

Introducing
The Rev. Curtis Everette Gatewood



Although in 2022, he was inducted into the Livingstone College and United Negro College Fund Leadership Hall of Fame, with degrees in Theology and Early Childhood Education, the Rev. Curtis Everette Gatewood believes his most important education came from his parents, closely knitted family where he is the 12th child of 14 children, and his volunteer-work on some of the nation's most violent streets.

Rev. Gatewood is founder of Jesus Uniting Souls To Increase Community Engagement (JUSTICE) Ministration, a 501(3) nonprofit corporation which, during the anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, during August 28, 2017, gave birth to the Stop Killing Us (SKU) Solutions Campaign, to focus on curtailing community violence and police misconduct.

SKU has its own Universal Standards for Law Enforcement which is believed by some experts, if implemented nationally, could save countless lives caused by institutional acts of deadly excessive force.

Rev. Gatewood was elected as one of the youngest to serves as an adult branch NAACP President in Durham, NC during the mid 1990s through the early 2000s.

During his tenure, Gatewood stepped beyond tradition to move NAACP meetings to homeless shelters, high crime and poverty infested areas; became a constant fixture at school board meetings, and achieved numerous accomplishments and honors, including the state's "President of the Year" award, and the Southeast Regional NAACP (which includes North Carolina and 6 other southern states) highest membership increase percentage award."

In 2005, Rev. Gatewood was elected as NC NAACP 2nd Vice President and went on to hold several leadership positions at the state level for the next decade while ultimately becoming one of the state's leaders who served as a pioneer, organizer, and mobilization coordinator for some of the state's largest marches and civil rights gatherings in the state's history, including "Historic Thousands on Jones Street (HK on J)" and "Moral Monday."

Gatewood was the first of over 1,000 civil disobedience protesters to be arrested at the NC General Assembly in Raleigh (on "Jones Street"), the first year and peak of Moral Monday from 2013 to 2014.

Gatewood has sacrificed himself to be arrested over 30 times during social justice protests, beginning in Durham in 1993 where he protested the killing of 14 year-old Jamal Elliot who was shot in the back 4 times by a Caucasian Durham homeowner who suspected Elliot and 4 other Black youth, who were running in the opposite direction, attempted to break into his garage.

Although his call into the ministry came under the pastoral tutelage of his father, the late Rev. Dr. Wade H. Gatewood via Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Polkton, NC and Pastor Richard McMillan of Markham Chapel Baptist Church in Durham, Rev. Gatewood, the son, requested that he preach his trial sermon in Durham's most violent community center.

Gatewood's ministry inside Durham's most crime-infested community is what led him to respond to a 1994 drive-by shooting where 2 year-old Shaquanna Atwater was killed in the crossfire. Gatewood would then spearhead the "1,000 Man March Against Violence & Self-Hatred," which would go down as the largest March against street violence by African American men in the city's history!

Rev. Gatewood was formerly ordained as a Minister of the Gospel by the County Line Baptist Association in Granville County, NC, by way of the Penn Avenue Missionary Baptist Church in Oxford, NC where the Rev. Attorney Willie S. Darby served as pastor.

Rev. Gatewood is married to the beautiful Odessa Burnette Gatewood and subsequently became the father of two children, Desmera Curtise Gatewood and Anthony Hawkins.