

The **Reverend Dr. Cassandra Gould** is a pastor and an activist whose ministry and community work is rooted in the biblical mandate for justice. She is the Executive Director of Missouri Faith Voices and the pastor of Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church in Jefferson City, MO. She is a proud native of Demopolis, Alabama. She is an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Her undergraduate work includes psychology and journalism. She is an alumna of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and Columbia College. Reverend Dr. Gould holds a M.Div from Eden Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary.

She lives out her dissertation: "Beyond The Walls: The Power of Prophetic Preaching." Justice and community engagement is the hallmark of the ministry at Quinn Chapel. Dr. Gould's role as a public theologian has helped to shape a culture of advocacy and justice that seeks to bridge the gap between the church and the streets. Dr. Gould is a sought after preacher, teacher and prophetic voice. She is often quoted in the media as one who speaks truth to power regarding various injustices. As a pastor in the State Capitol she is a go to person for testimony against unjust legislation and in support of legislation designed to empower and improve the lives of people in her state and across the country.

She can be found on the front lines fighting for justice from Ferguson to the D.C. There are a myriad of social justice issues that calls her to put her faith on the line. She states, "As a daughter of the South who was born in the midst of the Civil Rights era, I grew up with stories of my mom's involvement with Civil Rights how mom put her body on the line in Selma. I believe I inherited a mantle to speak truth to power, to empower others to use their voices and to fight for the liberation of all of GOD's children." Her advocacy for families caught in the debt trap caused by financial predation has garnered national attention. She was a panelist in the public hearing held by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in 2016 when the rules to regulate payday lending and small dollar loans were released. She continues to advocate on a national level to regulate predatory lenders. She is a founding member of Faith For Just Lending and a member of the steering committee of the Center Responsible Lending's Faith and Credit Roundtable. Her leadership initially as a board member and now as Executive Director has raised the visibility and grown the organization. Missouri Faith Voices is the only statewide faith-based grassroots organization in the state and is committed to the work of racial equity.

Dr. Gould also serves as the faith co-chair for the MO Jobs With Justice Statewide Board and the Religious Affairs and Political Action Director of the Missouri State NAACP. She is the Social Action Chair for the Jefferson City Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc and serves on various boards across Missouri.