

## Reverend Shawn Lewis-Lakin Retires

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is honored to share that **Reverend Shawn Lewis-Lakin**, Associate Pastor of Planned Giving, has announced his retirement, effective **December 31, 2024**.

Pastor Shawn began worshipping at Birmingham First UMC in 2015 alongside his late spouse, Rev. Barbara Lewis-Lakin. He was appointed full-time as Senior Associate Pastor on July 1, 2017, and later transitioned to serve as Associate Pastor of Planned Giving, first full-time and, since 2020, part-time. Throughout his ministry, Pastor Shawn has been an invaluable leader, offering wisdom, guidance, and faith-filled service to our congregation across both campuses.

In retirement, Pastor Shawn looks forward to traveling, consulting with school boards, and cherishing more time as a dad and grandpa with his children and grandchildren.

Reflecting on Pastor Shawn's ministry, Dr. Charles Boayue celebrated his exemplary leadership and faithful service: *"I first met Pastor Shawn in the early 1990s when he served at First UMC in Trenton, Michigan. Serving alongside him here in Birmingham has been a blessing to me and a precious gift to this congregation and community."*

The SPRC warmly invites you to a celebration of Pastor Shawn's ministry on **Sunday, December 15, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall** at Birmingham First UMC. In recognition of his many years of faithful service, we encourage you to honor Pastor Shawn with a monetary love gift.

- **To Give Online:** Visit [fumcbirmingham.org/giving](https://fumcbirmingham.org/giving), select "Give Online," enter your donation amount in the "Other" box, and type "Pastor Shawn's Love Gift" in the "Define Other Contribution" box.
- **To Give by Check Before December 15:** Make checks payable to Birmingham First and include "Pastor Shawn" in the memo line.
- **To Bring a Gift on December 15:** Checks should be made payable directly to Rev. Shawn Lewis-Lakin.

Please note that love gifts are not tax-deductible. Gifts may also be brought to the celebration, where Melissa Peirce will present them to Pastor Shawn.

Mark your calendar and join us as we celebrate Pastor Shawn's faithful ministry and wish him blessings in this next chapter of life and service.