



Empower Hope GALA 2023

Honorees



Syvoskia Bray Pope
CEO/Founder, Empower Hope Center



Dave
Christopher



Dr. Jamesetta
Ferguson

Dr. Frank Smith
Speaker

Angela Brown-Jackson
Emcee



Mamie & McDaniel
Bluitt

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023 7:00 P.M.
1875 FARNSLEY ROAD
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40216

#HOPEOUTLOUD

Dr. Frank Smith, SPEAKER



Dr. Frank M. Smith, Jr. is personally committed to the vision set for Christ's Church for Our Community. He is married to the former Theresia L. Perryman since 2002 and is father to Jayson. Reaching Up - Reaching In - Reaching Out is a daily concern for our Pastor. Since age 13, he has dedicated his life to preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ and influencing others to embrace transformative living that equips them for their maximum destiny outlined by the Almighty God. He has been used by the Lord in over 25 states and has been known for proclaiming the gospel on the radio and in social media for many years. He loves to encourage other pastors and other churches, often sharing wisdom and insights regarding conflict resolution, fiscal affairs, and other congregational development needs. It is his firm belief that all congregations of Christ-followers need

encouragement so the work of God's Kingdom may be strong and endure all tests to the glory of God. His motto, taken from the Apostle Paul, is "I am made all things to all men that by all means I may save some." (First Corinthians 9:22)

Educational Attainments:

Bachelor of Arts, Bible and General Communication, Freed-Hardeman University; Master of Science, Management, Indiana Wesleyan University; Doctor of Divinity, Simmons College of Kentucky

Current Church and Civic Stewardship:

Founder/Senior Pastor, Christ's Church for Our Community (2000-Present); President/CEO, Christ's Church Community Development Corporation; Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Simmons College of Kentucky (2007-Present); Commissioner and Vice-Chair, Kentucky Commission on Human Rights; Board Member and Former President, Interdenominational Ministerial Coalition; President, National Coalition of Churches for Reparations; Shepherd/Advisor, One Voice Prayer Movement Co-Chair, University of Louisville Signature Partnership Advisory Committee; Advisory Board Member, Park Community Credit Union; Financial Secretary, Central District Baptist Association; Bingham Fellows, Class of 2021; Member, Newburg Ministerial Association; Vice-Chairman, National Baptist Convention of America Retreat Center Development Commission; Board Member, Charitable Baptist Services, National Baptist Convention of America, International; Chaplain and Special Assistant, Perryman's Mortuary

Past Church and Civic Stewardship:

Senior Minister, Newburg Church of Christ (1992-2000); Board Member (Three-terms), Kentuckiana-Works (Louisville's Workforce Investment Board); Director of Development, Project One, Inc.

Empower Hope Gala

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Angela Brown-Jackson, Emcee

Welcome/Occasion - *Syvoskia Bray Pope, CEO/Founder of Empower Hope Center*

Poem - *Gina Marie*

Blessing of Food - *Demetrius Gunn*

Dinner Served (Live Entertainment)

Introduction of Speaker - *Syvoskia Pope*

Speaker - *Dr. Frank Smith*

Award Ceremony - *Syvoskia Bray Pope*

Community Impact Award - *Dave Christopher*

Humanitarian Award - *Mamie & McDaniel Bluitt*

Lifetime Achievement Award - *Dr. Jamesetta Ferguson*

Remarks/Closing Prayer - *Syvoskia Bray Pope*

Dance Floor Open

Empower Hope Center Board Members



Janice Burgess
Treasurer/
Project Manager



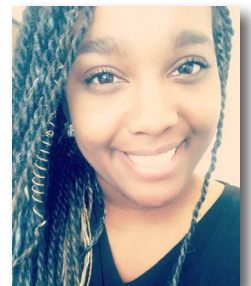
Mary Simmons
Secretary,
Education Development



Ciceley Bishop
Board Member



Demetrius Gunn
Program Implementation
Specialist



Adrienne Bluitt
Board Member

#HOPEOUTLOUD

❧ Pastor Syvoskia Bray Pope ❧



Motto - I am Syvoskia Bray Pope: "A woman who has conquered many things and helped many people. I am a woman who has been called to serve with integrity, strength and voice to bring healing to the masses".

Born in Louisville, Kentucky with one of the most unique names in the world. Serving the ministry of Apostleship, Pastor, Teacher and Evangelist in her tenure of over 20 years in leadership through various positions of church leadership. Syvoskia started the New Century Fellowship Christian Church in 2014 an ordained minister through Disciples of Christ. She is the Senior Pastor of St. Stephen UCC and New Century Fellowship DOC. She serves as Moderator for the Christian Church of Kentucky, Disciples of Christ, 2nd term. She also is a trainer for churches in Anti-Racism training.

Syvoskia is the CEO and founder of the Empower Hope Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation which empowers families, changes lives and brings transformation to the community. She is also the owner of Exousia Financial Solutions LLC, where she educates and empowers individuals and families on financial education services.

She is retired from the Louisville Metro Government financial empowerment industry for over 20 years. Syvoskia is one of only four certified Economic Development specialists in the state of Kentucky. She has passionately coached and mentored aspiring small business owners in the areas of microlending, economic development and small business services.

Syvoskia has been a trailblazer in this community for mentoring women and men in leadership, discipleship, spiritual vitality and, most definitely, a spiritual birthing mother. She has ministered to women and men to bring restoration in finding their true purpose in ministry. She also has advocated for women in Nairobi, Kenya and Morocco in training and development to help in starting a business. As a result of her mission work, she received a global award for International Ministry.

