

# CLARA ESTER



Clara Ester, born in 1948, is a retired United Methodist deaconess whose lifelong commitment to social justice began during her teenage years when she dedicated herself to Christ. During this formative period, she collaborated with prominent figures from the Civil Rights Era, including the revered Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Her activism led her to become a youth organizer for the second Poor People's Campaign in Mississippi, and she went on to hold positions on various boards and agencies in Mobile, Alabama.

The essence of Deaconess Clara Ester can be accurately described with a single word: service. In 1970, she embarked on her journey at the Dumas Wesley Community Center in Mobile, Alabama, which is affiliated with the church. Her roles there included neighborhood organizer, program director, associate director, and, ultimately, executive director until her retirement in 2006.

In 1986, Clara Ester was commissioned as a United Methodist deaconess. At one point in her illustrious career, she assumed the role of board chair for the United Women in Faith's (formerly United Methodist Women) Office of Deaconesses Home Missioners and Missionaries.



*"I have come to grips many, many, many years ago that only through love can we make a difference. We can actually change things if we love."*

## Further References:

- [About Clara Ester](#)
- [Inspired by MLK to make a difference through love: Clara Ester](#)

