

Reverend Cornell C. Sudduth, Sr.

Reverend Cornell C. Sudduth, Sr. was born on December 16, 1952 in Omaha, Nebraska to Cramer and Dorthea Sudduth. His father was transferred to Sioux City, Iowa when he was very young. He graduated from elementary, secondary and high school in Sioux City.

He was baptized at the age of five at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Sioux City under the pastorate of Rev. Edgar Bratton. He rededicated his life to Christ in February, 1975 and was "re-baptized" in March 1976 at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Sioux City under the pastorate of Rev. John C. Collins.

He preached his first sermon at the Zion Baptist Church in Omaha on April 27, 1980, under the pastorate of Rev. Curtis E. Bender. Prior to being called to the ministry, he served as an ordained Deacon.

Rev. Sudduth was licensed to preach on August 23, 1985 and was ordained on June 19, 1988 at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Kansas City, Kansas under the pastorate of Rev. C.L. Bachus.

Rev. Sudduth earned a B.A. degree in Psychology from Westmar College in Lemars, Iowa in 1976 and a Master of Divinity degree from Central Baptist Theological Seminar in Kansas City, Kansas in 1986. In June 1988 he accepted the call to pastor the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Merriam, Kansas where he served until November, 1993.

In December, 1993, Rev. Sudduth assumed the pastorate at Second Baptist Church in Jefferson City, Missouri where he continues to serve and he is the longest serving pastor in the history of Second Baptist. He also has the distinction of being one of only two pastors to lead Second Baptist into a new millennium.

Rev. Sudduth served as First Vice-President of the Missouri State Congress of Christian Education. He also served as Moderator of the Central District Missionary Baptist Association of Missouri and as President of the Central District Missionary Baptist Association of the Missouri Congress of Christian Education. He is a member of the Jefferson City Branch of the NAACP and served as a mentor at Lawson Elementary School in Jefferson City. He is also a member of the Capital Region Medical Center Clergy Board of Governors. Additionally, in 2006, he received a Lifetime Service Award from the Jefferson City Branch of the NAACP and in 2009 he received the Citizen of the Year Award from the Eta Alpha Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Rev. Sudduth is married to the former Susan Ann Williams and he has four children; Gary, Corletha, Cornell Jr. and Curtis. Rev. and Sister Sudduth also helped raise their niece, Sara Williams-Crawford, and are the proud grandparents of Elizabeth Anne, the daughter of Cornell Jr. and wife Kristin.