



Our Facilitator

The Reverend Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart

The Rev. Gayle Fisher–Stewart spent 20 years working as a police officer for the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department. She joined the department in 1972, four years after riots destroyed parts of the city following the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. At the time African–Americans made up 70 percent of the people living in the nation’s capital; at the same time, the police department was overwhelmingly white and police–community relations were strained. Fisher–Stewart’s decision to join the police force baffled friends and family. The department had a bad reputation, she said, and “my friends weren’t happy because some of them had had negative interactions with police here in D.C.”

She currently serves as the associate rector of Calvary Episcopal Church where she is the founder of the Center for the Study of Faith in Justice. The Center was founded with a grant from the Episcopal Evangelism Society. In describing her work which gained her the 2016 EES Director’s Award, the Board of Directors wrote:

“She brought over forty years’ experience as an active police officer, as a consultant to law enforcement agencies, and as a university–level teacher of criminal justice to her call to ordained ministry. She completed the Anglican Studies program at Virginia Theological Seminary in 2015; while there, the civil unrest in Ferguson, MO inspired her to dream of a church that is known for its interest in justice, and to apply for an *Evangelism for the 21st Century* grant to establish the Center at Calvary. She has worked tirelessly to host forums about race, social justice, inequality, and policing. She has established a network of partnerships between the Center and the diocese, local nonprofits, and national policing organizations.

In addition to her pulpit at Calvary and at the Center, Fisher–Stewart has established [an active voice in social media](#). In her frequent video reflections, she challenges the use of the term “reconciliation,” maintaining that in a culture where races have never been “one,” the church is called to awareness that it is reconciliation in the image of God that we seek. “We celebrate the timeliness of Gayle’s work,” said Day Smith Pritchard, Executive Director of EES. “Her work brings the church into the national conversations on racial reconciliation, gun violence and policing at a time when these issues are foremost in American consciousness. We look forward to continuing to learn from her work about the relationship between reconciliation and evangelism.”