**Bio | Rev. Dr. Gina M. Stewart**

The Reverend Dr. Gina Marcia Stewart is an accomplished pastor, preacher, visionary leader, teacher, and community advocate with a heart deeply devoted to God and His people. She has served as the Senior Pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church (CMBC) in Memphis, Tennessee since March 1995, becoming the first African American woman to lead an established African American Baptist congregation in Memphis and Shelby County.
Dr. Stewart is a graduate of the University of Memphis (BBA), Trevecca Nazarene College (M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision), Memphis Theological Seminary (M.Div.), and the Interdenominational Theological Center (D.Min.). She also attended the Harvard Divinity School Summer Leadership Institute for Church-Based Community and Economic Development. Currently, Dr. Stewart is a candidate for the PhD in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana. She has also received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology.

Dr. Stewart's leadership extends far beyond her local congregation. She served as the immediate past President of the Lott Carey Foreign Missions Society (August 2021-August 2024), an influential global missions organization dedicated to international development, technical assistance, women's empowerment, capacity building, disaster relief, and the advancement of the gospel around the world. Under her leadership, Lott Carey expanded its financial footprint and global outreach and reinforced its commitment to justice, education, and community empowerment worldwide.

She serves as Chairwoman of the Religious Affairs Committee for the National Board of the NAACP, a trustee for the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, and a Co-Convener for the Women in Ministry Conference. In addition, Dr. Stewart serves on the advisory board for the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology.

Dr. Stewart is a former board member of the Advisory Board for *The African American Pulpit*, The National Civil Rights Museum, and Bread for the World. Additionally, she is the founder of *Greater Works, Inc.*, a non-profit organization dedicated to philanthropy and ministry development. A member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and the River City (TN) Links, Dr. Stewart has received numerous awards for her contributions to the church, community, and society. Among her accolades are the *Women of Excellence Award for Global Impact* from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the *Trailblazers Award* from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the *Visible Portraits of Light* Award (2024).

She was inducted into the Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers in 2018. She was honored to receive the *President's Volunteer Service Award*, presented by President Joseph R. Biden in June 2021. the Shaw University Divinity School Circle of Preachers and Advocates of Justice (2023). She received the *Global Missions Outreach VIZION Award* from the VIZION Foundation (2024). She also received the *Beautiful are Their Feet Award* from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference (February 2025) and was inducted into the Bishop Alfred G. Dunston, Jr. College of

Preachers, Lecturers and Scholars - Livingstone College (April 2025). She received the Outsiders Recognition from Tye Tribbett Outsiders Initiative honoring individuals who focus on applying faith through service, love, and action beyond the church building in November 2025. She is also a 2026 recipient of the Faith and Community Impact Award from the YWCA of Memphis.

She has honorary Doctorate degrees from Virginia Union University and Wayland Seminary.

Dr. Stewart is also a prolific preacher and author whose sermons have been featured in various respected publications, including *The African American Pulpit*, What We Love About the Black Church: Can We Get a Witness, Audacity of Faith: Christian Leaders Reflect on the Election of Barack Obama, Care-full Preaching: From Sermon to Caring Community; and Black Practical Theology. Her work in these publications has made a significant impact on preaching and theological scholarship, reaching diverse audiences and continuing to inspire pastors and church leaders around the world.

Under Dr. Stewart's leadership, CMBC has become a vibrant and compassionate community, committed to proclamation, protest and practice. Through her vision and dedication, the church has remained a beacon of hope, ensuring that the hungry are fed, the naked are clothed, and the broken are healed by the grace and love of Jesus Christ.

A gifted preacher and teacher, Dr. Stewart travels extensively, leading workshops, revivals, and seminars across the nation and abroad. With her skillful hands and integrity of heart, she continues to inspire others and build up the body of Christ wherever she goes. Dr. Stewart is a woman with a heart for God and God's people.

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