

Rev. Junius B. Dotson Biography, 2018

A recognized visionary leader in church revitalization, the Rev. Junius B. Dotson is the General Secretary (chief executive officer) of Discipleship Ministries, an international agency of The United Methodist Church. He began his tenure on July 1, 2016. Prior to his present position, Rev. Dotson was Senior Pastor of Saint Mark United Methodist Church in Wichita, Kansas, where he was instrumental in transforming the 3,500-member church into a multi-campus congregation. The church is also the host to the E.C. Tyree Health & Dental Clinic that provides affordable care to thousands of patients annually.

Rev. Dotson received his undergraduate degree in political science, with a concentration in economics, at the University of Texas at Arlington. While attending UT-Arlington, he was president of the local chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, the nation's oldest African-American fraternity. Rev. Dotson began his graduate work at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and earned his Master of Divinity degree from the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California. He was ordained in June 1992.

In 1996, Rev. Dotson responded to the challenge of planting Genesis United Methodist Church, a new and innovative church in the Silicon Valley of California, which grew into a diverse faith community of nearly 500 people.

As a leader who responds to challenges and opportunities in new and creative ways, Rev. Dotson believes that effective ministry is about training, developing, and empowering leaders to establish ministries that address the needs of the whole person – body, mind, and spirit.

Rev. Dotson's unique innovations have generated a great deal of interest. In 2013 the Saint Mark worship experience, "RETHINK CHRISTMAS: Unwrap the Gift" was broadcast across the U.S. on ABC-TV. His ministry has been featured in *The San Jose Mercury News*, *The San Francisco Examiner*, *The Sacramento Bee*, *The Wichita Eagle*, religious journals and segments on CBS Radio's "The Osgood File," as well as on ABC, NBC and CBS affiliates in San Francisco, San Jose and Wichita.

A dynamic preacher and public speaker, Rev. Dotson is highly respected for his ability to establish networks that get things done in the faith and larger communities. Rev. Dotson served on The Wichita Food Bank Executive Board, Wichita Children's Home Board, W.G. Williams Community Foundation Board, Wichita Ministerial Alliance and as a three-term appointee by the governor of Kansas to the Kansas State Sentencing Commission. Rev. Dotson served on the Board of Ordained Ministry and the Revitalization Taskforce of the Kansas West Conference (now part of the Great Plains Conference). He has served as facilitator for the Fitzgerald Program, a Discipleship Ministries program to equip pastors to begin start-up congregations. From 2009 to 2012, Rev. Dotson served on the Board of Directors of Discipleship Ministries where he was chair of the New Church Starts/Path1 division of the agency.