



The Rev. Dr. Altonette D. Hawkins, fondly known as “Toni” is an ordained minister who is dually aligned in the United Church of Christ (UCC) and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

She is the Pastor of Open Door Christian Church (DOC) and former Senior Pastor of Plymouth Congregational UCC, both in Louisville, KY. She is an adjunct faculty member at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (LPTS) and a licensed professional pastoral counselor. She is published in the *Journal of Social Work & Christianity* Vol. 43, No. 4, 2016 as co-author of the article, “*Supporting Caregivers Who Care for African*

*American Elders: A Pastoral Perspective*”. In addition, she has published two books, *Self Care Reflections for Caregivers*; and a self-care coloring book and journal, entitled, *ME TIME*.

She has been mentoring seminarians and members in discernment for more than 10 years as a field education supervisor, an Under Care mentor with the DOC and in the former In Care process of the UCC. Currently, there are several ministers she has provided guidance and support for ordination or privilege of call through leadership formation and the discernment process.

At the national level, she has worked with Rev. Elizabeth Dille of the MESA Team on several projects: the National Boundaries Trainers Gathering; the Antoinette Brown UCC Clergywomen’s Retreat and the African American Women in Ministry Conference (AAWIM). Toni is Co-chair of the AAWIM’s Yvonne V. Delk and Bernice Powell-Jackson Leadership Institute, which is the leadership development arm of the AAWIM designed to train and strengthen women in ministry for leadership and provide training and resources on the search and call process. Toni was Co-chair of the AAWIM Biennial Conferences for four years, prior to its restructure in 2018. In addition, her women’s work includes Divas for Christ Ministries, an online community for women in ministry focused on self-care awareness and support, which she founded in 2001; and serving on the Disciples’ Women’s Cabinet of the Christian Church of KY.

Presently, she is the Fundraising Co-chair for the Franklinton Center at Bricks, a UCC- affiliated, Justice and Witness Retreat Center in Whitakers, NC. In order to devote her time to living and sharing the core values of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, she is concluding her term as First Vice-Moderator of the Christian Church of KY.

The proud mother of two adult sons, Robert and Tyree, and grandmother of three; Michael, Alexis and Chavay, she believes in the power of prayer. Her favorite scripture is Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not unto you own understanding. In all of your ways, acknowledge the Lord and he will direct your path.” One of her favorite sayings is, “To God be the glory for the great things God has done ... the best is yet to come!”