

The Ottawa University Alumni Association
Presents the 2005
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
To
Rev. Dr. Frederick J. Streets
Class of 1972



Field of Accomplishment: Spiritual Leadership

Watching a young boy grow up in Chicago, one might wonder how many observers had any idea of the tremendous influence he would eventually have on his fellow man. And yet the inspiration seems to have hit him early. Jerry Streets has been quoted as saying: "One of the important things that happened to me growing up on the south side of Chicago and being active in the Baptist Church was learning what it meant to be a spiritual, moral and ethical person, even as a teenager."

Frederick J. "Jerry" Streets earned his bachelor of arts degree in sociology and psychology in 1972 from Ottawa University. While an undergraduate, he conducted independent research at the Institute on Race Relations in London. He is a graduate of the Yale Divinity School, holds a master of social work degree from Yeshiva University, certificates from Harvard University's Program on Professional Education and The Staff College of the National Institutes of Mental Health, and a doctorate in social welfare from Yeshiva University.

The Reverend Doctor Streets served 17 years as the Senior Pastor of the Mount Aery Baptist Church in Bridgeport, CT. He developed a number of significant programs there addressing the mission of the church in an urban context. His efforts included an AIDS Ministry, a Latch Key After School Program, and a Health and Social Service Education and Referral Service for low-income and elderly people, as well as programs to develop affordable housing, minority male mentoring, outreach to the elderly, scholarships for youth, commodities distribution for the needy, and many more.

He has served as a psychiatric social work associate at the Greater Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center and the Child Guidance Center of Bridgeport, and as a research associate and a teacher at the Hartford Seminary

In 1992, Reverend Streets was appointed Chaplain of Yale University. He is the first African-American and the first Baptist minister to serve in Yale's chaplaincy, a position whose deeply-rooted tradition grows from the 18th century. He is also a member of the faculty at Yale Divinity School and the Clinical Social Faculty of the Yale Child Student Center. His research and teaching interests are in

pastoral theology, institutional leadership and development, law and religion, and social welfare. His daughter Carolyn, is an OU alum from the Class of 1996.

Reverend Streets recently visited Bosnia as a senior consultant with the Harvard University Program in Refugee Trauma. There he met with refugees, physicians, and educational, religious and civic leaders to implement a model of psychiatric and pastoral care for those traumatized by war.

Chaplain Streets was a member of a delegation sponsored by the Connecticut Conference of the University Church of Christ and The Mennonite Church, which visited with regional and civic leaders in Colombia, South America. He joined over 100 scholars and professionals of non-profit and non-governmental organizations who convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to promote greater understanding of the non-profit sector's relationship to higher education and peace making in the western hemisphere. Rev. Streets was also a delegate to the first world conference of religious leaders ever to convene at the United Nations in 2000. He recently led a group of Yale student and religious leaders on a service/learning visit to Cuba and met there with religious and humanitarian leaders.

Among his many contributions to the community are his services as a former member of the Board of Aldermen for the City of New Haven, the Board of Police Commissioners for the City of Bridgeport, CT, the Executive Committee for the Yale New Haven Teacher Institute, and the Board of Trustees for Ottawa University. Rev. Streets is the developer and leader of a workshop for child advocates at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry. He is also a member of the Board of Police Commissioners for the City of New Haven, and a member of the Regional Board of Directors for the YMCA and the Connecticut state Judiciary Selection Commission. He is the author of Preaching In The New Millennium (Yale University Press, March 2005).

For his exquisite spiritual leadership, effective community activism, and invaluable volunteer activities, the Reverend Doctor Frederick "Jerry" Streets is awarded the OUAA's prestigious Outstanding Achievement Award.

Outstanding Achievement Award

This new award, established in 2005, is designed to recognize those who have made their mark and made a difference in their chosen field of endeavor. Recipients will, over time, constitute OU's "hall of fame" and their life stories will help demonstrate what one can do with an OU education. The OUAA Board notes that the large number of awards being presented this first year should not be interpreted as diluting the importance of the recognition. With over 18,000 living alumni, the Board wanted this inaugural class to help demonstrate the scope and intent of the award. The number of awards given annually is expected to decrease in coming years.