

Rev. Traci Blackmon Bio

Rev. Blackmon's life work focuses on communal resistance to systemic injustice. She has spent the last two decades preaching and teaching a theology that consistently and unapologetically calls community to hear the cries of the suffering in the world. Prior to ordination, Rev. Blackmon served the community as a licensed registered nurse with an emphasis in critical care and community health. As part of this work she developed a mobile unit health program targeting underserved and uninsured populations for BJC Healthcare System.

A native of Birmingham, AL, Rev. Blackmon is a Distinguished Alumnus of Birmingham Southern College who earned a Master of Divinity Degree from Eden Theological Seminary where she currently serves as theologian in residence.

In her current role, Rev. Blackmon supervises a wonderful team of clergy and laypersons who plan and execute ministries that embody Jesus' call to discipleship through the support of local church ministries, care for creation, and the pursuit of just societies wherever injustice is found. Rev. Blackmon joins a rich legacy of prophetic voices in pulpits and the public square who believe that love and justice are the sacred healing modalities necessary to repair a fractured world. Rev. Blackmon is a co-author of the White Privilege Curriculum and a sought after voice on many regional, national, and international platforms. Featured in several local publications and national documentaries with PBS and National Geographic, Rev. Blackmon's ability to reach diverse audiences with challenging messages of hope has gained her global audiences spanning the breadth of the White House to the Carter Center to the Pontifical Council of the Vatican.

A pastor at heart, Rev. Blackmon continued to serve as a frequent speaker for local congregations and both religious and educational institutions, stateside and abroad. In her role as public theologian Rev. Blackmon has preached for the Festival of Homiletics, Chautauqua, SURRENDER, The Justice Summit, Kirchentag and others, including touring the nation as a preacher for The Poor People's Campaign: A Call for Moral Revival.

Rev. Blackmon was appointed to the Ferguson Commission by Governor Jay Nixon and to the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships for the White House by President Barack Obama, and continues to be a trusted voice of counsel with several philanthropic foundations. Rev. Blackmon is the recipient of many awards and honors and recognitions, including the White

House Volunteer Service Award, the NAACP Rosa Parks Award; The Urban League of St. Louis Woman in Leadership Award; the Antoinette Brown award, and the National Planned Parenthood Faith Leader Award. She is a graduate of Leadership St. Louis and currently serves as an Auburn Senior Fellow, and a member of the 2023 Racial Justice & Religion Collective for the Aspen Institute.

Rev. Blackmon serves on the editorial board of the St. Louis American, the single largest weekly newspaper in Missouri, and as a trustee on the boards of The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Americans United for Separation of Church & State, and the World Parliament of Religions. Currently, Rev. Blackmon is also lead plaintiff in a lawsuit: *Blackmon v. Missouri*, filed by Americans United and the National Women's Law Center to represent fourteen clergy members in Missouri across seven denominations challenging restrictions to abortion access based on religion.

"I speak with the lions. And we are many!" ~ Rev. Traci D. Blackmon