

Nelson Pierce, Jr.



WORK EXPERIENCE

Beloved Community Church - Cincinnati, OH

July 2010- Present

Senior Pastor

- Manages all Business Aspects of Church including Budgeting, Resource Allocation, and Fundraising.
- Weekly Engages in Public Speaking to Communicate the Vision, Mission, Goals and Direction of the Church
- Provides Weekly Oversight for all Ministries, Ministry Staff and Volunteers.
- Provides Confidential Counseling and Spiritual Guidance to Members.
- Selects, Trains and Supervises Leaders for Multiple Project Teams.
- Manages Multiple Social Media Accounts for the Church
- Designed and Implemented a Budgetary Turn-Around Plan and Budgetary Growth Plan.
- Coordinates Weekly Worship Services Including Assigning Tasks to Ministers and Leaders.
- Develops Curriculum for Orientation and Education Classes to Effectively Introduce New Initiatives and Projects.
- Develops, Implements and Leads Strategic Planning Process and the Implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- Regularly Analyze Teams and Projects for Effectiveness and Efficiency.
- Took Over the Church After a Leadership Crisis and Led It to a Time of Growth.
- Managed the Church and Counseled Church Members Through Numerous Crises.

Xavier University - Cincinnati, OH

Center for Faith and Justice

August 2015-January 2021

Campus Minister/Gospel Choir Director

- Plan itinerary and lead student groups on week-long immersion trips.
- Work with students who spend their summers volunteering at local non-profits.
- Connect student programs with local non-profits and community activists.
- Built team to lead work in planning interdenominational services on campus.
- Teach gospel music to gospel choir weekly and other choirs as needed.
- Advise on racial justice issues/projects as needed.
- Worked with Children's Defense Fund to bring Marian Wright Edelman to have conversations with young activists and voters.

Citizens for Yvette Simpson - Cincinnati, OH

August 2017-November 2017

Field Director/Fundraising Intern

- Spent over 200 hours engaging in donor research, drafting and editing fundraising emails, planning and executing fundraisers, donor cultivation, and other fundraising duties as assigned.
- Managed a field staff of 3 people during the campaign and 10 people during GOTV.
- Reorganized the field work plan and reporting structure to increase effectiveness and accountability.
 - Increased voter contacts from 250 weekly to 2000 weekly.
 - Increased volunteer turnout percentage from 10% weekly to 60% weekly and 80% during GOTV.
- Built an Early Vote and GOTV effort that knocked on 15,000 doors made 184,000 phone calls with 400 volunteer shifts during early voting and GOTV.
- Trained candidate and staff on public narrative in preparation for interviews, fundraisers and debates.

Leadership Scholars - Cincinnati, OH

September 2015- December 2016

Facilitator/Staff Trainer/Alumni Director

- Recruited partners to support parent academy sites
- Organized parents who have completed the program around educational justice issues.
- Facilitated workshops for parents on Neuroplasticity, Mindfulness, and preparing your child for college.
- Trained Leadership Scholars staff on issues related to institutional racism, community organizing and social justice.
- Consulted with Executive Director, Program Director and other lead staff as needed.

PICO National Network/Don't Shoot Coalition - Ferguson, MO

August 2014- November 2014

PICO Team Lead

- Trained teams for and led fundraising meetings with the Executive Director of the Kellogg Foundation, National Urban League, National NAACP and other National Civil Rights Organizations.
- Coordinated Meetings and Trainings with over 50 Civil Rights Activists and Organizations around the country.
- Created a Coalition of 30 Clergy Young People who Met with the Police Chiefs of St. Louis City, County, the City of Ferguson, and the Missouri Highway Patrol, along with the Department of Justice.
- Organized Voter Registration Trainings for 200 volunteers.
- Worked with Local and National Coalitions to Host Educational and Empowerment Events for a National Convening.
- Managed a Social Media Campaign to Promote Activities, and Team Successes.

