

Karen Elaine Webster Parks

As a native Atlantan, a child of parents heavily involved in the Civil Rights community, Karen has dedicated her life to servant leadership.

After attending the University of Virginia and University of Georgia School of law, she returned to Atlanta in the mid 1980's from the Nation's Capital and began a career in the public sector serving in the judicial branch of Fulton County and beginning a climb through positions of increasing responsibility in the following areas of county government – State Courts. Solicitor General, numerous county departments and eventually serving as the first female Chief of Staff for the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners. While working at Fulton County she obtained her Masters in Public Administration from Georgia State University,

Realizing that she had a pretty firm hand on the wheel of county government Karen decided to run for commissioner and was the first female to be elected countywide and served as Vice Chair, Fulton County Board of Commissioners (representing over 900,000 citizens ...1.2 billion dollars budget). After 4 years on the Board of Commissioners, she ventured into the private sector as a corporate senior vice president for SKANSKA, an international construction firm and then on to the non-profit world serving as CEO of several prominent organizations.

Her leadership is acknowledged by the many boards on which she served and the senior positions which she has held – Girl Scouts, YWCA, Atlanta Symphony, Zoo Atlanta, Hands on Atlanta (one of the founders) and the Chamber of Commerce. She has received many honors (a graduate of Leadership Atlanta, Regional Leadership Institute, Leadership Georgia and Leadership America) and noted in many periodicals for her dedication in the Atlanta Community. She was recently re-appointed by the Georgia Supreme Court, to serve a five year term on the State Bar of Georgia Fitness Board.

Responding to a call to serve the Kingdom, Karen attended Candler School of Theology at Emory University. She currently sits on their Board of Advisors.

Reverend Parks is currently serving as the Executive Pastor at Cascade United Methodist church (7,000 plus membership). In addition to participation on multiple international mission trips, creating religious education events and her administrative duties, Karen's current ministry focus is connecting the community and church through reconciliation projects.

June 2019