



Are “preacher’s kids” different – maybe a little rambunctious and knowledgeable of bible verses quoted around the dinner table? Are they destined to be preachers? In the case of Ronnie Miller-Yow, it was predestined; it was inevitable. He was one of eleven children, raised by a Pentecostal preacher; and he was always doing something in church. “We lived in the church; and my mom and dad had us doing everything in my father’s church,” recalls Reverend Miller-Yow.

Things are not very much different today, as the Dallas, native spends his time still doing many things in the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, located on the campus of Philander Smith College where he serves as the Senior Pastor. In addition to serving his congregation, he is the full-time Chaplin and Director of the Office of Religious Life at Philander Smith. This dual role might seem challenging, but quite the opposite is true. The Rev. Miller-Yow, is a creative, confident pastor who thinks outside the box as he strives to give service on the other side of the walls of the church. His enthusiasm for preaching, coming from his Pentecostal background, gives him the right edge to attract young adults at Philander Smith, while his training and the academic atmosphere provide the setting for those parishioners who remember the vesper services at the historic Wesley Chapel. Serving as an elder in the United Methodist church requires the Rev. Miller-Yow to have an unstoppable energy that he combines with several years experience. The combinations makes him a dynamic multitasker.

Educated at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Miller-Yow began his career as an elementary teacher. However, after hearing the calling to preach the gospel, he relinquished the teaching career for the pulpit -- continuing to teach but to a different audience and with different aspirations. “I was in college when I heard the calling for the ministry. My first sermon, entitled *What Time Is It*, was preached when I was a sophomore. I said “yes” to the calling and entered seminary to educate myself in order to better serve God,” says Miller-Yow who earned his Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

First appointed by the United Methodist Church as the Associate Pastor at St. James United Methodist Church in Pine Bluff, Reverend Miller-Yow was appointed to Wesley Chapel in 2003. The membership at Wesley Chapel has grown considerably since Pastor Miller-Yow arrived.

And, even more importantly, much of the growth in the membership comes from the students at Philander Smith who are taking an active role in church leadership and participation.

Pastor Miller-Yow is extremely active in the United Methodist Church. He serves as the Chairperson of the BMCR (Black Methodist Church Renewal), a national organization of African American United Methodist who come together to raise up prophetic and spiritual leaders who will be advocates for the unique needs of Black people in the United Methodist Church. Further, he is on the Board of the Higher Education & Campus Ministries of the United Methodist Church. His activities in the Little Rock community include several public service organizations such as the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross and the Arkansas Conference Board of Ordained Ministry. He is the vice president of the Delta Sigma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity in Pine Bluff.

The Reverend Ronnie Miller-Yow is married to Shantella Miller-Yow, a Margin Manager at US Food Service, who takes an active role at Wesley Chapel.