

Rev. Yolanda R. Bethea, DMin

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Mission-driven executive leader, minister, chaplain, and community restoration strategist with more than 30 years of leadership experience across public service, ministry, and community engagement. Proven ability to unite diverse stakeholders, strengthen community trust, and lead with compassion, integrity, and accountability. Recognized for advancing spiritual care, restorative dialogue, public safety partnerships, grief support, and faith-centered leadership in both governmental and faith-based settings.

Experienced in collaborating across cultures, denominations, and organizations to address complex community needs through service, mediation, advocacy, and transformational leadership.

VOCATIONAL & MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

SORORITY CHAPLAIN

Columbia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. | 2024–Present

- Serve as spiritual leader and pastoral presence for more than 400 members
- Provide devotionals, prayer leadership, and pastoral support during times of transition, grief, and celebration
- Officiate Omega-Omega services and provide compassionate support to families
- Foster spiritual wellness, encouragement, and unity across the chapter

MINISTRY LEADER, BARNABAS GRIEF SUPPORT MINISTRY

New Psalmist Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD | 2020–2024

- Relaunched the Barnabas Grief Support Ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic to address congregational grief and loss
- Developed and facilitated faith-centered grief support groups and healing initiatives
- Led retreats, memorial services, and spiritual care programs focused on resilience, healing, and restoration
- Provided pastoral support and crisis care to individuals and families navigating bereavement and trauma

VICE PRESIDENT

Transforming Lives Community Development Corporation (TLCDC) | 2017–2024

- Lead community outreach initiatives focused on food security, youth development, health equity, and family support
- Collaborated with faith leaders, nonprofit organizations, and community stakeholders to strengthen services and partnerships
- Supported educational enrichment programs, mentoring initiatives, and STEM engagement opportunities for youth
- Facilitated community engagement efforts designed to strengthen trust and improve access to resources

ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN

Bon Secours Hospital, Baltimore, MD | 2007–2010

- Provided spiritual care, crisis intervention, grief counseling, and end-of-life support to patients and families
- Collaborated with interdisciplinary healthcare teams to ensure holistic and compassionate care
- Led prayer services, worship experiences, and spiritual support initiatives for patients, families, and staff

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

New Psalmist Baptist Church, Baltimore, MD | 2003–Present

- Support congregational care, teaching, preaching, and leadership development initiatives
- Facilitate small groups, discipleship opportunities, and faith-centered community engagement
- Provide mentoring and spiritual guidance to individuals and families

OCCUPATIONAL EXPERIENCE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PAROLE AND PROBATION

Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services | 2024–Present

- Lead statewide community supervision and reentry operations serving approximately 44,000 individuals
- Oversee more than 1,000 employees, statewide field operations, strategic planning, labor relations, and a \$131.5M operational budget

- Lead organizational stabilization, workforce wellness initiatives, public safety partnerships, and evidence-based supervision strategies
- Strengthen collaboration between law enforcement, community organizations, and public stakeholders

CHIEF OF STAFF / DEPUTY ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), Washington, DC | 2013–2024

- Served as senior executive advisor overseeing policy, operations, strategic planning, training, and stakeholder engagement
- Directed community engagement initiatives and interagency partnerships focused on reentry, behavioral health, violence reduction, and restorative practices
- Provided testimony and strategic guidance to executive leaders, courts, legislators, and community stakeholders
- Led conflict resolution, organizational change initiatives, and leadership development efforts

NORTHERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Maryland Division of Parole and Probation | 2003–2013

- Directed operations for multiple parole and probation offices and correctional institutions throughout Northern Maryland
- Led collaborative release planning, reentry initiatives, and stakeholder partnerships across county and state systems
- Oversaw workforce leadership, operational planning, program implementation, and community engagement strategies

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

- Vice Chair, Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards (2023–2024)
- Board of Trustees, Mid-Atlantic Correctional States Association (MASCA)
- Member, American Parole and Probation Association (APPA)
- Member, Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence (MPME)
- Chaplain, Columbia Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Provided training, consultation, and knowledge exchange related to community supervision, restorative practices, and leadership development for officials in;

China • Iraq • Democratic Republic of Congo • Afghanistan • Armenia • Austria • Pakistan • Bahamas • Guatemala • Colombia • Peru • Kosovo • Uruguay • Ethiopia • Nigeria

EDUCATION

Doctor of Ministry (DMin) – United Theological Seminary

Master's Degree – Loyola University Maryland

Bachelor's Degree – Mercer University

Certificate in Public Leadership – Brookings Institution

CORE STRENGTHS

- Interfaith & Community Collaboration
- Pastoral Care & Spiritual Leadership
- Conflict Resolution & Mediation
- Public Service Leadership
- Community Engagement
- Grief Support & Crisis Care
- Strategic Planning & Organizational Leadership
- Public Speaking & Facilitation
- Restorative Dialogue & Relationship Building
- Cultural Competency & Stakeholder Engagement

REFERENCES

Available upon request.