

2010 Bishop Melvin Talbert Award for Racial Justice

This year's recipient of the Bishop Melvin Talbert Award has spent her entire life and career working tirelessly toward racial justice for all of God's people. As a scholar and a researcher, our recipient had studied and written on the resettlement of East African refugees by local congregations because she was concerned about black refugees' experiences in the racist environment of the United States. She also planned for and carried out a four-year research project for GBHEM on the experiences of clergy appointed cross-culturally/cross-rationally. This project resulted in the publication of *Meeting God at the Boundaries*, followed by a manual for training and reflection activities for clergy, congregations, and cabinets. Along with two other colleagues, our recipient designed and led a project to understand how ethnic minority pastors were being incorporated into the United Methodist, American Baptist, and Roman Catholic denominations in Northern California, a project funded by the Fund for Theological Education.

As a teacher, our recipient devised the program in the current efforts to provide support and mentoring to clergy appointed cross-culturally and cross-rationally. She has been leading the workshops for clergy and congregations in these appointments as well as training other clergy and laypersons to lead cultural competency workshops in our Annual Conference.

As an activist, our recipient was deeply involved with the refugee resettlement for the Annual Conference for 14 years, and she worked closely with local congregations and refugees, in cooperation with UMCOR.

Bishop, members of the Annual Conference, and sisters and brothers, it is with great honor and delight that I present to you Dr. Lucia Ann McSpadden, a most worthy recipient of the 2010 Bishop Melvin Talbert Award for racial justice.

Presented by the Rev. Dr. Kah-Jin Jeffrey Kuan, Ph.D.
Chair, Conference Commission on Religion and Race
California-Nevada Annual Conference
June 17, 2010