

Dr. Michael W. Waters



Dr. Michael W. Waters is the founder and lead pastor of the Abundant Life African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in Dallas, Texas. A pastor, professor, author, activist, national speaker, and social commentator, Dr. Waters' words of hope and empowerment inspire national and international audiences.

He has appeared on such major media broadcasts as ABC Nightline, BBC Newshour, BBC Newsnight, the Black News Channel, CBS This Morning, C-SPAN, MSNBC Live, National Public Radio, The NBC Nightly News, PBS Newshour, and VICE on HBO. He has also been featured or mentioned in/on *The Associated Press*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *The Christian Century*, *D Magazine*, *Ebony Magazine*, *GQ Magazine*, Last Week Tonight with John Oliver, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, SiriusXM, *Texas Monthly*, The Today Show, and *The Washington Post* among other media outlets. Dr. Waters has addressed such esteemed institutions as the

Muhammad Ali Center, American Airlines, Duke University, Facebook, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the United States House of Representatives, and the World Methodist Conference. He is a principal at MYWaters Consulting, LLC, a firm that provides consulting, coaching, and racial equity training for businesses and organizations.

A best-selling author, Dr. Waters' books have appeared on numerous recommended book lists and have received multiple literary awards. He is a two-time winner of the prestigious Wilbur Award for *Stakes Is High: Race, Faith, and Hope for America* and *For Beautiful Black Boys Who Believe in a Better World*. *For Beautiful Black Boys* is also a recipient of the Goddard Riverside/ Children's Book Council's Youth Book Prize for Social Justice. His books have been celebrated as a "must-read" by *Essence Magazine*, "unique and valuable" by *Kirkus Reviews*, and "noteworthy" by *Sojourners Magazine*. *Publisher's Weekly* calls his new non-fiction book *Something in the Water: A 21st Century Civil Rights Odyssey* a "blistering critique of white supremacy and racial injustice" that "should be a wake-up call to Americans in general and the church in particular," and his new children's book, *Liberty's Civil Rights Road Trip*, an early introduction to places, people, and events that transformed history, has been recognized as a 2022 Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People by the National Council for the Social Studies and the Children's Book Council which honors "exceptional books for use in social studies classrooms."

Dr. Waters earned bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees with honors at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas, Texas, where he was a recipient of the *Prothro Promise for Ministry Full Academic Merit Scholarship* and served as the founding director of the SMU Civil Rights Pilgrimage. He presently serves as an adjunct professor and executive board member at the SMU Perkins School of Theology. An Emerson Collective Fellow, Dr. Waters is conducting research on storytelling as pedagogy to strengthen democracy in his fellowship year. A former board chair of the City of Dallas' Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, which serves the educational, recreational, and social needs of 350,000 Dallas residents annually, and the former co-chair of Faith Forward Dallas at Thanksgiving Square, a "diverse coalition of Dallas faith leaders dedicated to service, hope, and a shared vision of peace and justice" for North Texas, he currently serves as the vice chair of Foot Soldiers Park and Educational Center in Selma, Alabama, whose mission is to "preserve and memorialize the Civil Rights history of Selma...and prepare the next generation of activists to continue the fight against racial injustice and voter suppression."

Dr. Waters has received commendations from The White House and Special Congressional Recognition for Service and Leadership from the U. S. House of Representatives. He is a recipient of the Texas Legislative Black Caucus' Outstanding Texan Award, the Dallas-Fort Worth Council on American-Islamic Relations' Community Leader of the Year Award, the Dallas Peace and Justice Center's Peacemaker of the Year Award, the B'nai B'rith Harold M. Kaufman Memorial Award in Social Ethics, and Southern Methodist University's Distinguished Alumni Emerging Leader Award.

Dr. Waters is married to Attorney Yulise Reaves Waters. They are the proud parents of four children.