

The Reverend Tracy Johnson Russell

Is a graduate of Arlington High School, in Indianapolis, Indiana. She attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double major in Political Science and Sociology in 1991. That same year she began her theological studies at Berkeley/Yale Divinity School, in New Haven, Connecticut. She graduated from Yale Divinity School in 1995 with a Master of Divinity. She received her Master of Arts degree from Quinnipiac University, in Hamden, Connecticut in 1997. She is certified to teach History/Social Studies in grades 7-12.

Reverend Johnson Russell (Chaplain Tracy) was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate in the Episcopal Church USA in June of 2003. She was ordained to the Priesthood in July of 2004. She currently serves as Vicar to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, in New Haven, Connecticut where she is first African-American woman to hold this position. She has served this community of faith for 21 years, as their Seminarian, Ministry Intern, Deacon.

In 2011, she became the Chaplain and Director of Religious Studies at St. Thomas Episcopal Day School New Haven, CT. In the summer of 2014, Reverend Johnson Russell re-designed the Religious Studies Curriculum to be more aligned to the best practices of the National Association of Episcopal Schools.

She also taught full-time in the New Haven Public School system as a high school history teacher from January 2002 to June 2009.

In July of 2008, Reverend Johnson Russell Co-Founded, Your Place Youth Center, a youth outreach ministry of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Your Place Youth Center strives to give youth of the city a positive alternative to engaging in gang violence. The initiative came from the prayers and tireless work of ENUF violence (now known as Partner4Peace), made up of a small group of dedicated parishioners of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church who wanted to make a impact on youth gun violence in New Haven. She currently serves as the Executive Director of the organization. In recognition of her tireless efforts with and on behalf of youth affected by gun violence in Newhallville and Greater New Haven, Reverend Johnson Russell was awarded the Clinton R. Jones Award in May of 2014 conferred by Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford, CT.

Reverend Johnson Russell has numerous Diocesan and local community involvements. Some of them include, serving on the Search Committee to elect a Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese of Connecticut (2008), the Diocesan Executive Council, the Bishop's Fund for Children, serves as a Co-Chair of the Interfaith Fellowship for Universal Healthcare, serves on the Ecumenical Bed Fund Committee, the City-wide Youth Coalition, and the Newhallville Collaborative.

She has been a member of the Elm City Clubs of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., for 17 years where she served as President and First-Vice President to both the Young Adult and Adult Clubs and is a life member. She currently serves as District and National Chaplain for NANBPWC, Inc.

Reverend Johnson Russell is married to Mr. Fitzroy Johnson Russell. They have a 4-year old son, Thaeyer Charles.