

FAITH JOURNEY

By Olive Mahabir

I was born and raised on the island of Trinidad and Tobago in the late 70s. My ancestry can be traced from India, when in the 1800s my ancestors left to work as indentured laborers in Trinidad. I am a fourth generation Presbyterian, and served the Presbyterian Church in Trinidad for five years as a full-time commissioned leader. During that time, I began feeling a sense of calling to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. However, I also met my future husband at that time, and plans for marriage meant that I would have to emigrate from Trinidad to the United States. After arriving in Cleveland, OH (where my husband resided), my call to ordained ministry grew stronger, and one year after marriage, I enrolled in Seminary in Atlanta. That year I also began the ordination process in the Presbyterian Church USA.

I was ordained in 2009, by the Presbytery of Western Reserve and the Maumee Valley Presbytery. Since my ordination, I have served as pastor in rural, urban, and suburban churches, and seminary staff. My areas of interest are pastoral care, adult spiritual growth, and facilitating bible study. I have also completed the Master of Sacred Theology, and the Doctor of Ministry.

A recent edition of *Synesis* an online publication of Vanderbilt University captures the essence of my theological perspective, it says: "The Bible explains that Jesus died and resurrected not only to save each individual, but to usher in a new kingdom, to restore what has been broken: society, politics, ethics, and culture. The Christian understanding of this future kingdom is much more than a golden city of harps and angels, or even the absence of pain and suffering. The Bible promises a kingdom with complete human flourishing, rooted in the perfect union between and among God and people."

My accomplishments in ministry were possible through the support of my husband Carl, who I have been married to for the past twenty years. We have a blended family of two adult children and a 6th grader. We also have three adorable grandchildren Michael 4, and twin grand daughters Layla and Selena (1 year old).