Daniel Pope is a former pastor in The United Methodist Church. He is a graduate of Auburn University (B. S., Chemistry), Jacksonville State University (M.P.A., Environmental Science Management), and Asbury Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and was ordained as an elder in The North Alabama Conference in 2013. Daniel served as a pastor for 10 years with past appointments including Asbury UMC (Albertville), Lester Memorial UMC, Crossville 1st UMC, Bellevue & Belcher’s Chapel UMCs.

Prior to conversion, Daniel was a chemist in Atlanta. “I’m not proud of the life I had before my conversion”, Daniel says, “and I do not wish to glorify it. I’m just so grateful that Jesus Christ found me and gave me His grace.” Daniel was saved at home in his room reading *The Gospel of John* in February 2005. He went public with his faith and joined his home church, East Gadsden United Methodist, on Palm Sunday, March 20, 2005. “My friends came from Atlanta and Nashville to celebrate with me. It was one of the best moments of my life!”

Four days later, Daniel was asked to help serve Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday. “I thought I can give out bread and juice as good as the next guy. When the time in the service came, I said the words and offered the sacrament. When I went and sat back in my pew, something of God happened to me. I guess you would say that I was baptized in the Holy Spirit. I had been looking for my purpose in life, and my purpose found me.” Daniel felt called to serve, and followed God’s prompting.

“I loved my time as pastor of United Methodist congregations. The relationships that I gained are an eternal blessing for me. Yet, more and more I felt like I wasn’t in the center of God’s will.” Daniel was appointed to a church in his hometown, but his vision for mission and ministry were not a fit there. “I want to reach those that no other church is reaching. As I say this, we’ve had 6 people shot in Gadsden in the last week. The medics are treating overdoses with narcan regularly. Lives and families and homes are being ruined by violence, by addiction, by pornography. The churches are failing the people of this community. I don’t know if we can make a difference, but we’re going to do our best, God helping us. This is why we have started The Branches Gadsden.”

Daniel enjoys going for long daily walks with his dog, Moses, and fishing. Daniel is fully alive in Christ by the sheer grace of God. He passionately follows Jesus seeking to bring glory to the LORD while encouraging and edifying people by teaching Kingdom truth.