

Rev. Dr. Edward Smith Davis, MBA
(Bio)

Standing on the Scriptures, “Come, Let Us Rise Up and Build” (Neh. 2: 20). ‘repair the breach and restore paths to dwell’ (Isaiah 58:12)

Positions Held:

Current

Interim Associate Conference Minister, Chicago Metropolitan Association 2009-Present

Rev Edward Davis serves as the Interim Associate Conference Minister of the Illinois Conference, United Church of Christ, with over site and pastoral care to 102 congregations and 350 ordained clergy. He is a member of the Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) comprised of 4 Associate Conference Ministers of the Illinois Conference.

Senior Pastor, St. Mark, United Church of Christ, Chicago Heights, IL 2007-Present

St. Mark, UCC is a predominately European American Congregation. It is a congregational church comprised of five boards. He has the privilege of being their first African American pastor in the 50 year history of the church. The congregation is 80% European American with the rest being African American and Hispanic.

Chaplain, Chicago Fire Department, Chicago, Illinois 2006 - Present

He was chosen by the Mayor to become the protestant chaplain for the Chicago Fire Department. Given the fact that there are so many outstanding clergy within the city of Chicago he is humbled by this appointment.

Faculty Consultant (Adjunct) United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio 2010-Present

Provide consultation to Faculty Mentors and Doctor of Ministry students.

Most Recent Positions Held

Executive Pastor, God Can Ministries, United Church of Christ, IL 2001—Dec.2007

As Executive Pastor in addition to the priestly functions, he was the Chief Administrator for Economic Empowerment and Community Development. He was responsible for the financial health and the Strategic Planning and Development of the church. Developed and built strategic alliances throughout south suburban areas.

C.E.O. /C.F.O. -Education & Family Life Institute Ford Heights, IL May, 2003- 2009

The Education and Family Life Institute is a 501(c) 3 faith based organization. The Institute's mission is to "provide educational programs and opportunities to improve and make an impact in these underserved and at risk communities in ways that promote learning, restores families, and empowers communities. The EFLI developed grants that made a significant impact on the community.

Other Previous Positions Held:

Chief of Staff, Ameritsu Corporation, Independent Telecom Company 1997 – 2000

When the Telecommunications Act of 1996 broke up the monopoly that Illinois Bell had in the state of Illinois, the Ameritsu Corporation was the first African American company to hold licenses to sell telephone services to customers. Expanded operations from one to four locations in Chicago, South Holland, Rockford, Illinois; Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Worked with the president and was the intermediary between all company employees.

Independent Consultant 1996-1997

Worked for various entities such as the National Black Expo; Independent Authors; and various other entities in order to market their products and services.

Director of Marketing, Transportation Service 1994-1996

He was the director of marketing for this independent company which operated 42 coach buses which served many clients throughout Illinois. In his first year he increased their revenue from 4 million to 8 million dollars by positioning the company in other businesses through senior tours to various entities within Illinois and Iowa. Established connection with the Department of Housing and the Department of Aging to transport senior citizens to various locations.

Assistant General Manager, TSR Corporation 1988-1994

This was a Transportation Company with contracts with the Chicago Transit Authority, and other agencies which transported the physically and visually challenged throughout the city and suburbs. A clientele base of over 1200 people and a fleet of 42 vehicles including special accessibility vans. This growth comes from an initial start of 16 vehicles 280 clients.

**Educational Preparation:
(Sacred)**

- Doctor of Ministry "Collaborative Leadership", United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio. Dissertation entitled "Building a Collaborative Community, a Creative - Collaborative Leadership Model"
- Master of Divinity, (cum laude) Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL.

(Secular)

- MBA in Finance and minor in Economics, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL
- Executive Leadership Education, Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- Certified Non-Profit Manager, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL
- Bachelor of Science in Business, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL
- Bachelor of Science in Business, Simon Business Institute, (Ohio) Chicago, IL
- AA and AAS Degrees in Management and Marketing, Daley College, Chicago, IL.

Additional Education:

- Foundations for Fundraising Training, Phase 1, Phase 2, Center on Philanthropy of Indiana University
- Conflict and Mediation Skill Training, Lombard Mennonite Center
- Interim Ministry Training – Interim Ministry Network
- Visioning and Planning Training, University of Wisconsin Madison
- Community Organizer Training, Community Renewal Society
- Spiritual Formation Development Training
- Ethics of Clergy Boundary, McCormick Theological Seminary and The Chicago Metropolitan Association of the United Church of Christ.
- Domestic Violence Training, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago
- Center for Gender Equality, Interfaith Dialogue, Cape Town South Africa
- Clinical Pastoral Education Training, South Suburban Hospital

AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

(Sacred)

Denominational:

- Serve on the Board of Directors of the United Church Foundation in New York, Chair, Budget Committee 2005- 2011
- Chair Church and Ministry Committee, Chicago Metropolitan Association, 2007-2009
- Member of the Chicago Metropolitan Association's Council and part of its Executive Committee
- Discerning Conference Ministry, UCC National Office, May 2009
- Illinois Conference Delegate to General Synod 2007, 2009.
- Serve on the Credential's Committee General Synod, 2009, 2011
- Member of the Mission Friend's Council, Illinois Conference
- Team Member, Capital Campaign Stewardship Program of the Illinois Conference
- Member of Cluster 5 of the Chicago Metropolitan Association

Ecumenical:

- Participation in the formation and development of the Ministerial Alliance of Ford Heights, IL
- Partner in the Stewardship Mission of The Ecumenical Stewardship Center in Indianapolis, IN
- Chaplain, Chicago Fire Department
- Chaplain, St. Jude League, Chicago Police Department
- Member of the Ministerial Alliance of Chicago Heights, IL
- Member of the Ecumenical Alliance of Churches for South Suburban Area

Community:

- Member of the Area Planning Commission of Chicago Heights IL.
- Spiritual Care Provider through the Office of Emergency Communications and the American Red Cross, assisting disaster victims nationwide

(Secular)

Member of the National MBA Association of America
Member of the National Black MBA Association of America
Member of the Man-Kind Project International
Member Board of Directors, NeighborScapes, Inc.
Member Board of Directors, Community Renewal Society
Member Board of Directors, Education and Family Life Institute

Dr. Dow Edgerton, Dean of the Chicago Theological Seminary, says of Rev. Edward Davis, "It is unusual to find an individual who so loves both the deep traditions of their faith community and the challenges of new voices and thoughts. He has reached across perceived boundaries and built relationships of respect and trust, and represents a maturity and wisdom among us which in combination with his humility and gentleness makes him a gift to our society".

Rev. Dr. Edward Davis is married to The Rev. Dr. Sharon Ellis Davis.