Dr. Ronald J. Fowler | Pastor Laureate

Dr. Ronald J. Fowler is the Pastor Laureate of Arlington Church of God in Akron, Ohio. He has held the position of Senior Pastor for 42 years. The Arlington Church of God Parish has a membership of approximately 1,100.

Dr. Fowler is the eighth of ten children born to Robert L. and Susie Bell Fowler. At age eleven, his family moved to Akron where his father became the pastor of the Robert Street Church of God. His remaining school years were spent at Robinson Elementary School and later at East High School where he received his diploma in June 1954.

With the aid of a football scholarship to Kent State University, he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Education in June 1959, having majored in Physical Education and a minor in Industrial Arts. It was during that time that he made the most important decision of his life: to accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

After graduating from Kent State University in June 1959, Dr. Fowler was drafted into the United States Army. He served two years in the military as a veterinarian food instructor. He received an honorable discharge in December 1960. In the spring of 1961, he became engaged to the one who would become his lifelong partner. In December of 1961, Ronald Joseph Fowler and Ella Le Joyce Sojourner were married at their home congregation by the late Reverend Robert L. Fowler. This union was blessed with three children, Cynthia DeAnne Fowler-Starks (current Supervisor of the Grant Wound Care Unit., Columbus, Ohio), Christine Denise Fowler-Mack (Chief of New & Innovative Schools and Programs., Cleveland Metropolitan School District, Cleveland, Ohio) and Ronald Joseph Fowler, II (Director of Technology at the Arlington Church of God., Akron, Ohio).

Reverend Fowler's career as a teacher began in the Detroit Public schools where he worked in the areas of Special Education and Physical Education. In obedience to God's call, Reverend Fowler and his family moved to Anderson, Indiana, in 1963. There, he attended Anderson College
School of Theology, presently Anderson University School of Theology. He graduated in June 1966, with a Master of Divinity Degree. Reverend Fowler went on to pursue Doctorate studies in Theology at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Other graduate studies included 30 plus hours toward a Master’s Degree in Education at Kent State University. He also participated in a post-graduate seminar course in Wholeness at the Jungian Institute in Zurich, Switzerland. Following his graduation from seminary, Reverend Fowler and family moved back to his hometown and home church to assist his ailing father. He assumed the position of Associate Pastor at the Robert Street Church of God. He was elected to the office of Pastor in December 1968, following his father’s retirement. He was installed as Pastor in January 1969.