



You Made a Difference

NIC Pension Initiative



"Difference Makers"

Pastor Ayla Samson

Lombard Faith UMC Pastor

Submitted by: Carolyn Smith

From the first time I met Pastor Ayla Samson five years ago, I felt a connection to her and my admiration and respect for her has continued to grow. Pastor Ayla has a spirit, that is infectious, a dedication and commitment to our Faith family and a gracious personality that invites collaboration of ideas and opinions. I had the opportunity to work with Pastor Ayla on planning church social events and activities and always felt welcome to share my viewpoint and knew she would listen and the end result would be better because we worked together. Recently, a dear friend of our church who lived out of state, passed away and I called Pastor Ayla from my car to let her know of his passing. She had not met this person but immediately said she would like to pray with me. Her words were comforting and really touched my heart. That was the most compassionate and heartfelt prayer I have ever been blessed to hear. Our church created a memory book for our deceased friend, and Pastor Ayla wrote a loving letter to his family that was included in the book. Pastor Ayla has many gifts and continues to share those gifts freely with each of us. She is a gifted artist who painted a beautiful picture for me to feature in a program I was giving for a philanthropic organization of which I am a member. As busy as she was, she made time to create a lasting tribute to our organization because she felt our purpose of promoting education for women should be encouraged. One of Pastor Ayla's greatest qualities is her ability to encourage and lift up a person's contribution, talents, dedication to a committee, task, project or mission. She put the spotlight on others and not herself. I have to say, no other pastor has touched my soul as Pastor Ayla has. She will forever be in my heart. God's speed.

With gratitude and love, Carolyn Smith