

Pastoral Greeting



Dear Le Mars Family,

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who called us to this ministry of serving the church and the world. First of all, my family and I would like to thank our Almighty God for giving us this opportunity to be part of the Le Mars community. We would also like to thank our Bishop Trimble and the cabinet for this appointment, Rev. John and Julie Battern for preparing us all to a smooth leadership transition, and the United Methodist Church of Le Mars for your warm welcome and

hospitality.

Friends, I am Rev. Dr. Okitakoyi “Michel” Lundula; you can call me Pastor Lundula. I am an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. My wife Berth Lundula and I are originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo in the central part of Africa; we have four children: John (9), Nancy (7), Benjamin (4) and Lucie (2). I graduated from Africa University in Mutare/Zimbabwe with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 2005 before I attended Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois where I graduated in 2008 with a Master of Divinity and then in 2013 with a Doctor of Ministry. Prior coming to Le Mars, we served the community of Nashua United Methodist Church in Nashua, IA and Republic Community Church in Ionia, IA (2008-2014), and then the Community of St. Luke’s UMC in Dubuque, IA from 2014-2016. Today we feel blessed to serve our Lord Jesus Christ and be part of your spiritual journeys.

Perhaps more than everyone else, pastors are given special permission to walk beside, hand in hand, step by step with God’s people in their different moments of life. We consider our presence among you as an opportunity to build the Body of Christ, strengthen our connection, pray for one another, celebrate with those who celebrate, cry with those who cry and continue experiencing God’s grace together.

Brothers and sisters, much has been accomplished through the years under the leadership of those who served you before me, I still believe that through the power of God’s Spirit and your support, much more will be accomplished in the future. Let us all get on board and continue our journey of faith together, considering each other as a divine blessing in the Body of Christ. We thank you all for your love and we look forward to seeing you and to continue experiencing God’s grace and love in our worship services and different ministries of our church.

Your Brother in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Okitakoyi “Michel” Lundula