

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

Rev. Dr. Traci deVon Blackmon



Rev. Traci Blackmon's life calling is to serve God and the church in ways that encourages us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly in fellowship with all believers.

She is grateful to live out this calling as Acting Executive Minister of Justice & Witness Ministries for The United Church of Christ and as Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ in Florissant, MO.

Initially ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Blackmon served in various ministry capacities for 9 years, prior to becoming the 18th installed and first woman pastor in the 159 year history of Christ The King United Church of Christ. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Birmingham - Southern College (1985), a Master of Divinity degree (2009), and an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary.

As pastor, Rev. Blackmon leads Christ The King in an expanded understanding of church as a sacred launching pad of community engagement and change. This expanded ethos has led to a tripling of both membership and worship attendance over the last six years, expanding membership engagement opportunities, and the establishment of community outreach programs. The outreach programs include a computer lab, tutoring, continuing education classes, summer programming, and a girls' mentoring program all housed in the church.

Regionally, Rev. Blackmon's signature initiatives include Healthy Mind, Body, and Spirit, a faith-based outreach program designed to impact health outcomes in impoverished areas. ***Sacred Conversations on Solomon's Porch***, quarterly clergy in-services designed to equip local clergy to assess physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health concerns within congregations. ***Sista SOS Summit***, an intergenerational health symposium for women and girls, and ***Souls to the Polls STL***, an ecumenical, multi-faith collaborative that was successful in providing over 2,800 additional rides to the polls during elections.

Rev. Blackmon was appointed to the Ferguson Commission by Missouri Governor Jay Nixon and co-chaired the Municipal Governance and Court Reform workgroup. Her work has gained her many audiences inclusive of both the Vatican and the White House. An internationally sought speaker and certified diversity trainer, Rev. Blackmon is a graduate of Leadership St. Louis and has served on several local boards. Current board affiliations include Magdalene House St. Louis, The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Chicago Theological Seminary, and WomanPreach!.

Early and consistent response to racial tensions exposed after the killing of Michael Brown, Jr. in Ferguson, MO, earned Rev. Blackmon several awards and recognitions, inclusive of:

- The White House President's Volunteer Service Award
- The St. Louis American Stellar Award
- 2015 Ebony Magazine Power 100
- St. Louis University - Community Leader of the Year
- The Coalition of Black Trade Unionist - Drum Major Award
- NAACP - Rosa Parks Award
- The Urban League of St. Louis Woman in Leadership Award
- National Planned Parenthood Faith Leader Award
- The United Church of Christ - Antoinette Brown Award

Rev. Blackmon has been featured by many regional, national, and international media and print publications. She currently resides in both St. Louis, MO and Cleveland, OH and is the proud mother of three adult children: Kortni Devon; Harold II; and Tyler Wayne Blackmon.