

## **Reverend Dr. Cassandra Gould**

### **Worship Leader**



The Reverend Dr. Cassandra Gould, aka “Pastor in the Public Square” is a native of Demopolis, Alabama. She is an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and serves on staff at Metropolitan A.M.E. in DC. She previously served 10 years as a Pastor in Missouri. During her tenure at her last congregation, she led a relocation and building project that resulted in the erection of a state-of-the-art multimillion dollar edifice with no debt. She is the National Political Director for Faith in Action National Network, the largest faith-based grassroots organizing network in the US.

While pastoring in the Missouri Annual Conference in the Fifth Episcopal District she served as an Instructor on the Board of Examiners, Conference Social Action Chair, and was extremely active with Women in Ministry. She served two quadrennials as the Worship Leader for the Fifth District Women in Ministry. In addition to undergraduate degrees in journalism and psychology, she also earned a Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary. She was a proud Samuel DeWitt Proctor Fellow at United Theological Seminary where she earned a Doctor of Ministry. Her D.Min. project, “Beyond the Walls” is her mantra for ministry and evolved into a digi-ministry that was online weekly for three years during the pandemic.

While living in St. Louis, she also answered the call to the front line in Ferguson, organizing a national presence of faith leaders from across the Faith in Action Network and beyond. Since that time her voice and witness has taken her around the world from Palestine and Ghana to Buffalo and the White House. Dr. Gould has been a part of a national movement to regulate predatory lending. She is a founding member of Faith for Just Lending, an ecumenical national coalition formed to fight predatory lending. She has also testified in Congress regarding debt collection and financial predation.

She has been the recipient of numerous awards. In 2018, N.O.B.E.L. Women (National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women) awarded her the National Shining Star award alongside Donna Brazile and Tamara Burkes. She is a sought-after preacher, frequent guest columnist and an adjunct professor at Eden and Memphis Theological Seminaries.

Her organization in the area of advocating for and protecting voting rights is captured in the film, *Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook* and on an episode of Ben Chavis' *Chronicles*. She is a grandmother, mother and proud member of Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc.

As a Womanist public theologian Dr. Gould intersects theology, restorative justice, and community organizing. She believes that call is not merely to challenge systems of oppression but to assist faith leaders and community members in a global context to build and curate spaces of liberation that are multi-faith, gender and racially equitable. Working at the intersection of faith, justice and politics and equipping other faith leaders to do the same is the "work her soul requires."