

A Brief Biographical Sketch of Samuel Velez – Irizarry

The Rev. Samuel Velez-Irizarry has been assigned the responsibility of serving as Pastor to Trinity United Methodist Church.

Samuel Velez has been a full-time Elder - Pastor - Counselor and Facilitator of Learning in the Central Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church (also known as The Susquehanna Conference) for over twenty-nine years. He is the oldest son in his family of origin and has four sisters. He was born in Brooklyn, New York of Christian parents with ancestry in the rural mountain region of Puerto Rico, Northern and Southern Spain .

His parents migrated to The United States of America before World War II and they served in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC Camps), The United States Army Air Force and The United States Post Office. Samuel's early years were experienced on New York 's Lower East Side of Manhattan and he graduated from Seward Park High School with an academic diploma. His parents honored their baptismal vows to God by educating all their children in Christ centered concepts such as the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles Creed. They dutifully saw to it that all their children attended church on a weekly basis. Samuel's early Christian learnings were gleaned from the Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist Church .

Samuel worked as the Training Officer for the United States Government and General Learning Corporation, a subsidiary of TIME, Inc. and General Electric Corporation. He also worked as a Clinical Psychotherapist and Manager of Anti-Poverty programs in New York City before accepting his call to ministry.

Pastor Samuel served The Central Pennsylvania and The Susquehanna Conference for nearly 30 years at the following churches:

First Spanish United Methodist Church in York, Pennsylvania
The Allison Hill Group Ministry: Derry Street, Epworth and
State Street United Methodist Churches in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Zion United Methodist Church in East Prospect, Pennsylvania
Lohr's Memorial United Methodist Church in Hanover, Pennsylvania
HOPE United Methodist Church on the Carlisle Pike in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
The Forge Hill Charge: Saginaw and Starview Congregations in Mt. Wolf, Pennsylvania

Pastor Samuel's educational credentials include but are not limited to:

Associate in Applied Arts from Rockland Community College, State University of New York, Suffern, N.Y.

Bachelor of Arts from Blackburn College in Carlinville, Illinois (Sociology, Spanish, Elementary Education)

Master of Arts (eqv.) in Adult Education from General Learning Corporation in Washington, D.C.

Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology, John F. Kennedy University in Orinda, California

Certification in the Treatment of Alcoholism and Other Chemical Dependencies,

John F. Kennedy University and Peralta Hospital in Oakland, California

Master of Divinity, Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York (Practical Theology)

Advanced Clinical Pastoral Education Units, Children's Hospital Medical Center Cincinnati, Ohio

Alliance for the Renewal of Ministry Six Year Seminar, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Pennsylvania

Certificate in Children and Youth Ministry, Lutheran Theological Seminary Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Pastor Samuel is an advanced open water diver with more than thirty years experience. He is interested in continuing education and sees himself as a dedicated life-long learner. He accepted Jesus Christ into his heart as a youth and avoided his call to ministry for twenty years.

Pastor Samuel married Dianne King in 1999 and she is an elementary school counselor, and she has an earned *Master of Arts* degree in counseling from Mc Daniel College in Maryland. They have raised two daughters: Lindsay, who is an honors graduate of PENN State in State College and now lives in Santa Barbara, California, and Jennifer who lives in Philadelphia and is a graduate of Hofstra University. As a family they participated in numerous mission trips (Honduras, Appalachia, Arkansas, Guatemala) and a special Summer pastoral exchange to Blackburn, England. He enjoys teaching and facilitating problem solving learning situations. He has strengths in worship development, sermon development, counseling and administration.

The following list includes some of the committees Pastor Samuel served on during the years 1994 through 2010:

2006 - 2010 Member of the Board of Directors, Hanover Area Red Cross, Hanover, Pa.

2005 - 2010 Member of Superintendent's Advisory Board for Southern York County Schools

2005 - 2008 Consultant on Continuing Education Programs United Theological Seminary, Ohio

2004 - 2006 Chair, Pennsylvania Council of Churches, Support Action Team

2003 - 2010 Chair, York District Committee on Ordained Ministry, York, Pennsylvania

2002 - 2005 Member, Pennsylvania Council of Churches Personnel Committee, Harrisburg, Pa.

1994 - 2004 Member, Board of Directors, National General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits of

The United Methodist Church, Evanston, Illinois

1999 - 2003 Consultant, General Board of Global Ministries, National Hispanic Plan, NYC

1998 Chaplain at United Methodist "Exploration Event for Youth," Los Angeles, California

1998 - 2012 Trustee, Board of Trustees, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

1997 Chair, Bishop's Initiative on Children and Poverty Task Force, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

1996 - 2006 Member, Central Pennsylvania Annual Conference Commission on Religion and Race

1996 - 2004 Chair, Racial Ethnic Local Church Ministry Team, Central Pa. Conference

1996 - 2004 Chair, Central Pa. Counseling and Psychological Services Committee {BOOM}

1994 - 2004 Member, Central Pa. Annual Conference Board of Ordained Ministry {BOOM}

1994 - 2004 Member, Council on Ministries, Central Pennsylvania Conference of the UMC