

Rev. Joan Carter-Rimbach was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. She is the 11th of 12 children of the late Bernard and Helen Carter. She is a cradle Methodist. She received her Bachelor of Science in Social Work from the University of Maryland in Baltimore County.

Rev. Carter-Rimbach received her Master of Divinity in 1986 from Howard University School of Divinity. She received her first appointment as a student pastor in 1984, to St. John's United Methodist Church in Baltimore while attending seminary. She was the first woman pastor to serve at St. John's. She was ordained in 1988 and has served churches in the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church in Baltimore, Westminster, Milford Mill and Hyattsville, Maryland. She also served as the Chaplain at the Board of Child Care in Baltimore County, which is the Baltimore Washington Conference's Residential Group Home for children and youth ages eight to twenty-one.

She has been the first in many of her appointments. In July 2005, she was appointed as the Senior Pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Hyattsville, Maryland, where she was the first woman to serve as the Senior Pastor. She served at First Church for ten years. Rev. Carter-Rimbach was appointed to Mt. Zion United Methodist Church in Highland, Maryland on July 1, 2015 and is the first woman to serve as the senior pastor.

Rev. Carter-Rimbach was one of the lead women pastors of the United Methodist Church's Denomination of Women Pastors who served a congregation of 1,000 or more members. She serves as one of the 33 Directors for the General Board of Global Ministries. She is a member of the United Methodist Global Aids Committee and The Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters. She is Conference Coordinator for the Volunteers in Mission (VIM) for the Baltimore-Washington Conference. She is the treasurer of the Black Clergy Women of the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Rev. Joan Carter-Rimbach is married to the Rev. David Carter-Rimbach and they have two children, Hunter and Heather. Rev. Carter-Rimbach loves to worship The Lord through song, dance, and preaching. She enjoys traveling, spending time with family and friends and bicycling on their tandem with her husband.

Rev. Joan Carter-Rimbach is humbled by God's call on her life to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ. She lives her life as a living testimony of the goodness and favor of God.

Her favorite scripture is Isaiah 40:28-31:

“Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the faint,

and strengthens the powerless.

30 Even youths will faint and be weary,

and the young will fall exhausted;

31 but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,

they shall mount up with wings like eagles,

they shall run and not be weary,

they shall walk and not faint.”