



Biography
**Oliver Clyde Allen III,
Senior Pastor & Founder**

The Vision Church of Atlanta

O. C. Allen III is the Senior Pastor and Founder of The Vision Church of Atlanta. The Vision Church of Atlanta, incepted in 2005, is a multi-cultural, inclusive, affirming, and non-denominational church. In approximately 15 months, the church has grown from 12 members to over 500 members. Pastor O.C. Allen III and The Vision Church of Atlanta were featured on **BET (Black Entertainment TV)** during a special 2006 documentary. It was stated that The Vision Church of Atlanta is **Atlanta's new Affirming and Welcoming Church** that is positioned to be at the forefront of new Progressive Pentecostalism.

Pastor O. C. Allen III is a native of Southern California. His educational accomplishments include studies in Philosophy & Religion from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia and Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. He is a member of Phi Eta Sigma and Alpha Lambda Delta societies. He began his call to the Gospel Ministry in 1986, while a teenager, when he founded the *United Youth for Christ Ministries Inc.* in Los Angeles, CA. It was a small beginning as a youth ministry of 20 members, but more than 20 years later he pastors what many call today, "one of the South's fastest growing Churches for All People.

Pastor Clay has politically and theologically focused on various forms

of oppression on marginalized communities. Specifically, he has focused on the "Black Church" and the spiritual/psychological impact it's had on marginalized communities. He has served in various positions with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) such as African-American AIDS Survival Project Institute, La Shanti Inc., AIDS Interfaith Residential, AIDS Survival Project, and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). Within those organizations Pastor Clay has served as a Case Manager, Prevention Program Manager, Coordinator of Men's Health Programs, and Activist. Actively supporting and advocating for the inclusion of students, he founded the Morehouse College *Safe Space* Organization that promotes equality and human rights for all at the historic college. His vast experience in Urban Ministry and Relations has taken him throughout the United States, Bermuda, Canada, Central Europe, and West Africa.

His love for God and unusual compassion for broken lives is reflected in over two decades of commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pastor Clay's spouse and life-partner is Rashad R. Burgess who serves in ministry as the First Gentleman of The Vision Church of Atlanta.

As the Shepherd-Servant of the Vision Church of Atlanta, Pastor O. C. Allen III is uniquely gifted as an international, charismatic, and motivated Speaker, Evangelist, Writer, and Social Justice Advocate.