She is an author of three books, including one anthology project: It's Complicated! The Battle Behind My Smile; Credit Champion: A Practice Guide to Leveraging Your Wealth and Increasing Your Purchasing Power; and It's in You! 12 Power Principals for Becoming the Woman God Called You to Be. She is the host of the weekly podcast "Credit Conversations with Syvoskia" on www.envision-radio.com.

Syvoskia will graduate in December with her Ph.D. in Theology. More information can be obtained at www.syvoskia.com or by calling (502) 416-7389.

❧ Dave W. Christopher Sr. ❧



Dave W. Christopher Sr. is the Executive Director and Founder of Amped, which he founded in 2014.

In 2017, in an effort to provide underserved and underrepresented youth and adults in West Louisville with living wage jobs in technology, Amped launched their Technology Workforce Development program focused primarily on Black and Brown youth and adults. Dave is also the founder of Tekni Solutions and Level Seven Recording Studios.

A graduate of the University of Louisville, Dave also received three nonprofit leadership certifications from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Politics, and another from Spalding University

Leadership Development Institute.

In April 2020, in the midst of a pandemic and worldwide racial unrest, Dave founded the Russell Technology Business Incubator, the first and only business incubator focused on supporting Black and LatinX businesses in Louisville's West End. The program is now in its third year.

During his career, Dave received the following recognition: Most Admired CEO, Healthcare Equity Innovation Award, Metro United Way Changing the Narrative Award, KET American Graduate Hero, Light The Way Award, Kentucky Blacks in Media, Metro United Way Black Male Achievement Innovation, Mary Sullivan Community Service Award, Black Male Excellence Fellowship, Alden Fellowship, and Humana Foundation Fellowship.

Dave served in the U.S. Air Force from 1981 to 1992. He is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and, most importantly, is a husband, father and child of God.

❧ Mamie & McDaniel Bluitt ❧



Mamie Bluitt

- West Louisville Girls Choir Director
- One of nine children born in Louisville, Kentucky to George and Mamie Lee Green
- Mother of two daughters and five sons, and has four granddaughters and one grandson
- Received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Louisville School of Music
- Church Administrator of Bible Way Church of God in Christ
- Founder of new business - Signature Pieces, LLC

McDaniel Bluitt

- West Louisville Girls Choir Founder and Director
- Born in Jasper, Texas to Clifton and Emma Lee Bluitt
- One sister, Debra and one brother, Clifton Bluitt
- Married Mamie Green in April 1973
- Father of seven children and five grandchildren
- Toured United States and Canada as band leader and performer
- Received Bachelor of Music Education from University of Louisville School of Music
- Received Masters degree in Counseling from Western Kentucky University
- Was JCPS vocal and instrumental teacher for 28 years

West Louisville Performing Arts Academy

West Louisville Boys & West Louisville Girls Choirs

St. Paul's Baptist Church @ Shively Heights

2627 Crums Lane

Louisville, Kentucky 40216

Rev. Dr. Jamesetta Ferguson



The Reverend Dr. Jamesetta Ferguson has served as senior pastor of St. Peter's United Church of Christ (UCC) Louisville since 2007. Dr. Ferguson leads the church's vision to plant and cultivate seeds of necessity through spiritual guidance and community partnerships, continuously seeking opportunities to educate, inform and empower the congregation and broader community of west Louisville's historic and rapidly evolving Russell neighborhood. As senior pastor, Dr. Ferguson serves as mentor and educator to congregational members wanting to receive ordination into the UCC denomination. In her 2016 book, *Urban Ministry: Revitalizing a Church and Impacting a Community*, Dr. Ferguson outlines her successful seven-week program that helps ease re-entry using Christian principles, intentional nurturing, accountability and mentoring.

Under Dr. Ferguson's leadership, the MOLO Village Community Development Corporation (CDC) was established in 2011 to engage Russell neighborhood residents in holistic approaches to community development. MOLO focuses on individuals and families impacted by poverty, incarceration, and recidivism, helping them transform into a community resource. "MOLO" means welcome in Xhosa (a South African dialect), and everyone brings their contributions to the village. This inclusive village consists of five hamlets (programmatic areas): recovery and restoration, health, and economic and educational empowerment. In March 2021, the MOLO Village CDC opened a 30,000 square foot mixed-use retail and office development in the historic Russell community. The development houses services currently scarce in west Louisville and generates wealth building and job training for residents.

Dr. Ferguson received her bachelor's degree in business administration and finance from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio in 1976. She graduated from the University of Louisville with a Master of Education in 1992; and the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary with a Master of Divinity in 2006 and a Doctor of Ministry in 2013. She is an adjunct professor in the seminary's Doctor of Ministry program. In 2014, Dr. Ferguson was selected as Bingham Fellow from Leadership Louisville and was a participant in the 2014 UPS award-winning Bingham project "One West," which envisioned an economic renaissance in west Louisville. She was appointed by Governor Andy Beshear to serve on the Kentucky Landbank Board in 2020. She is a recipient of the 2021 United Church of Christ General Synod "Movement Maker Award", the 2021 WLOU "Power to the People Award", the Louisville Central Community Center 2021 "Light the Way Entrepreneurial Excellence Award for Leadership" and recently a 2023 AARP Purpose Prize Winner, a one-of-a-kind national award which honors people aged 50-plus who have proven that they are using their knowledge and life experience to make a difference. Dr. Ferguson also serves on numerous community boards and the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the UCC Board of Directors. After 30 years of service, Dr. Ferguson retired from the University of Louisville School of Medicine, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, in 2019.

Dr. Ferguson is married to minister and deacon Levie Ferguson and sharing in their joy are their two children: Au'yana Lee and Guante; a son-in law, Dion Lee; and four grandchildren: Legend, Kennedy, Justice and Masiah, as well as two dogs, Shalom and Dory.



Empower Hope Center in the Community

