

**Mark David La Branche**  
*curriculum vitae*

**Education**

**Doctor of Ministry, Boston University School of Theology** (1995) Boston, Massachusetts

**Master of Divinity, Emory University, Candler School of Theology** (1987) Atlanta, Georgia

Bachelor of Arts with major area of study in Philosophy, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL (1984)

Certificate in Respiratory Therapy Studies – Pensacola Junior College, Pensacola, FL (1979)

**Professional Experience**

**Martin Methodist College, Pulaski, TN**

July 1, 2017 – present: **President**

- Serving as Chief Executive Officer of the College

**Louisburg College, Louisburg, NC**

January 1, 2009 – June 30, 2017: **President**

- Serving as Chief Executive Officer of the College

Selected Accomplishments of College during tenure:

- Successfully lead Louisburg College from final year of accreditation probation to reaffirmation in December of 2009.
- Completed more than 10 million dollars in deferred maintenance, renovations, and additions over the past 8 years.
- Enrollment grew more than 20% over fall 2008 number.
- Number of graduates has increased by 58% over last five years.
- Fall to Fall retention has increased by 10% over past seven years.
- Secured USDA Rural Development direct financing to repurchase three residence halls.
- Secured 2.25 million Title III Grant.
- Established The Tar River Center for Culture and History as a partnership with town and county.
- Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning created.
- College received its 10 year reaffirmation of accreditation with no recommendations in June of 2016.

- Completed the 15 million dollar Great Futures Campaign goal more than a year early and exceeded the goal by more than 3 million dollars by the five –year end of the campaign.

## **Huntingdon College. Montgomery Alabama – 2002- 2009**

### **2007 – 2009: Senior Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer, Dean of Ligon Chapel**

- Serve as senior officer of the College with shared responsibility over institutional management and budget.
- Serve as chief administrator for the Institutional Advancement area of the College with direct responsibility for: Governmental and Church Relations, Planned Giving, Major Gifts, Grants, and Campaign giving.
- Supervise office of Communications and Marketing
- Supervise the development and implementation of strategic plan
- Serve as **Dean of Ligon Chapel**, with responsibility for supervising and developing the Bishop Paul A. Duffey Institute for Church Leadership.
- Oversee religious life and supervise College Chaplain

### **2003 – 2007: Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Church Relations, Dean of Ligon Chapel**

#### Position responsibilities:

- Serve as senior officer of the College with shared responsibility over institutional management and budget.
- Serve as chief administrator for the Institutional Advancement area of the College with direct responsibility for: Governmental and Church Relations, Planned Giving, Major Gifts, Grants, and Campaign giving.
- Supervise and develop the Paul A. Duffey Institute for Church Leadership
- Oversee religious life and supervise College Chaplain

### **August 2002 – December 2003: Dir. of Church Relations /College Chaplain Position** responsibilities:

- Reestablish and direct Campus Ministry Program.
- Renew, maintain, and develop the relationship between the College and The United Methodist Church.
- Serve as a senior officer of the college with shared responsibility over institutional management and budget.

## **Teaching Experience**

- Liberal Arts Symposium Instructor – Huntingdon College – 2003/2004
- Adjunct Faculty - School for Professional Studies – Huntingdon College – 2003/2004
- Instructor – Emory University, Candler School of Theology Course of Study – 2002- 2008

## **Selected Presentation Participation**

- “At the Crossroads of Teaching and Learning: Pathways to Engagement  
2016 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Annual Meeting – Atlanta
- “A Strategic Planning Process that Revitalizes Accreditation to Add Value”  
2015 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Annual Meeting – Houston
- “A Healthy Strategic Plan: Monitoring its Vital Signs”  
2014 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Annual Meeting - Nashville

## **Additional Professional Experience**

**Pastor – St. Mark United Methodist Church** – Montgomery, AL (1994 – 2002) Appointed to serve this mid-sized congregation, which grew from less than 200 members to close to 300 members.

**Associate Pastor – Montgomery First United Methodist Church**, Alabama, (1991-94)

Primary responsibilities included pastoral care, missions, church and society, adult education, and worship at this 3,000 member church.

**Associate Pastor – Pensacola First United Methodist Church**, Pensacola, FL (1987-91)

Primary responsibilities included pastoral care, missions, church and society, adult education and worship at this church of over 2,000 members.

**Student Local Pastor – Seale/ Alexandria United Methodist Church**, Alabama (1984-87)

Appointed to serve the Seale - Alexandria Charge while attending seminary at Emory University.

