

HighBridge Community Church

Site Interview

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This past week I interviewed Rev. Cora Taitt who pastors at Highbridge Community Church that is located at 1272 Ogden Ave. She was the assistant Pastor at this church since 2006 and became lead Pastor in 2011. She was born and raised in Alabama with her mom and siblings. Her passion for preaching was discovered at nine years old when she used to talk to her friends in the neighborhood about Jesus. She didn't see herself as pastoring a church. But her love for her community and helping others started young. She also walked in the Civil Rights Movement with MLK in Montgomery Alabama at 14 years old and that shaped her philosophy and theology for her church today. Rev Taitt's church is a part of the Reformed Church of America, it is a small congregation with members starting at the age of 45 and over. Their mission is to help the community with basic needs while bringing the Gospel of Jesus and movement of the Holy Spirit to the people. She believes that people need Spiritual, physical, and emotional needs met. She takes joy in going out into the community and seeing the needs of others.

She holds an outreach every second Saturday of the month in which I started helping out last year because I did an internship there that was needed for school. I still go every second Saturday because I saw the need. At this outreach the community comes indoors if it is cold weather but during the warm weather it is outdoors. She gives a small service that entails worship, dance (occasionally), a poem, youtube clips that focus on the theme of that month, and a Word. She provides cooked food and desert, groceries and essentials that they may need. She sometimes has different organizations come in like Faith in NewYork, Fire department, police department, medical teams that check blood pressure and any needs they can provide on hand. They also give away clothes to the community. Every August they have Vacation Bible School for the kids, for a church that no kids attend they have sometimes fifteen or more kids come out

to VBS. They help teach the community how to vote and the importance of it. They even gave them a census to fill out together on the needs of their community and also have them share with Faith in New York on those needs. She tries her best to do as much for the community as she can. They also do the outreaches and services through zoom so no one can miss out and they have a voice and see what is going on. She holds teachings for her leaders about how to engage with the community.

This church from my experience is very welcoming and you can sense the passion to help those in need as best as they can. Especially for the black and Brown community in which that is the majority that attends the church. She doesn't shy away from the injustice that is happening in the community especially with her black men and women. She really pushes the envelope on us blacks and brown speaking up and gaining knowledge on what is really happening. Which I have come to respect so much. But I do have to say that they are very in need of help in terms of setting up, updating equipment, easier access areas for the wheelchair bound people or those who have a hard time climbing up three steps. I feel they can do more for the community that gears towards the teens and young adults. They just don't have the proper resources or knowledge on how to engage with them effectively. If they do get them to come to church the service is geared more towards the older folks. In doing this interview I am sensing and will pray more about it if I can be more involved to be that young face and perspective but only if the Lord is saying yes.