

## **Pastor Dennis Ford**

The following is a brief testimony of my life:

Born May 27, 1947 in Knoxville Tennessee to two precious but not perfect parents. I am the oldest of three children. My father was a brick layer and my mother a home maker. I was brought up in church and made a profession of faith in March of 1958 at New Prospect Presbyterian Church. I graduated from Young High School in 1965. Went off to the U.S. Army in 1966 - 1968 serving in Vietnam. Returning from the Army I married my helpmate and partner in life Sharon Frazier Ford.

I pursued two careers: The first was in law enforcement. I worked as a Deputy Sheriff for the Knox County Sheriff's Department. Criminal Investigator for the Knox County Attorney Generals Office. I earned a Certificate in Criminal Justice at Walter State community College. I also completed the apprentice program to be a Journeyman brick layer. I started my own construction business and continued in it until answering the call to preach in 1991. I then attended and graduated from Duke Divinity School's Course of Study for the Ordained Ministry.

I was ordained a Methodist Pastor June 15th 1999. I belong to the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church and now service my fifth church as pastor of First United Methodist Church of Oneida Tennessee. God blessed me with being the first Chairperson of the Local Pastors of Holston. I also served as chairperson of the southern region Volunteer Labor program. I have served as a citizen committee member of inspecting the Knox county jail for 10 years. I served as a charter member of the Knox count E-911 system and was Chairperson when my term expired. I have also been a boy scout, belong to the Optimist club, the Kiwanis club and many other civic organizations.

However, I believe every thing in my life past and present has brought me to a place of helping. Helping the people God created all across the world. But most importantly helping God. For we know not the hour the Son is coming back! I just want every one to be ready.