

The Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva – Rector (Biography)

Father Samuel became the Rector of Church of the Ascension on September 16, 2014. He previously served as the Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin; and Priest-in-Charge of Holy Family Episcopal Church in Angola, Indiana. As Rector, Father Samuel oversees and coordinates all activities related to the life and mission of Church of the Ascension.

Father Samuel was born in Rwanda, Africa, as the first-born child of a first generation Christian couple who raised him to love the church and all it offered. In 1984, Father Samuel had a spiritual awakening that led him to a greater awareness of God's love for humanity and the need to share that news with everyone who would listen. He soon became a free-lance evangelist and church planter leading many to the awareness of God's love for them and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of their lives. In 1988, he felt and responded to a call to ordained ministry which led to his ordination to the diaconate in 1992 and the priesthood in 1996. He has since served churches in Rwanda, Kenya, and the United States.

Father Samuel holds a Bachelor's degree in Bible, with minors in Christian Ministries and Community Development from Daystar University, Nairobi Kenya, and a Master's degree from the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Indiana, where he studied Theology and Ethics with an emphasis on Peace Studies. Beyond pastoral ministry, Father Samuel is interested in local and global issues such as poverty and conflict. He is the founder and president of Taraja Resource Network Inc., a small non-profit that is attempting to break the cycle of poverty in the African Great Lakes region through education, micro-enterprise, mentoring, and networking.

In his free time, Father Samuel loves to watch soccer. Having played the game from childhood, he is still able to kick a soccer ball around. He enjoyed coaching high school soccer during his time in Indiana and Wisconsin. Father Samuel is married to Marie Rose Nirere. They are blessed with four children, Amos, Emmanuel, Rachel, and Ruth, and a beautiful granddaughter, Keza and grandson, Elijah.