

# REV. ZAC HEAD, MA

205-873-5095

zac.head@umcna.org

Tuscaloosa, AL

---

Fellow Members of the Bama Wesley Beloved Community,

## **“Be bold.”**

Days before graduation I looked down at the matted picture the folks at Trinity UMC had signed for me as a memento of my three years as their youth pastor. All the usual sentiments were there. “Good luck!” “We love you!” “Wear pants under your graduation robe!” You know, the normal stuff. Two words next to a signature caught my eye. “Be bold. - Ken Smith.” Truth be told, bold wasn’t my style.

Four years earlier, Ken had found me in the TV room at Wesley eating my lunch from a Burke to-go box after I chickened out of eating alone in the dining hall on my first day of class. I was unsure, uneasy, and felt alone; certainly not bold. As a student at Wesley I was gently offered community, opportunities to serve, and something that felt an awful lot like home. I made lasting friendships, was spiritual and emotionally nurtured, and fell deeper in love with the woman I would marry. The constant embrace of a beloved community gave me the support I needed to take the first steps of my calling into pastoral ministry, with boldness.

My senior year I was thrilled to be invited to apply for one of the assistant director positions at Wesley. Days later the District Superintendent asked if I would instead be willing to take my first pastoral appointment; a two-point charge, with only a month to prepare. Without my Wesley community and their support, guidance, and promise of a safe place to land should I need to run back to UA for graduate school after failing at ministry, I’m not sure I could have made such a bold step in faith to embrace my call to vocational ministry so soon.

In my twelve years of pastoral ministry I have walked alongside and led congregations through seasons of collective joy and grief. I have learned what it means to cry with the suffering and rejoice with the flourishing in ways I could never have imagined when I accepted that first appointment. I have baptized babies and old folks, been present for addiction recovery, dreamed up new missions programs and worship opportunities with lay leaders, and led teams through difficult seasons of discernment and financial distress. I have been mentored, and have had the privilege of mentoring folks at the onset of new seasons in their faith journeys. Regardless of the season or the geographical context, time and again I have been reminded that the most important part of serving in the Body of Christ is building and nurturing relationships.

The Godhead exists in constant relationship, love swirling in, through, and around, connecting Creator, Christ, and Spirit, all the while pulling creation into the very life and work of the Godhead so that we might never truly be separable from God or one another. It is in community that God’s very existence is found, described, and embodied. So of course it is in communal relationships of beloved community that we find the presence of God in our lives, caring for our needs, offering opportunity to serve and care for others, nurturing our souls, and offering the

support to boldly follow our call to live lives of loving service in community with the Body of Christ for the reconciliation, redemption, and flourishing of all creation.

Bama Wesley has been a foundational presence in my beloved community for most of my life. I feel incredibly privileged to be invited to apply to walk alongside the Wesley Board in leading Bama Wesley into a new, exciting, life-giving season of ministry. Humbly, but boldly, I would like to briefly highlight a few aspects of my background and experience that I believe would be invaluable assets to Bama Wesley in the seasons to come.

The City of Tuscaloosa has been my home for twenty-four of the last twenty-six years. I have been enmeshed with the developing cultural landscape of Tuscaloosa for my entire adult life. During this time, I have formed relationships with laity and clergy from each of the local United Methodist Churches in the county. I have served pastorally at four local churches in Tuscaloosa, have served as a guest preacher at three others, and volunteered with almost every UMC congregation in the area. During the season of disaffiliation and schism, I helped maintain relationships between local churches in our area and spoke out as an affirming voice for the UMC. During my time in Tuscaloosa, I have been almost constantly involved with the ministry at the Wesley Foundation at some level. I believe the relationships that I have with Wesley Foundation alumni from the past twenty-six years, members of the Tuscaloosa community, members of the UA community, and surrounding local church communities will be extremely advantageous to continuing to build relationships with community partners, stakeholders, and sponsors as we connect students with opportunities to serve and grow and ensure the beloved community of Bama Wesley will be available to students for years to come.

I am honored to be considered to help lead this beloved community, to steward the holy ground which has become home to so many, and to follow in the footsteps of those who invested in me and thousands of others to nurture the love of God and neighbor, to help link faith and future vocation across industries and fields, and to teach us to be bold in our steps to live out the gospel wherever we go. As I consider those two words once again and submit to the opportunity to “be bold”, I am filled with hope. I have the utmost faith that the leadership of Bama Wesley, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, will choose the pastor our beloved community needs, whose voice will offer reassurance of belonging, worthiness, and the encouragement to be bold.

