



Rev. Jasmine Rose Smothers

Atlanta First UMC

Rev. Jasmine Rose Smothers is a trailblazing pastor, preacher, and visionary leader committed to building inclusive faith communities and transforming urban ministry. Since 2016, she has served as Lead Pastor of Atlanta First United Methodist Church, making history as the first female, the first person of color, and the youngest pastor in the congregation's 175-year legacy.



Under her leadership, Atlanta First is spearheading a bold redevelopment project at 360 Peachtree Street, creating affordable housing, educational spaces, and expanded community services.

Rev. Smothers previously served as Associate Director for Congregational Vitality in the North Georgia Conference of the United Methodist Church, equipping church leaders for impactful ministry. A dynamic voice within the denomination, she has served on the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race, the Ministry Study Commission, and as a co-convenor for UMCNext. She was also a member of the Commission on a Way Forward, helping to shape the future of the church.

Recognized for her leadership and preaching, Rev. Smothers was inducted into Morehouse College's Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers and named one of the "12+ Preachers that the English-Speaking World Needs Now" by *Nevertheless She Preached*. A sought-after speaker, she has contributed to national and international conversations on church vitality, young clergy leadership, and racial-ethnic ministry development.

She is the co-author of the Washington Post best-selling book *Not Safe for Church: Ten Commandments for Reaching New Generations* and co-author of *Blank Slate: Write Your Own Rules for a 22nd-Century Church Movement*.

A native of Atlanta, Rev. Smothers is a graduate of Spelman College and Emory University's Candler School of Theology. She is passionate about music, photography, crafting, and traveling. Above all, she is dedicated to equipping the saints for ministry, inspiring hope, and fostering transformative faith communities.