

First Presbyterian Church of Durham  
presents

# The 2018 Annual McPherson Lectureship

## Rev. Starsky D. Wilson, Lecturer

Pastor, Saint John's Church (The Beloved Community), St. Louis, Mo  
President and CEO of Deaconess Foundation  
Chair, the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy  
Co-Chair of The Ferguson Commission



Wilson is a pastor, philanthropist and activist pursuing God's vision of community marked by justice, peace and love. Through the Deaconess Foundation he is building a movement for child well-being through philanthropy, advocacy and organizing. Saint John's Church (The Beloved Community) is an inter-racial, inner-city congregation in St. Louis, affiliated with the United Church of Christ. Through Saint John's, Wilson has led activism on myriad issues, including youth violence prevention, Medicaid expansion, public school accreditation, voter mobilization, capping payday lending and raising the minimum wage, while more than quadrupling worship attendance and annual giving. He established *The Beloved Community Conference* to resource social justice ministries and *Sojourner's Truth: Celebration of Preaching Women*. In 2014, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon appointed Rev. Wilson to lead the *Ferguson Commission*, a group of citizens empowered to study the underlying conditions and make public policy recommendations to help the region progress through issues exposed by the tragic death of Michael Brown, Jr. In 2015, they released the ground-breaking report *Forward Through Ferguson: A Path Toward Racial Equity*, calling for sweeping changes in policing, the courts, child well-being, and economic mobility. Wilson earned the BA from Xavier University of Louisiana, the MDiv from Eden Theological Seminary, and is currently completing his doctoral thesis entitled *The Truth of Reconciliation: Leadership for American Apartheid*, at Duke Divinity School.

### Schedule of Events

#### *Sunday, February 25, 2018*

**9:45 a.m.** Adult Sunday School: *The Church's Response to Racial Injustice*

**11:00 a.m.** Worship, preaching (*Title to be announced*)

**6:00 p.m.** Panel Discussion: *Faith Communities in Freedom Struggles*  
at Duke Divinity School / Alumni Memorial Commons Room,  
co-sponsored with the Presbyterian Reformed House of Studies, Durham

#### *Monday, February 26, 2018*

**11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Clergy Gathering with Panel Discussion  
*"50 Years Later: Faithful Citizenship for a New Generation"*  
RSVP for lunch to: [v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org).

**All events will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Durham,  
unless otherwise specified, and are open to the public.**

The *McPherson Lectureship* is dedicated to enriching the faith and life of First Presbyterian Church and the Durham community. The Lectureship is made possible through an endowment given by the McPherson family in memory of Dr. and Mrs. S.D. McPherson, Sr., and Dr. S.D. McPherson, Jr.

*Soli Deo Gloria*

For directions or to sign up, please call the  
First Presbyterian Church office at  
919-682-5511 or email  
[v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org](mailto:v.mcmillian@firstpres-durham.org)



First Presbyterian Church

305 East Main Street

Durham, NC 27701

P: 919-682-5511

F: 919-682-0493