



Rev. Dr. Christopher K. Ponnuraj has been part of the UCC family for over 25 years. As of April 2021, he retired from serving as a Minister to the historical Landmark church located in Bronx NY – The Bedford Park Congregational Church, UCC. This church has been a center of the community since 1889. During his tenure at the Bedford Park Congregational Church, he guided the church in its process of gaining NYC Landmark status; took up a massive project to renovate the church to its original exterior luster along with a new roof; and also installed a new electronic organ. Rev. Chris also spends time providing spiritual guidance, operational support and mentorship to several young leaders and ministers.

Since 2008 Rev. Chris serves as a Board-Certified Chaplain (Association of Professional Chaplains) at the Calvary Hospital in the Bronx, New York. In addition to his time at church and hospital, he currently serves as a member of Committee on Ministry in the Metropolitan Association, New York Conference.

In 2004, Rev. Chris completed Doctor of Ministry from New York Theological Seminary. From April 2004 to April 2008 he served as Registrar, Metropolitan Association. Rev. Chris is an active member of Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries in UCC (PAAM) and served as Secretary (2006 to 2010), Vice Moderator (2010 to 2012) and Moderator (2012 to 2014). Rev. Chris served as a Board member of Office of General Ministries and Co-Moderator of Council for Racial and Ethnic Minorities - UCC (2010 – 2012). He also served as a member of Community Board 7 in the Borough of Bronx, City of New York (2006 - 2008).

In November 1994 Rev. Chris and his family immigrated to New York City from Bangalore, India at the invitation of The Christhava Tamil Koil UCC (CTK). The UCC Metropolitan Association of New York Conference granted him Dual Ministerial standing in January 1995, based on his Theological education in India, and was ordained in June 1991 by Karnataka Central Diocese, Bangalore (Church of South India). Rev. Chris received Full Ministerial standing from the Metropolitan Association of New York Conference in June 2006.

Prior to his ministry in the United States, Rev. Chris has his foundation in church ministry as a Sunday school teacher and as a youth leader at St. Matthew's Church, Bangalore to finally be an ordained clergy. He aims to provide pastoral care to young leaders, to members at church and comfort to the patients and family at Calvary Hospital.

In his free time, he plays violin and enjoys rooting for the NY sports teams (Go Knicks and Yankees!). Rev. Chris is married to Mrs. Vatsala C. Ponnuraj for 42 years and is blessed with one son Mr. Youngren Ponnuraj.