Ohio Organizing Collaborative (OOC)/The AMOS Project (AMOS) - Cincinnati, OH

July 2011-November 2014

Lead Organizer Voting Rights; Training Director

- Worked with National Staff in Other Networks to Develop and Share Best Practices of Cease-fire and Other Violence Reduction Models.
- Designed a New Process for OOC's 2014 Weeklong Training, Including Intake, Training, and Assessment of over 100 Leaders from Labor, Community, and Faith Organizations.
- Managed and Coached a State-Wide Training Team of 15 staff, including the development of Detailed Performance Assessments and Development Plans for each team member.
- Managed Relationships with 4 National Consultants and Trainers to Coordinate Quarterly Staff Trainings for OOC's 30+ Organizing, Operations, Communications and Executive staff.
- Organized Community Forums with Elected Officials and/or Candidates for Office with Pastors and Faith Leaders of 25 Churches with a Combined Memberships of Over 1800 People After the 2013 Election and Prior to the 2012 Election.
- Organized a Team of State-Wide denominational Leaders Representing 150 Churches and 15,000 People across the state to Lobby Ohio Secretary of State Around Early Voting Concerns to restore weekend voting in the 2012 election.
- Worked with the Office of the Secretary of State to Implement a Voter Education Tour that Consisted of Meetings in 4 Cities with a Total of 400 Faith Leaders from Across the State.
- Worked in 2011 on the We Are Ohio Campaign as the Community Outreach Coordinator for Hamilton County. - details listed below.
 - Organized 20 Clergy and their Congregations to do Voter Registration Drives in their Congregations and Surrounding Communities and/or "Souls to the Polls" Voter Transportation During Early Voting and Election Day.
 - Organized a "Faith and Labor" Conversation with Dr. Walter Brueggemann for 60 Clergy to Explore in what Ways, if at all, Their Faith Called them to Participate in the Campaign.
 - Worked closely with union members on how to think through the intersections of faith and labor, and then how to share those stories.

EDUCATION

New York Theological Seminary, New York, New York — Doctorate of Ministry, In Progress

Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri — Masters of Divinity, 2007

Washington University in Saint Louis, Saint Louis, Missouri — Bachelors of Arts (English), 2003

The Summit Country Day School, Cincinnati, Ohio — High School Diploma, 1996

CERTIFICATIONS AND OTHER TRAINING

Greater Cincinnati Foundation and the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), New Faces of Fundraising (NFF), Cincinnati, Ohio, 2017

NFF is a 3-month program designed to teach the art and science non-profit fundraising. New Faces participants are newly minted members of AFP and benefit from the guidance of a mentor from the field. The capstone of the New Faces experience is a 200-hour paid summer fundraising internship.

American Correctional Chaplains Association, Healing Communities Reentry Training and Continuing Education, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2013

Healing Communities is a framework for a distinct form of ministry for men and women returning from or at risk of incarceration, their families, and the larger community.

Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio, African-American Leadership Development Program (AALDP), (most recently rebranded Urban Leaders Program) Cincinnati, Ohio, 2011

AALDP is the region's premier yearlong community leadership development program. It targets African-Americans with a track record of leadership and a passion to invest their talents in making a difference for African-Americans in the Cincinnati area.

Harvard Divinity School, Summer Leadership Institute, Boston, Massachusetts, 2008

The SLI program was a two-week intensive exploration of the church's role and impact in community development. Presenters included prominent pastors who are active practitioners in the arena of community development, professors from the Harvard's Divinity, Business, and Government schools, business professionals and politicians.

United Church of Christ, Boundary Training, St. Louis, Missouri, 2007

Boundary Training workshops are intended to equip ordained clergy, as well as other church leaders and staff, to understand healthy boundaries in ministry relationships. The focus is on the role of power and vulnerability in order to create and maintain healthy ministry boundaries and to choose healthy self-care strategies.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS & PUBLIC LECTURES

"We've Got to Fight Back: Examining the Impact and Potential Responses to Violent Evangelism in the Christian Church" Universities Studying Slavery Fall Symposium Cincinnati, OH, October, 2019

"Do the Impossible: A Liberationist Application of the Story of Babel in the African-American Experience" Cincinnati Black Family Reunion Breakfast Keynote Address Cincinnati, OH, August 2019

"The Bible and Black Lives Matter: How the Movement for Black Lives is In-Line with the Biblical Text" NBCUSA Congress of Christian Education, St. Louis, MO, June 2017

"My People's Cry: A Look at the Current Call of Justice in Minnesota and America" Isaiah Weeklong Training August 2014

“Organizing Black Clergy to Fight Voting Rights Restrictions” National Association of Black Journalists, Boston, MA, July/August 2014

“Taking Your Organization to the Next Level Through Accountability and Agitation” and “Organizations, Money and Members: The Building Blocks of Social Change” Ohio Organizing Collaborative Weeklong Training Cincinnati, OH July 2014

“Political Prophets: The Importance and Implications Speaking Truth to Elected Officials” National Association of Black Political Scientists, Wilmington, DE, March 2014

“A Biblical and Theological Response to Mass Incarceration” Christian Community Development Association, New Orleans, LA, September 2013

“The Ballot and the Bible: How Voting Can Be a Sacred Act. *The Nation* (Sept. 25, 2012) <http://www.thenation.com/article/ballot-and-bible-how-voting-can-be-sacred-act/> with A. Bogado and Voting Rights Watch.

