

Biographical Sketch

LARRY TUCKER, SR., M.DIV. Pastor/Teacher, Christian Union Church



Larry Tucker, Sr. is the pastor/teacher of Christian Union Church (CUC), which is located in southwest Philadelphia, PA. He is the sixth person to hold this position since the church's founding in 1912. He currently resides in Shamong, NJ with his wife, Denise, and their son, Larry, Jr.

Salvation and Early Service in Ministry

Before he became the pastor of CUC, Larry Tucker, Sr. was a member of Sharon Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. Keith W. Reed, Sr. It was there on February 22, 1987, that he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

In 1988 he started Sharon's Freedom Ministry, an addiction's deliverance ministry for those struggling with or delivered from drug and alcohol addictions. He headed the ministry until 1996 and used it as model for starting similar ministries in churches in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The Freedom Ministry is still active and serving in the vineyard. Pastor Tucker was also an active and committed member of Sharon's Evangelism Ministry and Deacon's Board. Pastor Reed licensed him as a minister in October 1995 and ordained his ministry in December 1996.

Serving as a Shepherd

He was first introduced to Christian Union in August 1995 as a guest preacher. He was one of several people who would visit during the time the church was looking for a new pastor. He was called to the pastorate at Christian Union on Easter Sunday in April 1996 and was installed as the pastor by Pastor Keith W. Reed, Sr. in January 1997. The church had approximately 36 members at that time and has seen unprecedented growth in the subsequent years. He sold his business and began fulltime ministry in April 1998.

During his tenure, CUC has enhanced its ministries and added new ministries to serve God's people and reach the lost. Pastor Tucker trained and licensed three ministers between 2003 and 2007, the first to be licensed at CUC since the early 1960's.

Other Activities and Educational Pursuits

In addition to shepherding his flock, Pastor Tucker is also a workshop and seminar presenter. He has spoken in many venues on topics such as men's issues, financial freedom, addiction's deliverance, marriage enrichment, etc. The latter he often co-presents with Denise, his wife of almost forty years.

Pastor Larry Tucker, Sr., M.Div.

Other Activities and Educational Pursuits Continued

In June 2001, he received his Associates in Arts Degree in Biblical Studies from the Geneva College via the Center for Urban Theological Studies (CUTS). In June 2003, he graduated from the Center for Urban Theological Studies magna cum laude with a B.S. in Urban Ministry Leadership. He graduated with his Master's Degree in Divinity at Palmer Theological Seminary (*formerly Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary*) in May 2011. On several occasions, he has been asked to fill in at Palmer as a substitute teacher. Since June 2011, he has been pursuing his doctorate in ministry degree at Palmer. He will be graduating with the class of 2014.

In March 2009, Pastor Tucker was invited to join the Alumni Steering Committee at the Center for Urban and Theological Studies. This committee worked on establishing Alumni relations at CUTS. His civic contributions include being a member of the Philadelphia Police Clergy since 1999 and serving as past vice president of their 18th district and past vice president of the 12th district. He is currently the treasurer for 12th district. He is the proprietor of Creative Automotive Design (CAD), a vehicle enhancement service that he established a few years ago.

His life verse is 2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!