



Ralph Holbrook, Licensed Local Pastor

Attended seminary at: Bethel Seminary (St. Paul, MN)

Interests: Traveling, riding motorcycles, being outdoors, spending time with family

My call to ministry story: It took me 10 years to respond to the call to ministry. When I finally acknowledged the call, I sat down with my family to

discuss it with them. I'll never forget my daughter's response: "Dad, we always knew you would go into ministry!" Once I realized my family supported the change, I went back to school to obtain a bachelor of arts in Christian ministry and a master of divinity in missional leadership. This required seven years of full-time work and schooling. My family was amazing!

Initially, I was working as executive pastor at Eagle Brook Church (a megachurch with multiple campuses). One day as I drove past my sending church (a United Methodist church), God grabbed ahold of me and said, "I want you to use your talents to revitalize the church that sent you." That started a journey with the Minnesota Conference. I was blessed to become a lead pastor taking on a major revitalization project.

A bit about my church and community: I currently serve as the lead pastor at Community UMC in Monticello. We are a faith community that seeks to take risks to build upon the diversity offered in Monticello and the surrounding communities. We have built relationships with and invited two Latine churches to partner with us as we seek to connect with our community. The diverse connections add some extra excitement to the entire faith community!

What I appreciate about being part of the Minnesota Conference: I appreciate the theological alignment—especially the open table and the drive to show God's love to all people. I believe this is what sets the Minnesota Conference and the UMC apart from other denominations.



**Minnesota
Annual Conference**
of the United Methodist Church