

The Reverend Julian Armand Cook is the Senior Pastor of the historic St. Mark Congregational Church, United Church of Christ of Boston, MA. Founded in 1895, St. Mark is the city's oldest Black Congregational Church.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Rev. Cook graduated with honors from Houghton College in 2013. There he majored in Music and Biblical Studies and minored in African American Studies. In April of 2013, Rev. Cook was named to "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." He is an ordained Baptist minister, and a sought-after preacher, writer, lecturer, conference presenter, and public thinker.

Rev. Cook is a classically trained baritone vocalist whose gifts have afforded him a number of opportunities, including performing for notable figures like Rev. Jesse L. Jackson and Congressman John Lewis. In May 2009, Rev. Cook was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar of the Arts by President Barack Obama – the nation's highest honor that can be awarded pre-collegiate artists. As a result, he debuted in concert at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

In May 2016, Rev. Cook graduated with a Master of Divinity degree (*magna cum laude*) from Boston University (BU) School of Theology, where he was awarded a full scholarship as a Dean's Fellow and Mary McLeod Bethune Scholar. At the time of his graduation, he was inducted into BU School of Theology's *Student Leadership Society*, an honors guild dedicated to recognizing theology students who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, leadership, and commitment to BU's legacy of prophetic social engagement. Additionally, Rev. Cook was the recipient of BU's Charles Kenosian Memorial Endowed Scholarship and the Ralph K. and June E. Shunk Prize.

For two years, Rev. Cook served as Research Assistant and Teaching Fellow to Dr. Walter Earl Fluker, a renowned social ethicist and scholar on the lives of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Howard Thurman. As Dr. Fluker's assistant, Rev. Cook aided in the completion of three major works: Volumes 4 and 5 of the *Papers of Howard Washington Thurman* and *The Ground is Shifting: The Future of the Black Church in Post-Racial America*. Rev. Cook's most recent academic article, "Good Religion Must Rise Up: A Response to Moni McIntyre's Keynote Address, The Role of Race/Ethnicity, Sex/Gender and Class in Identity Formation," was featured in the Spring 2017 edition of Tuskegee University's *Journal for Healthcare, Science and the Humanities (JHSH)*.

Most recently, Rev. Cook was appointed Assistant Director of Thurman Networks at BU's Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground - a student center committed to promoting Thurman's principles of the "search for common ground" and the "unity of all people." He looks forward to pursuing doctoral study in Social Ethics, and is deeply committed to the liberating message and ministry of God in Christ Jesus.