“When God Takes Sides: A Theological Perspective of the Gang Rape in Cleveland, TX” *National Black Church Initiative Blog*, March 22, 2011. <https://rcrcbci.wordpress.com/2011/03/22/when-god-takes-sides-a-theological-perspective-of-the-gang-rape-in-cleveland-tx/>

“Church 2.0: Five Ways to Help Your Church Cross the Technological Divide” *The African-American Pulpit*, Summer 2010

“Of Spit and Dirt: Partnering to Transform a Community When Resources are Scarce.” Harvard Leadership Institute, Cambridge, MA, June 2009

“The Pastor’s Pentateuch: Five Books for Every Pastoral Library.” *The African-American Pulpit*, Winter 2008-09

“Avoiding the Blame Game: A Theological Case for Comprehensive Sex Education in Black Churches.” Black Church Initiative West Coast Regional Conference, Oakland, CA 2008

SELECTED MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS

Hughes, Shane. “We Are Not Finished Yet” *Medium* July 3, 2020 <https://medium.com/@shane.hughes/we-are-not-finished-yet-838aa69c478b>

March, Segann. “Our hope is to empower Black people: Faith leaders discuss defunding Cincinnati police” *Cincinnati Enquirer* June 15, 2020. <https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2020/06/15/cincinnati-faith-leaders-taking-stand-de-funding-police-department/3192488001/>

Mayrand, Nick. “‘When the world is burning, black people are catching hell,’ minister says” *CRUX* June 5, 2020. <https://cruxnow.com/church-in-the-usa/2020/06/when-the-world-is-burning-black-people-are-catching-hell-minister-says/>

Francis, Leah Gunning. *Ferguson & Faith: Sparking Leadership & Awakening Community*. St. Louis: Chalice Press, 2015

Cochran, Carrie. "Talking Race, Faith 2 Weeks After Sam Dubose Killing" *Cincinnati Enquirer*, August 3, 2015. <http://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/2015/08/02/faith-cincinnati-looks-strength/31040819/>

Dockter, Jake. "The Gospel Is Not A Neutral Term: An Interview With Rev. Sekou" *Medium*, October 24, 2014. <https://medium.com/theology-of-ferguson/the-gospel-is-not-a-neutral-term-an-interview-with-rev-sekou-ae7990e66fe2>

Craig-Snell, Shannon. Love Means Getting to Say You're Sorry - - Why I Was Arrested in Ferguson *Huffington Post*, October 20, 2014. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/shannon-craig-snell/ferguson-clergy-arrests_b_6002258.html

Alcindor, Yamiche. "Ferguson remains on edge as 4-day protest looms" *USA TODAY*, October 6, 2014. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/10/05/ferguson-remains-on-edge-as-mass-protest-looms/16766607/>

West, Cornel and Osagyefo Sekou. "And the Young Ones Shall Lead Them: The Ferguson Rebellion and the Crisis in Black Leadership" *Ebony*, October 02, 2014. <http://www.ebony.com/news-views/and-the-young-ones-shall-lead-them-the-ferguson-rebellion-and-the-crisis-in-blac#axzz3iHq11FPw>

All In with Chris Hayes. "Who are Ferguson's Outside Agitators?" MSNBC, August 19, 2014. <http://www.msnbc.com/all-in-with-chris-hayes/watch/who-are-ferguson-s-outside-agitators--319909443953>

Elzas, Sarah "Civil rights activist Reverend Jesse Jackson urges people to vote" RFI, November 04, 2012. <http://www.english.rfi.fr/americas/20121104-Civil-rights-activist-Reverend-Jesse-Jackson-urges-people-to-vote>

NPR "Pastors Plead For Early Voting" WVIZ August 30, 2012 <http://wviz.ideastream.org/news/pastors-plead-early-voting>

AWARDS

City of Cincinnati Resolution R/8 - 2020 Recognizing the contributions made to the Cincinnati through social justice, community organizing, and political advocacy, Cincinnati City Council, 2020

Living Legend of Hamilton County Award, This award celebrate the achievements of African-Americans who have made extraordinary contributions to Hamilton County, Hamilton County Commissioners, 2019

Interpretation Award, This honor is bestowed by the seminary faculty on seminarians who demonstrate excellence in Biblical Scholarship, Eden Theological Seminary, 2007

Juried Paper Award, "Creating a Climate for Justice: Making Social Justice a Congregational Priority" This honor is awarded for excellence in writing on theology and the life of the Church, Eden Theological Seminary, 2006