

## **Biography of Rev. Dr. Dara Cobb Lewis**

Rev. Dr. Dara Cobb Lewis is the daughter of Revs. Joseph and Susie Cobb. At age 15, she moved to Columbia, SC when her parents answered a call from God to begin a church in Columbia, SC. That same year, Rev. Dr. Cobb Lewis received a call from God to ministry. During this time, she served as president of the Christian Youth Fellowship of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in South Carolina. She later served as co-advisor for the Christian Youth Fellowship. She graduated from the University of South Carolina where she received a Bachelor's of Arts degree in History. Five years after college while working as a Bodily Injury Claims Adjuster for Allstate Insurance Company, she finally answered her call to ministry.

Rev. Dr. Cobb Lewis received a Master of Divinity Degree from Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky, where she served as president of the Pan-African Caucus. She also served on The Council of Theological Students of the Common Global Ministries Board. She served as a police chaplain intern for the New Orleans Police Department in New Orleans, Louisiana. She was selected to do a Special Project through Reconciliation Ministries of the Disciples of Christ. Through this Special Project, she served as Assistant Minister of University Christian Church in Hyattsville, Maryland working to help the multiracial congregation deal with issues around racial unity.

Rev. Dr. Cobb Lewis was ordained in June 2003. At that time she was commissioned a missionary to Botswana in Southern Africa. In addition, she has participated in short-term mission trips to South Africa, Haiti, Kenya, and Jamaica. She has also led mission trips to several different states in the U. S.

By God's grace, Rev. Cobb Lewis has pastored or served as associate pastor at several congregations in North Carolina and Missouri. In addition to leading worship, she also created, organized, and led opportunities for children, youth and adults to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith; identified and organized mission and outreach opportunities to help meet the needs of our community; led retreats; and found creative ways to attract people to the Christian faith and congregational life.

Rev. Dr. Cobb Lewis has several on many community and religious boards over the last 15 years. Currently she serves on the Global Ministry board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ where she helps decide on global personnel to serve overseas. She also serves on the board of Christmount in Black Mountain, NC helping to envision and plan for transformative ministry for the camp, conference and retreat center. Rev. Dr. Cobb Lewis also serves on the leadership team of Bethany Fellows, an organization which helps young clergy persons learn best practices for their spiritual and ministerial well-being.

Currently Rev. Dr. Dara Cobb Lewis, who received her Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, serves as a pastoral counselor and spiritual director based in Mt. Holly, NC. Through her ministry, The Devoted Life, she finds great joy in helping others find shalom (the peace and wholeness that God has in store for each of us). As a North Carolina Certified Practicing Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Dr. Cobb Lewis serves clients by taking an integrative approach using the behavioral sciences combined with spirituality, theology and the person's religious experience to work towards health and wholeness. Also through serving as a spiritual director, she participates in an ancient practice of accompanying another on his or her quest to a deeper relationship with God. This involves holy listening, often quietness, sometimes laughter, other times tears and an opportunity to grow and deepen one's spiritual life and attunement to God.

Rev. Dr. Cobb Lewis is married to Michael Lewis. Together they have 5 children.