

## Guillermo Márquez-Sterling



Guillermo has been an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ since 1997. As the youngest son of Cuban immigrants, Guillermo grew up in Puerto Rico. He joined the U.S. Navy upon graduating from high school and received an honorable discharge after six years of service.

His educational journey has earned him four degrees: a Bachelor of Arts in English (1987) and a Master of Public Administration (2007) from Florida International University, a Master of Divinity (1997) from the South Florida Center for Theological Studies, and a Doctorate in Ministry (2011) from Chicago Theological Seminary.

During his undergraduate years he held a variety of odd jobs: Line cook at a restaurant, truck loader for UPS; salesman for a children's retail store. But it was his time as a public-school teacher (1987 – 1995) where a critical foundation for the ministry was formed.

For the last twenty-six years, as Pastor and Associate Pastor, Guillermo has overseen several ministries: Care Givers, Community Building, Environmental Justice, Economic Justice, Palestinian Justice, Racial Justice, Adult Mission Trips and Spanish Language Worship. He's also served as the supervising pastor for Youth Ministry, Community Weddings and the maintenance staff. He currently serves as the Lead Pastor for a church in transition.

Over the years he has contributed articles to journals and periodicals. He is the published author of the novel *Crossing Into the Land of Saints* (2007), *Rise of the Spiritual Activist: A Beginner's Guide for Integrating Faith and Justice* (2012), and most recently a trilogy about Central American children seeking refuge at the US border: *Praying for an Eclipse – Mother Moon* (2017), *Father Sun* (2018) and *The Eclipse* (2019). His latest book, *Killing the Butterfly* (2023), is in the hopeful stage of being accepted for publication.

His main love is Maria, his wife of thirty-seven years. Together they have three grown children, two dogs, and an extended group of family and friends. She gives meaning to every endeavor of his life. They love the theatre, the beach, hiking, kayaking, and building bonfires. They look forward to the exciting challenge of relocating to a new community and becoming active members of a progressive church.



**A message from the Co-Chairs of the CRR Search Committee:**



It is with great pleasure that the Search Committee presents Rev.Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling as our nominee for Senior Pastor at Church of the Red Rocks. Since our election in October 2023, the Search Committee, building on the work of the Transition Team, has diligently and prayerfully worked on behalf of the congregation to find the individual that God would have us call to lead CRR into the future. We developed a comprehensive list of qualifications and qualities, using your input, desired in our next Pastor.

We received 16 applications and prayerfully reviewed each one. In some cases we conducted Zoom interviews. We then invited our final candidate to visit us in person for 3 days. We have unanimously concluded that the Rev.Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling tops the list. He checks all the boxes. He has a deep faith, great intellect, constructive perspective, positive energy, and a discerning outlook to lead and help strengthen and grow our church from our current great foundation.

We offer our gratitude to the congregation for your prayers and support and the U.C.C. Southwest Conference Staff for their guidance throughout this process. Sara Crosby-Hartman and Gene Moore

**Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márquez-Sterling is exciting to me as Candidate for our next settled pastor because:**

I find Guillermo's warmth and readiness to listen to be important strengths he will bring to us as our Settled Pastor. He likes people and is a calm and engaging presence, inviting others into conversation and relationship. *Margaret Gramley*



Pastor G possesses a full array of ministerial talents with a priority on people. He is extremely likeable and has an ecumenical viewpoint. *A.J. Cook*

Our Lord and God sent an Angel to The Church of the Red Rocks. His name is Rev. Dr. Guillermo Márques-Sterling. Let's thank God with our Hearts, Kindness, and Service. *Wendell VerPloeg*



Guillermo shared his deep understanding of hearing and responding to the presence of God in his life and the life of the church. His deep spirituality, relational nature, attentiveness, creativity, loyalty and life experiences created an overwhelming excitement within the Search Team, which was reciprocated when we met in person. Thank you God for hearing our prayers. *Sara Johnson*

Guillermo Márquez-Sterling cares deeply about the people he serves, extending God's love to all. He delivers interesting and inspiring sermons, is a published author, has an intense sense of social justice, and to top it off, has a great sense of humor. *Karen Barrow*



His energy and enthusiasm are contagious. He is very motivated by his call to ministry. He is willing to engage in life on all levels. He has passion for justice and peace. *Pam Stabenfeldt*

Guillermo is a dynamite candidate and his wife Maria is a real joy! *Lawrence Byrd*

