



### Rev. Dr. R.E. Hedgeman, Senior Pastor Biographical Information

The Rev. Dr. R.E. Hedgeman is the esteemed Senior Pastor of Bethany Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She has served in this capacity through the preaching and teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ while upholding the mission of the church since 1997. She also provides spiritual oversight to guide the life and work of the church, general board, spiritual leaders, music ministry, and ministry leaders.

Under Dr. Hedgeman's more than 20 anointed years of service, Bethany Christian Church has strengthened its outreach through the Reach Out and Touch Ministry, a community advocacy ministry that assists homeless families in transition; adopted John Adams High School and Andrew J. Rickoff School; and delivered over 500 cases of water to Flint, Michigan. During her tenure, Bethany has also added a state-of-the-art administrative and educational wing to the architecture of the church in 2008 and retired a \$1.1 million mortgage in 2001.

Dr. Hedgeman has served the nonprofit community in various roles over the years. She served the Christian Church in a number of areas and traveled to and preached in Africa, Central America, and Korea. She also served as president of the Division of Overseas Ministry, president of the National Convocation, member of the National City Christian Church Foundation, and member of the Greenwood Cemetery Board of Trustees.

Prior to coming to Bethany Christian Church, Dr. Hedgeman served on the regional staff of the Christian Church in Ohio as Associate Regional Pastor. Her other pastoral work included Youth Minister at Twelfth Street Christian Church in Washington D.C., Student Associate Pastor of Third Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky during her seminary years, and Pastor of the Howett Street Christian Church in Peoria, Illinois. Dr. Hedgeman also taught courses in Black Studies at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois and was an Adjunct Professor at McCreary Center for African American Religious Studies.

Currently, Dr. Hedgeman serves the General Church of the Christian Church as a board member for the Center for Faith and Giving, director of the Church Extension Fund, and member of the Administration Committee of the Christian Church. She belongs to the United Pastors in Mission and is also an Adjunct Professor of Cultural Diversity at Case Western Reserve University.

Dr. Hedgeman earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from Towson State University in Towson, Maryland, a Master of Divinity degree from Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky, and a Doctor of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

She has received numerous awards, some of which include: 2016 Women of Vision Honoree, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Greater Cleveland Chapter; 2016 Outstanding in Ministry Award, City of Cleveland; 2014 Honoree, National Council of Negro Women of Western Reserve; 2013 Outstanding Afro-American Woman of the Year; 2012 Citizen of the Year, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges in both 1981 and 1988.

A native of Washington D.C., Dr. Hedgeman is a Boule member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Her great-great aunt, Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, was a founder of the organization.