



Reverend Liz Walker
Keynote Speaker

Reverend Liz Walker is pastor of the Historic Roxbury Presbyterian Church. Installed in March of 2014, she was called to this ministry after 21 years as Boston's first African American Television News Anchor on WBZ TV and 12 years of humanitarian work in war torn Sudan where she helped build a school for girls, one of the first of its kind in that region.

In the summer of 2001, Reverend Walker traveled to Sudan on a fact-finding mission on the controversial slave trade there. Sudan is the scene of the worst human rights atrocities in the world. Reverend Liz was so outraged by what she saw she co-founded the humanitarian organization "My Sister's Keeper" which focuses on economic and educational initiatives for Sudanese women and girls. Reverend Walker shot her own footage during that first journey and produced a number of television specials including one that earned the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award from the New England Radio Television News Director's Association in 2002. She also produced an award winning documentary called "A Glory from the God" which profiles the work of "My Sister's Keeper".

A graduate of Harvard Divinity School, Reverend Walker has long been actively involved in many community service organizations and projects. She has a special interest in the victims and survivors of domestic violence, and helped found the Jane Doe Safety Fund, a multi-million dollar statewide anti-violence initiative that works on policy and supports domestic abuse shelters and safe houses around the Commonwealth.

Reverend Walker is the chair of the Roxbury Presbyterian Church Social Impact Center responsible for the creation of the community's first Science Technology Engineering and Math Academy (with construction to be completed in 2017). She is a member of the Core Strategy Team of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization and the Board for the New England Chapter of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. She has also served on the Board of Trustees for Andover Newton Theological Seminary, the Tufts Health Foundation and Board of Overseers for Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. Reverend Walker has been awarded honorary degrees from a multitude of New England institutions including University of Massachusetts in Dartmouth, Boston College, Simmons College, Salem State University and Bridgewater State University.