

# Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler

Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler is an Associate Professor of Bible at Union Presbyterian Seminary and associate pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church.

Rodney has also served:

- Served on the Board of Directors, Mecklenburg Ministries, 2006-2012
- Volunteer Community Liaison for Exodus Foundation
- Bible Study Supply Leader for Churches Throughout Charlotte with an emphasis on the image of Jesus
- Author of *Can A Cushite Change His Skin? An Examination of Race, Ethnicity, and Othering in the Hebrew Bible*, published in 2005.
- Managing editor of the *African American Devotional Bible*.
- Frequent lecturer within the church and community on Race in the Bible, African American Biblical Interpretation, the Image of Jesus, Biblical Archaeology, and the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- Editor, *Stony the Road We Trod: African-American Commentary*
- Frequent media appearances, including the Charlotte Observer and WFAE's Charlotte Talks.

Rodney Sadler served as Mecklenburg Ministries' Board member for six years between 2006 and 2012. Rodney served on Mecklenburg Ministries' Clergy Advisory Board since its inception. Rodney played a crucial role in Mecklenburg Ministries' Mission/Vision Task Force, going through a careful process to evaluate and craft the currently used Mission and Vision statements.

Rodney was one of the first participants in Souls of White Folk program and was involved in all the subsequent projects over the past 7 years. Souls coordinator Anne VanNewkirk described Russ' and Rodney's involvement: "Russ and Rodney each participated in the first round of SWF in 2006, Russ as a white clergy dialogue group participant, and Rodney as a black clergy advisor. They both helped to establish the "clergy lunch" program and participated in the first interfaith clergy Habitat build. As participants together in the first "all souls" retreat, they joined with other Christian clergy who were interested in reaching out to more conservative leaders and congregations, an effort the participants named "Spectrum." Since that time, Rodney and Russ have continued to be "go to" folks for dismantling racism work, including the pilot session of a mixed-race clergy seminar held during the summer of 2012. The small group of participants in that pilot was instrumental in bringing Tim Wise to Charlotte in January, 2013. Russ and Rodney each helped launch a book study of Wise's book "White Like Me" with their respective congregations. Russ and Rodney embody the purpose of Soul to Soul: overcoming inter-racial distrust. They continually lead by example."

Rodney and Russ helped plan a march on Palm Sunday, March 24 to commemorate the Bloody Sunday protest of the Civil Rights movement and raise awareness of current civil

rights challenges threatening local citizens.

In addition to their public work, Russ and Rodney have modeled interfaith and interracial relationships together. At several Mecklenburg Ministries events they publically discussed how their friendship began. Soon after they became acquainted, Russ approached Rodney, realizing that although he had African-American acquaintances, he did not have any close black friends he could talk with on a deeper, more intimate level.

Rodney agreed to be that friend. Russ and Rodney have been working together to build bridges and advance racial and interfaith understanding ever since. As Dianne English of Community Building Initiative noted, "Russ Dean and Rodney Sadler are men of deep faith whose joyful spirits, intellect, creativity and presence invite all of us to work with them to create 'the beloved community.'"