



REV. DR. ALVIN JACKSON

Biography

Alvin O'Neal Jackson is the Senior Pastor of Park Avenue Christian Church in New York. He is also a dynamic preacher and a visionary leader who is much in demand as a speaker in many churches and religious settings. His vision of a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural church that is open to all people continues to motivate his work and inspire many within his denomination and other communities of faith. His commitment to radical inclusiveness remains a challenge to the entire church.

Born in Laurel, Miss., on July 10, 1950, Dr. Jackson grew up in Indianola, Miss. He attended Chapman College in Orange, Calif., and Butler University in Indianapolis where he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree. He also attended and graduated with honors from Duke University School of Divinity, Durham, N.C., where he received the Master of Divinity Degree. He was awarded the Doctor of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, upon completion of his doctoral dissertation, "A Preaching Model for Equipping Disciples (Making Numbers Count)."

In 1998 Dr. Jackson received two honorary degrees: A Doctor of Humane Letters Degree from Lynchburg (Virginia) College; and a Doctor of Divinity Degree from Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn. In 1999 Dr. Jackson received an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from Bethany College, Bethany, W.V.

Dr. Jackson served as Pastor of the Loudon Avenue Christian Church, Roanoke, Va., from 1973 to 1977. In 1977, he became Associate Pastor of Light of the World Christian Church (formerly Second Christian Church) in Indianapolis.

In June of 1979, Dr. Jackson became Senior Pastor of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church of Memphis, Tenn. Mississippi Boulevard, at that time had a participating membership of 350. Today, the church has a

participating membership of over 7,800, making it the largest and fastest growing Disciple congregation in the United States and Canada.

Dr. Jackson served as the Senior Pastor of National City Christian Church and President of the National City Christian Church Foundation in Washington, DC, from April 1998 to November 2004. Under his leadership, the traditionally white congregation became increasingly diverse in membership, staff, and styles of worship. In 2001-2003, Dr. Jackson served as Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Dr. Jackson is a member of the Board of Directors of The National Rehabilitation Hospital, The downtown Cluster's Geriatric Day Care Center and FLOC For the Love of Children. He also serves as President of the National Advisory Board for Equal Partners in Faith.

He is past President of the Memphis Minister's Association and past President of the African- American Ministers Ecumenical Task Force. He has served as Vice-Chairman of the Memphis Jobs Conference, and was a member of the Memphis Rotary Club.

Dr. Jackson's honors and awards include: Outstanding Young Men of America, the Community Service Award and later the Humanitarian Award of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Omega Citizen of the Year Award of the Epsilon Phi Chapter, and the Man of the year Award from the Big Brothers and Sisters of Greater Memphis.

Dr. Jackson is married to the former Ernestine (Tina) Brown of Roanoke, Va. They have one son, Cullen O'Neal, who resides in Memphis, Tenn.