

Rev. Michael L. Poole, Jr.

Michael serves as the co-founder and developer of the intentional missional ministry, Earth And Cup, Inc. Earth And Cup is a transformational approach to life that centers around movement, meditation and holistic living. Earth And Cup also provides classes, workshops and retreats on a variety of topics, as well as providing customized mission trips.

Michael holds a Basic Police Chaplain certification through the International Conference of Police Chaplains. He has a Certificate of Specialized Training for Spiritual Care in Crisis Intervention through the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation. Michael received his Disaster Chaplaincy Training through the National Disaster Interfaiths Network. And, Michael is a trained Intentional Interim/Transitional Pastor through the National Association of Lutheran Interim Pastors. Michael led six trips to New Orleans, LA for recovery efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Michael is the co-founder of "Potlucks to End World Hunger", a grassroots hunger initiative. Michael is also the founder of "Kilts 4 Kause", a program for testicular, prostate, and colo-rectal cancer awareness. He spent a "Kilted 50 For Charity" year, wearing a kilt every day for a year, raising awareness, advocacy, action and funds for ELCA World Hunger and the American Cancer Society. He has since turned Kilted 50 For Charity into a charitable foundation.

Michael holds a second degree black belt rank in Okinawan karate, a first degree black belt in Okinawan Kobudo (weapons), as well as studying Tai Chi, Qigong and Hung Gar. He holds an assistant instructor certification in Beisho karate. He also holds tai chi instructor certifications through the Tai Chi Institute for Health in Seated Tai Chi, Tai Chi for Arthritis, Tai Chi for Fall Prevention, Tai Chi for Energy, and Tai Chi at Work. Michael plays the bagpipes with the Richmond County Pipes & Drums in his spare time.

Michael was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 2004. He currently serves as the Intentional Interim Pastor at Christ Lutheran Church Islip Terrace (Long Island), NY. Most recently, he served sixteen (16) months as the interim pastor at Battle Hill Community Moravian Church in Union, NJ. Michael has served as the stated supply pastor for Zion Lutheran, Eltingville Lutheran, and Immanuel Lutheran Churches (all on Staten Island, NY); and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, West Hempstead (Long Island), NY. Prior to moving to Staten Island, Michael served four years as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ironton, OH; four and a half years as pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Urbana, OH; and two and a half years as pastor of the Pleasant City Lutheran Parish (St. Paul Lutheran Church – Pleasant City OH, Harmony Lutheran Church – Buffalo OH and Mt. Zion Lutheran Church – Pleasant City OH). Michael has taught at a local YMCA, instructing classes in tai chi and self-defense. Michael was an adjunct faculty member of Urbana University (Urbana, Ohio) for three years, teaching in the areas of philosophy, ethics and religion. Michael is a retired police officer and served ten years in the Ohio Army National Guard as a Military Police Officer and a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare Specialist. He authored a book, *Gospel for the Law: A Daily Devotional for Law Enforcement* (2005).

Michael graduated Magna Cum Laude from Columbus State Community College in Columbus, OH; receiving an Associate in Applied Science degree in Law Enforcement. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology/Criminology from Capital University in Bexley, OH. His Master of Divinity degree is from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Bexley, OH. Michael completed his Master of Sacred Theology degree at Trinity Lutheran Seminary, with a focus on preaching and worship. His thesis was "A Proposed Four Year Thematic Lectionary the Contains the Entire Canon." He is currently taking post-graduate classes at Moravian Theological Seminary towards a Certificate in Moravian Studies. He also attended The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH for two years, majoring in Theatre.

Michael is married to the Rev. Dr. Tracy A. Pryor, a Moravian pastor who currently serves as pastor of Great Kills Moravian Church in Staten Island, NY. Michael has two grown sons, Christopher and Sean, and Michael and Tracy have a daughter, Rain Siobhan.