

BISHOP YVETTE FLUNDER

Bishop Yvette Flunder founded the City of Refuge United Church of Christ (UCC) in 1991 in order to unite a gospel ministry with a social ministry. City of Refuge is a thriving, inner-city congregation that celebrates the radically inclusive love of Jesus Christ. Preaching a message of action, the church has experienced steady numerical and spiritual growth and is now located in the south of Market area of San Francisco at 1025 Howard Street.

A native San Franciscan, Bishop Flunder is a third generation preacher with roots in the Church of God in Christ. She was licensed in the COGIC and later ordained by Bishop Walter Hawkins of Love Center Ministries where she served as associate pastor and administrator for the Oakland-based Love Center Church. In 1984 Bishop Flunder began performing and recording with “Walter Hawkins and the Family” and the Love Center Choir. Other gospel music recordings include “There’s Power” with the City of Refuge Praise Ensemble, “We Won’t Be Silent Anymore” with The Fellowship Mass Choir, and “How Sweet the Sound” with the Grammy Award winning Chanticleer.

Bishop Flunder is also an ordained minister of the UCC and a graduate of the Ministry Studies and Master of Arts programs at the Pacific School of Religion (PSR), Berkeley, Calif. She received a Doctor of Ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo, Calif.

In June 2003 Bishop Flunder was consecrated presiding bishop of The Fellowship, a multi-denominational fellowship of 110 primarily African American Christian leaders and laity, representing 56 churches and faith-based organizations from all parts of the U.S., Mexico, and Africa. Responding to the needs of the AIDS epidemic, Bishop Flunder and her staff opened Hazard-Ashley House and Walker House in Oakland and Restoration House in San Francisco through the Ark of Refuge, Inc., a non-profit agency which provides housing, direct services, education, and training for persons affected by HIV/AIDS in the Bay Area, throughout the U.S., and in three countries in Africa.

Restoration House is a dual-diagnosis residential facility for African-American women, the first of its kind in San Francisco. Walker House serves persons in recovery and living with HIV in Oakland, Calif. The Ark provides HIV/AIDS education and prevention services targeting the African American and African faith community. In collaboration with AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the Ark opened the Magic Johnson Clinic to provide primary medical care services. The Ark has also provided substance abuse intervention programs, transitional housing for homeless youth, mentorship programs, and a computer lab and audio/video training for community youth.

Bishop Flunder is a trustee and adjunct professor at PSR. She is a board member of the National Sexuality Resource Center and an active voice for the Religion Council of the Human Rights Campaign. She also serves as the Justice and Witness Board of Directors representative on the UCC Governance Facilitation Taskforce.

Bishop Flunder has served as past president of the board of directors for the Northern California Nevada Conference of the UCC, a board member of the Shanti Project, chair of the San Francisco Inter-religious Coalition on AIDS, chair of the Black Adoption Placement and Research Center, founding member of the African American Interfaith Alliance on AIDS, a member of the Alameda County Ryan White Consortium, a member of the San Francisco HIV/AIDS Planning and Prevention Council, a consultant to the Congressional Black Caucus Health Brain Trust, and

a member of the California Ryan White Working Group. She has received many awards for her work in the HIV/AIDS epidemic, with the elderly and youth.

Bishop Flunder is much sought after as a preacher, educator, conference speaker, and singer. She has been invited to minister and serve throughout the nation and many points abroad. She is the author of "Where the Edge Gathers: A Theology and Homiletic of Radical Inclusion," Pilgrim Press. A list of published work can be made available upon request.

For more information, please contact [Pastor Vanessa Brown](#), 646.320.2451 or 415 86101960 ext. 1301.