

Rev. Dr. Reginald W. Williams Jr.

Dr. Reginald W. Williams Jr. is the eldest of three children born to Dr. Reginald W. Williams Sr. and the late Atty. Marcelle H. Williams. He was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, in a family that affirmed a spirituality committed to serving God by serving God's people, particularly in the cause of liberation. His greatest joy is found in his two daughters, Miss Nia Mar'Celle Williams and Laila Imani Williams.

Dr. Williams is a graduate of Whitney M. Young Magnet High School, Florida A&M University (cum laude), the University of Wisconsin Law School, and the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, where he earned both the Master of Divinity (2002) and the Doctor of Ministry (2017).

Following the completion of his MDiv at Virginia Union University, Rev. Williams was called to serve Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago as Associate Pastor for Justice Ministries. Since September 2008, Dr. Williams has served as Pastor of First Baptist Church of University Park, Illinois.

Dr. Williams has received numerous honors and commendations for his commitment and service to communities across the country. He is a published author whose work has appeared in *The African American Pulpit*; in *Blow the Trumpet in Zion*, a collection from the inaugural Samuel DeWitt Proctor Pastors Conference; and in *Church on Purpose* (Judson, 2015). He is co-author of *To Serve This Present Age: Social Justice Ministries in the Black Church* (Judson, 2013). In August 2021, he released *Moving the Masses: Pillars of Prophetic Preaching* (Judson, 2021). In 2022, Dr. Williams was inducted into the Morehouse College of Ministers & Laity, Board of Preachers.

In his ongoing efforts to bridge church and academy, Dr. Williams serves as an adjunct professor at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, McCormick Theological Seminary, and Chicago Theological Seminary, teaching in the areas of preaching and social justice ministry.

Dr. Williams is a visionary, prophetic pastor and professor who seeks to lead and teach through a spiritually grounded and culturally relevant praxis that affirms authenticity and liberation for all of God's children.