

Allegra S. Hoots

Allegra S. Hoots is the Transitional Pastor of United Presbyterian Church (UPC), located at 525 East Front Street in Plainfield, New Jersey. Allegra is a child advocate, a United States Army veteran, a retired Newark (New Jersey) Public Schools teacher, and a longtime preacher.

Her professional career began in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where after high school she worked at AT&T as an overseas telephone operator. Later, Allegra enlisted in the United States Army, and served honorably for 16-years.

While on active duty she earned an Associate of Arts degree from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Western New England College. After her fourth tour of duty, Allegra accepted a call to ministry and enrolled fulltime at Harvard Divinity School, where she earned the Master of Divinity degree.

While she was in seminary, Marian Wright Edelman, noted children rights advocate, recruited Allegra to work as a child advocate at the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) in Washington, D.C. At CDF, Allegra worked with organizations across the United States to develop child advocacy networks dedicated to improving the lives of women and children.

In 1994, following her tenure at CDF, the Congress of National Black Churches awarded Allegra a Fellowship. At the conclusion of the Fellowship, Allegra took a series of jobs before becoming a teacher in Newark Public Schools (NPS). She retired from NPS in 2014.

After a brief retirement, in August of 2016, Allegra returned to fulltime teaching, this time at Edison Job Corps (EJC) as an English Language Learner (ELL) instructor. She worked at EJC until the end of 2019 when she resigned to serve as Transitional Pastor of United Presbyterian Church (UPC).

For more than thirty years, Allegra has used her skills and talents to give back to her community by teaching in areas similar to the one in which she grew up and by preaching the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ as a pulpit supply minister in various denominations.

She is an accomplished public speaker, teacher, and has logged thousands of volunteer hours with charitable organizations around the country.

Allegra's passions are proclaiming the love of God and working with others to improve the quality of life for all. Her motto is, "God loves you, so repent, refocus, reform, keep moving forward and up, and keep faith in God."

Her publications include

Hoots, Allegra S., "Facts and Statistics about Generation X" The United Methodist Church, Laity in Ministry, The General Board of Discipleship, 1993

Hoots, Allegra S., Ed., "God Speaks through the Most Unlikely People and the Most Unusual Circumstances," Prophetic Voices: Black Preachers Speak on Behalf of Children, Children's Defense Fund, Washington, D.C. 1992

Hoots, Allegra S., Prayers for Our Children, Children's Defense Fund, Washington, DC 1992