

## **PRESIDENT**



**Rev. Dr. Calenthia Dowdy**

Rev. Dr. Calenthia S. Dowdy (she/her) is the Director of Faith Initiatives at FIGHT. Her roles include education, outreach, networking, and spiritual counseling. Dr. Dowdy teaches a community course for interfaith leaders called Faithful TEACH, intended to eradicate stigma and misinformation about HIV. Dowdy is also an academic and has held roles as a college professor and chaplain, a youth pastor, and a facilitator for the Roots of Justice antiracism analysis process. Her Ph.D. is in cultural anthropology. Other honors include completing the International Inside-Out Prison Education Training program, being a 2016 Women's Way Powerful Voice honoree, and receiving a 2020 Red Ribbon Award from the Penn Center for AIDS Research.

## **TREASURER**



**Rev. David Tatgenhorst**

David Tatgenhorst is a retired St. Luke United Methodist Church pastor in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Before seminary, David worked as a community organizer in various neighborhoods in Philadelphia. He is passionate about building community, combating racism, and creating meaningful rituals and liturgy. Pastor David is on the board of POWER, People Organized to Witness, Empower, and Rebuild, an interfaith coalition of congregations. He co-chairs POWER Main Line.

## SECRETARY



**Rev. Steven Brett Lawrence**

Rev. Lawrence serves as Administrative Assistant to the Pastor of the White Rock Baptist Church in Philadelphia. He is also an adjunct faculty member of Palmer Theological Seminary, an instructor for the West Philadelphia Baptist Congress of Christian Education, and a Co-creator/instructor for the Compassion School of Ministry (Church of Christian Compassion). He is the Board Chair for the New Conversation on Race and Ethnicity (NewCORE). This organization harnesses the power of conversation about race and ethnicity to break down barriers, facilitate mutual understanding and respect, build bridges, and promote truth, justice, and reconciliation. He is a 2020 recipient of Interfaith Philadelphia's Dare to Understand Award.

## MEMBERS



**Rev. David W. Brown**

David Brown is a skilled professional whose career includes success in communications as an entrepreneur and business owner (he's started or managed five advertising/public relations organizations). He is also committed to making an impact through mission-focused work. He is an

ordained reverend in the United Methodist Church and has led nonprofit organizations in various capacities, from Executive Director to Board President to passionate volunteer. He is also an award-winning collegiate professor recognized for his accomplishments in and outside the classroom.



**Rev. Dr. Marsha Brown Woodard**

The Rev. Dr. Marsha Brown Woodard is an ordained American Baptist Minister and also holds ministerial standing with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She has previously served as Pastor and/or a staff member in congregations in Pennsylvania and Missouri. She is also a consultant to churches, religious organizations, and human service organizations in Christian Education and Discipleship. Dr. Woodard's doctoral work focused on internalized oppression. Her writings appear in various publications, including Church Women magazine, Baptist Leader, and American Baptist Quarterly, as well as in the books *Those Preaching Women* (Vol. II), *Vision of Hope, Can I Get a Witness, Sister to Sister* (Vol. 2) and Volume I of Abingdon's *African American Preaching* series. She is the author of *I Was Tired Today*, and *I Choose to Thrive*.



**Rev. Dr. Myra Maxwell**

Myra J. Maxwell serves as Lead Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in South Philadelphia and is the Founder of Restoration Interdenominational Ministries, Inc. and the President and Founder of FAVOR (Faith And Victim Services Offering Restoration) International, Inc. FAVOR International is a

faith-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization providing training and resources for communities of faith, offering spiritual support and referrals.

Maxwell is a bi-vocational leader with over 25 years of victim services experience and served as the Director of Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement for Survivors of Homicide (CARES) Unit at the DAO. She has over 40 years of experience serving in leadership in human services with private, for-profit, non-profit, and government organizations. She has served in several directorship capacities within the field of victim services and human services, including Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia (AVP) as Director of Victim Services, Transitional Services Director, and Director of the Faith-Based Program for Victims (a U.S. Justice Department program); West Philadelphia Partnership, Director of West/Southwest Victim Services; and as a Victim Advocate with the Philadelphia Family Court's Victims of Juvenile Offenders (VOJO) program. Her passion is developing and implementing new programs in victim services and providing strategic direction for the field.

Other experiences include former Vice President of the Board for WOAR Philadelphia Center Against Sexual Violence, State President of Church Women United in Pennsylvania, Co-Chair of the Urban Commission of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, and several terms as co-chair of the Philadelphia Coalition for Victim Advocacy (PCVA) in Philadelphia. Maxwell has also served on the Homicide Review Team, Network of Neighbors, and Keystone Crisis Intervention Team (KCIT) and facilitated Balance And Restorative Justice (BARJ) classes. She has provided training on victim services in California, New Jersey, Florida, and across Pennsylvania, and plans to continue training on the impact of violence and trauma nationally and internationally.

She holds degrees in Theology and Human Services, graduating with honors and a lifetime induction into Pi Gamma Mu, International Honor Society in Social Sciences. She has a certificate from the University of Pennsylvania in Non-Profit Leadership and received awards for Victim Advocacy from PCVA and Lutheran Settlement House. She is currently pursuing a Doctoral Degree in Human Services. Her motto: "If I can help somebody along the way, my living shall not be in vain."



**Ms. L'Vonnie McMillan**

L'Vonnie McMillan is the founder and CEO of Advocate for Me, LLC. Advocate for Me specializes in working with families of children with special needs, which include educational, social, emotional, and healthcare needs. As a parent of a child who was born prematurely with special healthcare needs, this cause is very dear to her heart.

L'Vonne has chronicled her experiences as a mother of a child with special needs and educator in two collaborations with author Ericka Gilchrist, *Women Thriving Fearlessly Volume 1* and *Women Thriving Fearlessly Mother's Edition*.

This is what inspired her first children's book, *What About Me?* The first in her series follows David and his mother's journey through the challenges of inclusion in a childcare center.

Ms. McMillan desires to enhance the lives of others and to make families more self-sufficient by supplying them with the gifts and talents bestowed upon her as an educator, speaker, advocate, and author.



**Rev. Susan Teagen**

Susan is the Founder and Executive Director of ArtWell. Her long-standing interest and practice of the intersection of creativity, spirituality, healing, and social transformation led her to envision the birth of ArtWell in November 2000 with others. Susan has extensive experience as a community organizer, educator, artist, and chaplain. She has presented on the relationship between the arts and transformation at various local, national, and international conferences and venues, such as the National Guild for Community Arts Education Conference, the American Educational Research Association Conference, and the Council for the Parliament of World Religions in Barcelona, Spain. She has received various awards, including the 2017 Robert W. Crawford Achievement Prize from the National Recreation Foundation. Susan received her M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and holds a B.A. in psychology, sociology, and religion. Her post-graduate education includes a Gestalt Professional Coach (GPCC) certification from the Gestalt Institute of Cleveland. She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, a founding Board Member of Interfaith Philadelphia, and a member of the International Coaching Federation.