

Edler Hawkins Award Honoree

The Reverend Dr. Charles Tinsley



The nomination of Reverend Dr. Charles Tinsley for the Edler Hawkins award should come as no surprise. He has spent the past 52 years of life selflessly dedicated to the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ. In addition to advocating for and service to the most vulnerable among us –our young people – Brother Charles has served, out of necessity, as a chaplain to his colleagues in ministry wherever the Lord has called him to serve.

The Rev. Dr. Charles D. Tinsley is a Presbyterian minister who served as the full-time Chaplain for the Juvenile Detention System of Contra Costa County, California, from 1994 through 2018. During that time, he served five churches in the San Francisco Presbytery (Presbyterian Church, USA), and one church in the Redwoods Presbytery, in part-time and interim pastoral capacities.

Over the years, in an effort to provide aftercare, Dr. Tinsley assisted young people to go out from detention settings to visit, *even while in custody*, then to enroll and attend post-secondary institutions in and outside the state of California. Many of the young people he has mentored have accompanied him in attending NBPC Biennial Conventions – at his expense.

Additionally, he has aided more than one hundred young people to have gang-related tattoos removed from their bodies as a first step toward detachment from gang life and affiliation.

Dr. Tinsley taught nine years in California community colleges in the San Francisco Bay Area and served two years in campus ministry in Berkeley, California. He began what is now a fifty-year-long work with youth at the Donaldina Cameron House in San Francisco in 1969.

In “semi” retirement, he is currently serving as stated supply pastor of the historic West Cincinnati Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio. He continues to mentor and support many young people in immeasurable ways as they navigate the wiles of society.

Education:

- BA (Sociology), California State University, Hayward
- Hayward Master of Library Science (MLS.), University of California Berkeley
- Master of Divinity (MDiv), San Francisco Theological Seminary
- Doctor of Ministry (DMin), San Francisco Theological Seminary

Dissertation: “Investigating dynamics in rehabilitation: Assessing those components in ministry with youthful offenders toward affecting reformation and transformation using selected case studies.”

Author of: *Ministry in the Trenches: Juvenile Detention Chaplaincy Reflection, Thought, and Prayer* 1994-2018 – Christian Faith Publishing, Inc.