

## Biography

**I am Lourdes Magalhaes. I was born in Brazil in a Christian Ecumenical family; my mother was Methodist and my father was Roman Catholic. I have 4 brothers and an adopted sister. My parents and oldest brother are already with the Lord. We were all brought up in the Methodist Church, but one of my brother became a Presbyterian pastor, and today he is the Presbyterian Mission Agency Executive Secretary for Brazil.**



**I was called to serve when I was 15, I worked in a Sunday School project in a "Favela" – a shantytown near a city, like a slum area, or gutter; it is a low-income informal urban area. In these places, many people had left rural areas and had moved to cities. Unable to find places to live, many people found themselves in "Favelas". I had the opportunity to minister to, work with, and teach about Jesus Christ to many of these impoverished people.**

**I studied English in London, UK. Listening to the Lord, I went to Redcliff College and studied Cross-Cultural Communication. Back to Brazil, I graduated in Languages and Literature, and also Theological Studies at the Methodist University in São Paulo. I came to the US as a General Board of Global Ministry missionary of the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry, serving in Harrison, NJ to lead and pastor a Brazilian Ministry.**

**My experience were in many different kinds of ministry: Children's ministry, Youth ministry adviser for the District, Urban local churches and also worship leader. In Rio de Janeiro, I participated in a street kid's project. While in London, I helped in a Single Mothers Shelter House, fruit of fathers or stepfather's rape. Another experience I had there was working as an immigrant outreach ministry leader.**

**My vision of ministry is somehow different from what scholar's debate nowadays. I am an inclusive and committed pastor to make a difference in the society we live in today. I believe we are all eternal learners. Anyone can be a part and learn to serve in the life of the church as disciples of our Lord. Also as an educator I see Jesus the master always teaching and**

**allowing children, youth, adults and elderly of all cultures and languages to be part of his mission today. Christ centered - that is my vision of ministry. Also, I am continuously inspired by the leadership of John Wesley, who started a *movement*. We are all called to be part of that movement today, to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to build the church inside and out in our community.**

**The personal gifts I have are to preach, to lead Bible study, to do pastoral care for people in the hospital, nursing homes, schools, and others. One of the great needs nowadays is youth emotional care as they deal with suicide among friends and even in church due to bullying, loneliness, competitiveness, the cult of beauty, the love for money and the hunger for attention from the adults, which lead to a healthy relationship. What a beautiful transformation it is when we understand that this is exactly why Jesus came to do in the world; to teach us to have relationships with God and with one another.**

**The pastoral abilities that the Lord has given me are to listen to people, to speak several languages (Portuguese, English and Spanish), to teach and to engage with multi-ethnic and multi-generational people, building a strong Christian family that cares for each other as we grow as disciples of the Lord. Also, my best ability is to dialogue in the multi-cultural setting, helping all cultures and languages learn how to interact, to be inclusive and accept all children of God's creation.**

**My pastoral leadership style is to promote and prepare the next generation for witnessing and commitment to Jesus Christ. My great inspiration for this comes from the apostle Paul; he had a vision and expertise for forming new congregations in many places, and was a missional strategist centered on Christ Jesus. He prepared young people for leadership (Timothy, Philemon, Onesimus, Silas, the young couple Priscilla and Aquila), encouraging, counseling, teaching, leading and sending them to make new disciples for Jesus Christ.**

**I am looking forward to a new opportunity to serve the Lord in a new environment. Thank you for having me here today and I hope the signs we see in each other will give us an answer to what is the Lord's will for our ministry together at Wesley UMC.**