**Respiratory Therapist** – Neonatal Nursery – University of South Alabama Medical Center, Mobile, AL (1980-84)

**Respiratory Therapist.** – Sacred Heart Hospital, Pensacola, FL (1979-84)

## **Public Service**

- Elected to the **Montgomery County Board Of Education, District 2**, November 1999.
- Sworn into office in January 2000. Part of the governance team for a large, urban school system serving 32,456 students, and providing oversight to 4,500 employees and a 245 million dollar budget.
- Elected unanimously in 2005 to the role of **President of the Montgomery County Board of Education.**
- Served on the Federal Relations Network of the National School Board Associations, lobbying Alabama Senators and Congressman concerning issues that effect K-12 public education.
- Served on the Alabama School Board Association Member Academy Committee.

## Community Service

### **Board of Directors ZOE Helps – 2015 – present**

- National board of orphan empowerment ministry in India, South America, and Africa.

### **Pulaski Rotary Club – 2017 - present**

### **Louisburg Lions Club – 2009 – 2017**

- President 2011-2012

### **Franklin County United Way**

- Board Member – 2009-2015
- Campaign Chair – 2009
- President elect 2017

### **Franklin County Regional Medical Center**

- Board Member – 2013 – 2016
- **Montgomery Rotary Club Member – 2003 -2009**  
Program Chair

### **Montgomery Habitat for Humanity**

- Began serving on the Board in 1992. Elected **President** in 1994.

### **Family Sunshine Center**

- Elected to the board of the Family Sunshine Center, a domestic abuse prevention and shelter program serving nine counties, with a budget of over 2 million dollars, in 1994.
- Elected **board president** in 1999.

### **Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy**

- Co-founded and served as Chair of the Board of Directors
- Founded in 1999, the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy is a nonprofit, nonpartisan initiative. Our mission is to reduce teen pregnancy by serving as a catalyst for the development and implementation of community efforts, thereby, improving the physical, mental, emotional, and socioeconomic wellbeing of children, families, and communities in Alabama.

### **Montgomery Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy**

- Co-founded and served as Co-Chair of the Board of Directors.
- The Campaign is now a project of the Gift of Life Foundation, a provider of managed maternity care.

## Church Service

### **Alabama /West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church Involvement**

### **Chair of the Montgomery/Opelika District Committee on Ordained Ministry – 1998-2006**

- Led committee in the oversight of the local pastors and candidates for ordained ministry

### **Member of the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry – 2000 - 2006 •**

Participated in the review and evaluation of candidates for ordained ministry.

- Served on the Doctrine and Theology Committee.

### **Chair of the Conference Committee on Petitions and Resolutions - 1996 – 2004**

- Evaluated petitions and resolutions submitted for presentation and vote at Annual Conference.
- Worked with committee to recommend concurrence or non-concurrence to the Annual Conference delegates.
- Facilitated discussion on conference floor, managing controversial debate in order to achieve reasoned outcome.

### **Chair of Alabama-West Florida Russia Initiative - 1991-1996**

- Promoted and organized the Annual Conference mission initiative in Russia.
- Led two Annual Conference mission teams to Serpukov, Russia in 1994 and 1995. Trips were designed to establish relationships with the Russian people, to provide humanitarian aid, and to support the development of the United Methodist Church in Russia.
- Promoted an Annual Conference offering for the establishment for a United Methodist seminary in Moscow.
- Founding member of the board of Russian Resource Press, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to fund the translation and publication of seminal United Methodist works for use by the church in Russia.

### **Selection of Awards and Honors**

- News and Observer Tar Heel of the Week March 2015
- Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year 2014
- The Mary Mildred Sullivan Award – The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation 2007
- Alabama PTA Distinguished Service Award 2006
- Leadership Alabama Class of 2004 – 2005
- Leadership Montgomery Class of 2000 – 2001
- Family Sunshine Center Estelle Popkin Volunteer of the Year Award
- Neighbors Who Care Servant Leadership Award – 1998, 1999
- Neighbors Who Care Good Samaritan Award – Presented in recognition of outstanding service to victims of crime
- Nominated Volunteer of the Year for Montgomery County
- Eagle Scout

### **Professional Organizations**

Member of NASCUM

Member of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities

Member of the University Senate of the United Methodist Church

## **Personal Information**

- Born: Derby, Connecticut
- Married to Mona Maxwell La Branche
- Two children: Emily and Robert, and three grandchildren.

## **Additional Experience**

- Instructor: The Spiritual Dimensions of Domestic Violence: teaching seminars at local and State level conferences and training sessions.
- Instructor: United Methodist Women Conference Mission Schools: Topic: Global Economy and Topic: Europe
- United Methodist Volunteers in Mission team leader to the following locations: Mandeville, Jamaica – 1988, 1989, 1990, 1998  
San Jose, Costa Rica – 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004  
Serpukov, Russia – 1994, 1995
- Member of ZOE Mission Team to Rwanda – August 2015
- Leader of ZOE Mission Team to Rwanda – July 2016