



*Rev. Dr. Susan K. Williams Smith to speak at Mount Zion Baptist Church Annual Women's Ministry Celebration March 28, 2010*

Rev. Dr. Susan K. Smith, senior pastor of Advent United Church of Christ in Columbus, Ohio, is a 1986 graduate of Yale Divinity School. She received her BA in English Literature from Occidental College and her D. Min from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.



A former reporter, Rev. Smith worked for newspapers in Baltimore and Texas before entering seminary. Her media experience also included:

- Associate producer for WJZ News
- On-air news reporter for WEAA, the radio station affiliated with Morgan State University in Baltimore
- Talk show host for "Columbus Today," a local radio program in Columbus
- On-air political commentator for a news magazine television program also produced in Columbus.

In addition to outreach ministries to the city's poor, Rev. Smith's ministry has concentrated on empowering urban youth through an annual summer arts program. Through arts immersion as well as concentration on reading, writing and math, the camp has been successful in helping participating youth to improve their academic performance during the school year.

In addition to her pastorate and outreach ministries, Rev. Smith is active in a number of local and national non-profit organizations, as:

- Co-president of BREAD, (Building Responsibility, Equity and Dignity), a multi-racial, multi-ethnic social justice organization comprised of more than 50 different religious denominations in Columbus
- A member of the Board of Directors of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Inc. (SDPC), a social justice ministry which seeks to empower churches and ministers in urban settings to deal with the problems they face through training, resource development and acquisition, and changing of public policy.
- Lead commissioner of the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita SDPC hearings in Washington, D.C., Houston and New Orleans. Those hearings resulted in a published report entitled, "The Breach."
- Founder of a new private not-for-profit organization aimed at empowering urban youth all over the United States. Her first project is to get brand new books in public schools in urban and rural America; the first city being targeted is New Orleans, La.

Susan Smith is the author of four books, *Carla and Annie*, *From Calvary to Victory*, *Forgive WHO?* and, in publication now, *Crazy Faith: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives*.

Rev. Smith is the mother of two children, Caroline, a recent graduate of Spelman College, and Charlie, a student at the University of Cincinnati.