



The Rev. Dr. Van A. Stinson is the District Superintendent of the Baton Rouge District of the Louisiana Annual Conference. Prior to his appointment to this position in July of 2013, he was the Senior Minister of The William B. Reily Memorial University United Methodist Church, located adjacent to the campus of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. During his tenure the church experienced a time of renewal and growth and came to be known as an inclusive, intellectually credible, intergenerational community that welcomed all persons in the spirit of Jesus Christ and worked faithfully to engage the campus and the larger community in transformational ways. From 2005-2008, Dr. Stinson served as Pastor of The First United Methodist Church in Covington, Louisiana, on the Northshore of New Orleans. He led that congregation and community through the difficult days during and after Hurricane Katrina. The congregation was active in rebuilding efforts throughout the community and the region,

opening its doors to the Red Cross and hosting work teams from around the state and country. From 1999-2005, he served on the staff of The First United Methodist Church in downtown Baton Rouge. Dr. Stinson began his ministry in northeast Ohio and served rural, small town and urban congregations.

Over the course of his professional life, he has served on the boards of organizations such as the YMCA, the United Way and the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge. He was a founding board member of Hope Ministries, an organization in Baton Rouge affiliated with The United Methodist Church that works to provide food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless and a viable way for persons to move from dependence to independence with dignity, honor and respect. He has worked with Habitat for Humanity, led both local and international mission teams and, during his tenure at University Church, he spent time each week reading with elementary school students at University Terrace Elementary, located in historic Old South Baton Rouge, one of the most diverse and economically challenged communities in the city. He has served the Louisiana Annual Conference as a member of the Board of Ordained Ministry, Chair of the Conference Relations Committee, and Secretary of the Board of Global Ministries. He was a delegate to the 2001 World Methodist Council in Brighton, England.

Dr. Stinson received the Master of Divinity from The Methodist Theological School in Ohio and the Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. His research interests are in the areas of preaching and postmodernism, classical rhetoric, political theory and narrative criticism. He is interested in the role that the mainline church has played in shaping the culture and the ways in which these denominations and congregations can serve as agents of social and cultural transformation even today. He was recently invited to attend The Forum on Wesleyan Potential, a gathering of United Methodist leaders from around the country, to discuss the future of The United Methodist Church in a rapidly changing cultural and religious landscape.

On a personal note, Dr. Stinson is married to Julie Ann Stinson. They are avid dog lovers and stay busy with their golden retriever, Sandy, who teaches them much about friendship, love, and grace. They enjoy travel, sporting events, spending time with friends, listening to good music and eating good food.

Dr. Stinson is an avid reader, a dedicated biker and runner, and an ardent fan of Liverpool FC.