

Dave Rochford

Lead Pastor

A native of Fairfax County VA, Dave grew up in a small cabin in the woods of Oakton, with no air conditioning and one overtaxed outlet per room. (That cabin and those woods are now long-gone!) Dave studied history at Davidson College (Davidson NC), and obtained an MA in Latin American Studies from The University of Texas (Austin) in 1992. He worked in international business development and regulatory policy for the company now called Verizon for several years, before marrying his college sweetheart, Lisa Gerrard, in 1994 and moving to South Dakota to serve as houseparents at a school for special needs Lakota (Sioux) children.

Following that sojourn, the Rochfords returned to NC to begin graduate work. Dave graduated from the Divinity School of Duke University (Durham NC) in 1999 and received his first appointment in the Virginia Conference at Brosville UMC (Pittsylvania County, Southside VA). In 2002, he was sent to serve as Associate at Williamsburg UMC, and later appointed to St. Mark's UMC (Daleville VA) in the Roanoke District. In 2013, Bishop Cho named him Superintendent for the Staunton District, to administer 82 churches in the Shenandoah Valley and Allegheny Highlands.

Dave began ministry at Williamsburg UMC (again!) in July 2020, deeply grateful to be part of the pastoral and staff teams here. His wife Lisa is a child psychologist who hails from the metropolis of Marshville NC. The Rochfords' sons are Ben, a 2nd year Computer Science student at Georgia Tech; Jon, a Junior at Lafayette HS; and Alden, who begins Preschool at Matthew Whaley ES.

The Rochfords love hiking, camping, and kayaking – but struggle with the lure of the indoors, with all its digital enticements for the young!