

THE REV. DR. DIANE L. GIVENS MOFFETT

The Rev. Dr. Diane L. Givens Moffett brings over 30 years of creative, innovative and transformative experience in parish and community leadership. A native of Oakland, California, Moffett holds a bachelor of arts degree in sociology and social welfare from the University of California at Berkeley, and both a master of divinity and doctorate of ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, California.

Moffett currently serves as senior pastor of Saint James Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, North Carolina. During her tenure the church has expanded its facilities and grown in service and partnership with the community. Moffett serves on several boards, including the Cone Health Network, an organization that oversees six hospitals, three medical centers, three urgent care centers, more than 100 physician practice sites and multiple centers of excellence. Moffett also serves on the board of the Cone Health Foundation which works to measurably improve the health outcome of Greensboro residents and on the board for Presbyterian Homes, which serves over 1,100 senior residents in three North Carolina cities. She is co-chair of the Greensboro Interfaith Clergy Council and vice president of the Pulpit Forum. Her support from city residents and her commitment to Greensboro led her to run for mayor of Greensboro in 2017. In April of 2018 Moffett received the Sojourner Truth Award, the highest honor of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, for her demonstrated commitment to serving others.

Beyond her work in the local church and community, Moffett's roles in the greater PC(USA) include past moderator of the Salem Presbytery, current moderator of the Executive Council of Salem Presbytery, vice president of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, member of the African American Advisory Committee, delegate to General Assembly, chair of the General Assembly's Task Force for Climate Change (Cultural Proficiency) Task Force and adviser to theological seminary advisory delegates. She has also served twice as a preacher at General Assembly and she has presented numerous workshops and preaching engagements at Montreat Conference Center, Mo-Ranch and other PC(USA) organizations.

The path to ordained ministry in the PC(USA) began at Elmhurst Presbyterian Church in Oakland, California, an inner-city church that was in decline. The congregation asked Moffett to serve as a student pastor during her senior year in seminary. With her leadership, the membership grew and the presbytery's plan to close Elmhurst was put on hold. Subsequently, in November 1987, Moffett became the first woman to pastor Elmhurst Presbyterian Church. The congregation grew in number and ministry, and hired an associate pastor. During the infamous Rodney King riots, Moffett was tapped to become coordinator of the Korean and African-American Pastors Reconciliation Project and twice visited South Korea with African-American and Korean pastors from Oakland. Though other churches closed, Elmhurst Presbyterian Church remains open.

After serving Elmhurst Presbyterian Church for five years, Moffett accepted the call to serve as executive director at Harbor House Ministries, a multicultural outreach ministry serving people of low income in Oakland. While at Harbor House, she expanded the budget and donor

base of the ministry through newsletter appeals and grants. She also helped residents establish two businesses to employ people in the community. Additionally, Moffett presented workshops advocating for economic justice and racial reconciliation among supporting churches and community participants at Harbor House.

In August 1995, Moffett resigned from Harbor House to become associate pastor of evangelism, discipleship and ministry at Elmwood United Presbyterian Church, an inner-city congregation in East Orange, New Jersey. In that role, Moffett led the congregation to leave their place of worship on Easter Sunday to reach non-churchgoers. Over 3,000 people attended that special service and spurred on church growth and discipleship at Elmwood. Following the Easter event, Moffett received a grant from PMA to expand the congregation into West Orange, making Elmwood one church in two locations.

In addition to pastorate and community leadership, Moffett enjoys writing about subjects related to ministry. Her publications include:

“A Service of Healing” (article), *African American Lectionary*, April 2011

“Feasting on the Word” (three essays on Romans), John Knox Press, 2010

“A Fruitful Partnership” (sermon), *African American Pulpit Journal*, winter edition 2008

“Celebrating the Birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.” and “Celebrating Black History Month” (two articles), the Office of Theology & Worship of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) *Journal of the Presbyterian Association*, 2007

“Mustard Seed Faith” (sermon), “Those Preachin' Women,” Judson Press, Volume 4, 2004

Beyond Greens and Cornbread: Reflections of African American Christian Identity, Judson Press, 2002

“Giving Birth” (sermon), *Outstanding Black Sermons*, Judson Press, 2001

She is married to Mondre Moffett, a trumpeter and professor of black music studies at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. They have three daughters: Eustacia Moffett Marshall, an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); Jessica Moffett-Lee, an elementary school teacher in West Orange, New Jersey; and Kayla Moffett, an elementary school teacher in Newark, New Jersey. Diane and Mondre have four beautiful grandchildren: Jeremiah Touré Marshall (7), Jessica Monét Marshall (4), Joella Diane Lee (5) and Jayla Lanette Lee (17 months).