

A Celebration of Ministry
Rev. Doc. Bernice Powell Jackson

"***Each experience helped me to understand that you can't talk about peace unless you talk about justice...The justice threads and the threads of peace woven together into a fabric of harmony and love.***"

From Powell Jackson's First Keynote Address,
Connecticut UCC Annual Conference, 2002

With hearts full of gratitude and deep admiration, we celebrate the retirement of The Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson, whose faithful ministry has uplifted, inspired, and transformed both our conference and the global church.

On Friday, August 15, 2025, we gathered to honor her remarkable legacy. During this celebration, the Florida Conference presented Dr. Powell Jackson with a resolution recognizing her faithful witness to God's call "to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God" (Micah 6:8).

For more than three decades, Dr. Powell Jackson has poured her life into the work of justice, compassion, and faith within the United Church of Christ (UCC) and far beyond. She has stood boldly with those on the margins, championed equality and human rights, and reminded us—by word and example—what it means to love our neighbors.

Her leadership has stretched far beyond the pulpit. Through tireless efforts toward reconciliation and equity, she has nurtured new leaders, spoken truth in times of challenge, and embodied a ministry grounded equally in courage and compassion. Her legacy lives not only in powerful sermons but also in the countless acts of kindness, encouragement, and wisdom she has shared along the way.

As we mark her retirement, we give thanks for her prophetic vision, her unwavering commitment, and her steadfast faith in God. The seeds she has planted—seeds of justice, peace, and love—continue to bear fruit in our congregations, our conference, and the wider world. May we honor her life's work by carrying that mission forward: standing for justice, nurturing unity, and building a world rooted in God's love for all people.

With deep gratitude and abiding affection,
The Florida Conference United Church of Christ

"It's not about being politically correct,
it's about being theologically and faithfully correct."

Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson



Rev. Dr. Bernice Powell Jackson
and Father Desmond Tutu