

*Greetings Parishioners of Elma UMC. I am Rev. Lisa Taylor, and I am very excited to be coming to Elma UMC on July 1st as your new Pastor. Pastor Wayne and the church leadership have asked me to write a little bio so you can know something about me before I officially arrive. My status in the UMC is that of a Provisional Elder. That means I am in the final part of the process toward ordination as an Elder in Full Connection. My appointment to Elma UMC will be my third appointment as a UMC Pastor.*



*My first was as Pastor of a small, culturally diverse 2-point charge, and I am currently appointed as an Associate Pastor at a very large church in our district where I have served 8 years.*

*My ministry passions are primarily embodied through worship, teaching, and biblical interpretation. My call is to equip God's people for the works of ministry God has called them to. And my method is to model Paul's admonition to God's people to "Follow me, as I follow Christ" (1 Cor 11:1). Taken together, my ministry can be summed up as: leading God's people into a healthy, balanced life of Christian discipleship that includes a consistently growing relationship with Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit-led attention to fulfilling God's call to attend to self-care, family and friends, Godly work in the world, and the ministry of making disciples and attending to those in need. Having served in Christian ministry for nearly 30 years as a lay person prior to beginning my pastoral ministry, I am very supportive and encouraging of the necessary work of the laity.*

*On the personal side, I have been married to my husband, Romney, for nearly 37 years and we have 4 grown children - 3 girls and a boy, whom I also home-schooled for many years in their academics and their dance education. I have a passion for the arts and for education; and have worked in arts education in schools, for private and public arts education organizations, with theater groups, and in dance studios for over 45 years working with children and adults of all ages. The Ballet and Karate school I own in North Buffalo is now becoming a hobby rather than a job so I can devote the attention to Elma UMC that a full time pastoral appointment in our denomination requires. God has called me to this service and I gratefully respond to that call by following it. I like to be called "Pastor Lisa" rather than "Reverend Taylor." I like exuberant, expressive worship; and quiet, taize prayer services. And I like learning: learning about how I can better serve God's people, how I can better lead them into strong Christian discipleship, and learning more about myself as I learn from God's people. I know I have much to learn from all of you as I grow in God's grace. Please begin in prayer for me - it is my hope and prayer to serve you well as your Pastor.*

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Lisa Taylor*