BS in Mathematics, a Master in Public Administration from Morehead State University, and a Master in Divinity from Drew Theological School.

Michael writes about his call to Christian ministry in the following words: "My call to ministry is to connect our sanctuaries with our streets. I have a commitment to intergenerational engagement, and I have worked with people of all ages: children, youth, young adults, older adults, and seniors. This has given me a vision for building communities of justice, joy, compassion, and peace. God has called me to help local congregations develop their own visions to become sources of healing and restoration for their surrounding communities."

"By helping congregations rethink their budgets as moral documents of faith in action, I have helped lead several highly effective stewardship campaigns. By focusing on mutual care and radical honesty, I have helped develop safe church policies and handle crisis situations. With a commitment to excellence and fostering creativity, I have helped lead youth events with new, exciting, and lively worship experiences. Believing that faith communities should participate in transforming their surrounding communities, I have helped create community organizations to network nonprofits and faith leaders with activist groups to bring about social change. In all of these examples, my passion for creative problem solving and building networks of mutual cooperation have played a major role in how I understand and do ministry."

Michael's position as Minister of Faith in Action is about Revitalization, yet comes to it with a different approach than the traditional methods. Faith in Action approaches revitalization by inviting congregations to look outside their church walls to discover what is happening in their own communities and how they can be Christ in the community in which they're planted. It encourages discovering the needs and the gifts of the wider community and partnering with them, to make the world into a more loving, compassionate and just place. It engages the church in its wider community, builds relationships, influences systemic change and more.

We look forward to welcoming the Rev. Michael A. Howard in our midst soon. We will hold gatherings for introductions and welcome. Watch for details soon.