



MEET THE NEW OUTREACH MINISTER

The Reverend Edward A. Kail is a native of Farnhamville, IA. He graduated from the Lohrville, IA, community schools, earned a B.A. degree from Luther College, Decorah, IA, and received his Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ. Having sensed a call into pastoral ministry in the local church, Reverend Kail first served in the Fox River Parish in Van Buren County, IA, from 1977-1982. In 1982, he and his family moved to Ringgold County, IA to assume the pastorate of the Mt. Ayr Larger Parish. While serving the four churches in this parish, he took part in the ecumenical response to the worsening farm crisis. In this capacity, he became recognized as a leader in the church's response to the developing rural crisis, particularly in settings where a bank had failed.

In 1987, Reverend Kail was appointed to the Bishop's Cabinet of the Iowa Annual Conference, and was assigned as superintendent of the Ottumwa District in Southeast Iowa. During his four years in superintendency, he worked to strengthen rural churches and to develop and enhance the ministry of the laity.

On August 1, 1991, Reverend Kail became the first occupant of the newly established Chair for Town and Country Ministries at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO. In this capacity, he taught under the curricular heading of the church administration with emphasis on rural and small churches and communities. He also served for five years as director of the Course of Study School for licensed Local Pastors.

In May of 2000, while attending his 4th General Conference of the UMC, Ed was elected national president of the United Methodist Rural Fellowship, an education and advocacy organization working to support and empower rural ministries, churches and people. His interest in and commitment to rural ministries was also expressed in his work with

the task force to develop a National Comprehensive Plan for Town and Country Ministries for the UMC, and with the implementation team named to develop an action plan to commend the Plan to the entire church.

In August, 2000, Ed Kail became lead pastor of Faith United Methodist Church, a blended ministry parish serving 4 communities in Humboldt County, IA. On July 1, 2007, Ed was appointed to serve in the new Southwest District as Field Outreach Minister, working with church leaders to foster the revitalization of the church in God's mission. Ed's continuing interest and experience in cooperative ministries contributed to the publication of *Partnersteps: Developing Cooperative Ministries Today*, published by Discipleship Resources in November, 2003. The book was co-authored by Julia Kuhn Wallace, a staff member of the General Board of Discipleship.

The Kail family includes spouse, Myra; sons: Joshua (b. 7/78), a graduate of Luther College, Decorah, IA, now a consultant in management information systems in Melbourne, Australia; Tim (b. 8/80), a graduate of the Ringling School of Art and Design in Sarasota, FL, now working as an illustrator in Kansas City, MO; and daughter, Jessica (b. 12/87), a student.