Thank you for your consideration.

Humbly, but boldly,  
Rev. Zac Head

---

**REV. ZAC HEAD, MA**

**205-873-5095**

**zac.head@umcna.org**

**Tuscaloosa, AL**

# REV. ZAC HEAD, MA

205-873-5095

zac.head@umcna.org

Tuscaloosa, AL

---

## MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS

**Licensed Local Pastor**  
North Alabama Annual  
Conference of the  
United Methodist Church

---

## EDUCATION

**MA**  
**Theological Studies**  
*2019*  
Asbury Theological Seminary

**BA**  
**Communication Studies**  
*2014*  
The University of Alabama

---

## CORE MINISTRY STRENGTHS

Student & Young Adult Discipleship  
Lay Leadership Development  
Volunteer & Intern Leadership  
Inclusive Ministry Design  
Program & Curriculum Development  
Community Partnerships  
Digital Communication Strategy

---

## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Licensed Local Pastor and ministry leader experienced in cultivating discipleship communities rooted in belonging, service, and theological engagement. Known for developing innovative and inclusive worship environments, equipping lay leaders, and building collaborative ministry partnerships across congregations. Brings additional strengths in communication strategy, creative collaboration, and organizational leadership.

---

## MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

**Associate Pastor of Worship and Discipleship**  
Forest Lake United Methodist Church - Tuscaloosa, AL  
*2019–Present*

- Develops innovative worship experiences incorporating hands-on mission engagement as weekly acts of worship
- Designs inclusive discipleship environments serving individuals with diverse physical and intellectual abilities
- Coordinates volunteers and ministry interns
- Creates worship series curriculum, graphics, and formation resources
- Teaches courses in Biblical criticism, spiritual formation, and contemporary theology

**Pastor**  
St. Paul United Methodist Church - Tuscaloosa, AL  
*2024–Present*

- Develops consistent online worship experiences for an aging congregation
  - Facilitates cross-cultural worship partnerships
- 

# REV. ZAC HEAD, MA

205-873-5095

zac.head@umcna.org

Tuscaloosa, AL

## MINISTRY VISION

Believes discipleship is most deeply formed through belonging, service, and opportunities for young adults to lead meaningful ministry initiatives in campus and community contexts in direct connection and partnership with local church congregations.

---

## KEY WESLEY MILESTONES

### 2001

My Dad was appointed to serve as Pastor at Trinity UMC, he and Ken Smith served as one another's de facto associate pastors. For the next six years I got to be the kid hanging around the Wesley building, eating Mrs. Simmons's rolls, cheering on the intramural softball teams, and watching TV with the students after common meal.

### 2009

I arrived for my first day of freshman year at UA. My first stop on campus was Burke dining hall. I grabbed a to-go box of pizza and promptly walked across the street to eat in the Wesley TV room. The next several years were spent living in constant community with my fellow Wesley students and staff.

### 2011

April 27th, minutes after a tornado destroyed parts of Tuscaloosa and the surrounding area, I walked through the damage from my apartment to Wesley to find my people. We cared for one another and immediately went out to help in the community the next day.

### 2014

I graduated from UA, took my first pastoral appointment, joined the Wesley Board, and invited everyone at Wesley to my wedding. They came for the free BBQ and cake.

## MINISTRY EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

### Pastor

Union Chapel United Methodist Church - Northport, AL  
2017–2019

- Launched Celebrate Recovery ministry leading to Denman Evangelism Award nomination
- Built collaborative partnerships with neighboring congregations

### Pastor

Crews UMC & Mt. Hebron UMC - Sulligent, AL  
2014–2017

- Increased community engagement through outreach programming and nursing home worship

### Youth Pastor

Trinity United Methodist Church - Tuscaloosa, AL  
2011–2014

- Led cooperative youth ministry across three congregations
- Recruited Wesley Foundation students to lead worship and ministry activities

---

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Software Scientist

Center for Advanced Public Safety  
The University of Alabama - Tuscaloosa, AL  
2021–Present

- Collaborates with branding, design, and development teams to produce strategic communications and digital platforms
- Develops branded web applications supporting public safety organizations

---

# REV. ZAC HEAD, MA

205-873-5095

zac.head@umcna.org

Tuscaloosa, AL