

Rev. Steven F. Peralta – Bio

Pastor Steve has served UMCTO since July of 2006. He was first ordained in 1998 and served in Huntington Beach and Santa Barbara before landing in the Conejo Valley. His experience in Ministry includes Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Visitation ministry, Mission and service work, Biblical Study, worship design and leadership, and Evangelistic outreach.

Pastor Steve possesses a variety of interests, styles and skills. He loves music of many styles, including rock, pop, Celtic, and classical. However, he more than listens; he also sings, plays guitar, and has been known to pen a tune or two. If you know the music of U2, The Violet Burning, Radiohead, and Social Distortion, you can get an idea of the soundtrack playing in his mind.

Pastor Steve used to be something of an athlete: he ran track in college and was track team captain (1991) at Humboldt State University. He still loves to run, work out, and play most of the traditional, recreational sports such as softball and basketball. He also enjoys adventures: backpacking, mountaineering, snowboarding, river rafting, canyoneering, and international travel. When not on the go, Pastor Steve enjoys reading, writing, and cooking.

Education

Pastor Steve earned his BA in English at California State University, Humboldt, Class of 1992. He earned his Masters of Divinity at Fuller Theological Seminary, Class of 1998. Both degrees are cum laude. He may pursue a doctorate in the future...

Professional Profile

Pastor Steve is known for good pastoral care skills, creative worship, powerful preaching, and an ability to minister across generational gaps. He is a part of the emergent conversation, yet is quick to honor and remember the traditions of Methodism. He is equally comfortable singing modern worship songs or the traditional hymns. He believes that ministry is a work of the entire church body: all Christians are called to ministry.

Pastor Steve's ministry experience is not limited to the local church. He served as District Youth Coordinator in the Santa Ana District from 1996 until 2002. He sat on the Conference Council on Youth Ministry and served on the YPC Steering Committee 1997 – 2000. He actively participates in District Summer Camping (Santa Ana District Senior High Dean, 1999-2001, camp staff for Santa Barbara District 2003-2007); served on the Santa Barbara Wesley Foundation (2002-2006) and the Santa Barbara District and Planning and Strategy Committee (2005-2006); served on the Conference Council for Young Adult Ministries (2002-2005); and coordinated the Young Adult Ski Retreat Weekend twice (2005-2006). He has led worship at Annual Conference; coordinated the Annual Conference Youth Worship (1999); and lead worship singing at YPC (2000-2004) and at JHC (2005). Finally, he served as dean for the Youth Worker and Camp Leader Retreats (1999-2001) and taught a course at the first ever Conference Workshops on Youth Ministry and Camping in Hawaii (1999).