



Dr. C. Jay Matthews I

Dr. C. Jay Matthews, I, is the senior pastor of Mt. Sinai-Friendship United and has served in ministry for nearly forty years. Before accepting his current position, he was the Chaplain at the Cuyahoga County Youth Development Center as well as the youth pastor and assistant pastor of Mount Sinai Baptist Church. Under his leadership Mount Sinai has grown to become a non-traditional church in the city of Cleveland.

Dr. Matthews is a civil rights activist and is one of the leading children, juvenile and family advocates in our community. He has served as a member of The Greater Cleveland Partnership, He is the Past President of the United Pastors in Mission, and he has also served on the board of United Way Services', the Adoption Task Force and was Chairman of One Church One Child. He was chairman of the local NAACP's Black Leadership Commission on AIDS. He was a member of the Governor's, Juvenile Justice Advisory Council. Dr. Matthews was the Chairman of the Technical Assistance Committee for the Housing Commission of the National Baptist Convention U. S. A., Inc.

Dr. Matthews currently works with SCIT, a partnership with The Cleveland Clinic to stop cancer and bring health awareness to the community. Dr. Matthews also developed a concept called "Faith, Fitness and Finance. The goal is to empower believers with tools to develop in those three life skills.

Dr. Matthews is currently developing a comprehensive strategy to end youth and young adult violence within the community. As past President of SCLC, Dr. Matthews was involved in several Stop the Violence Campaigns. Dr. Matthews has joined a national network of churches to build "Healing Communities," which specifically targets Returning Citizens, those incarcerated and their families.

Dr. Matthews along with United States Marshall Peter Elliott and former Assistant Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Douglas Weiner, developed a national re-entry model called "Fugitive Safe Surrender." This concept was based upon three things: 1) Officer Safety, 2) Community Safety 3) and the acceptance of responsibility of the person with an existing warrant.

Dr. Matthews is a graduate of Ashland Theological Seminary and earned a Master of Arts in Religious Studies, a Master of Divinity and a Doctorate of Ministry. He is married to Pastor Jacquelyn D. Farris-Matthews and is the proud father of two daughters, two sons and nine grandchildren.