

RODNEY DAVID WASHINGTON MOORE, TH.D., MBA, MA

Author, Activist Minister, Social Change Strategist

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[Letters from a Birmingham Boy](#), www.marymooreinstitute.org

Pronouns: He or They

Personal Summary:

Mixed-ancestry African American, LGBTQ+, born in Civil Rights era Alabama. At 10, petitioned the City of Birmingham to provide free lunch during the summer to children who were free-lunch-eligible during the school year. At 13, spoke at historically white Birmingham churches on behalf of African American mayoral candidate Richard Arrington. Ordained Baptist minister. Adjunct seminary professor. AIDS chaplain in 1990s San Francisco. 2008 Obama Campaign advisor. Organizer, Evangelicals for Equality (2015). Helped provide focus for 2020 protests by suggesting that the movement situate itself within the broader American story, draw strength from those who came before it, and channel the power of 26 million protestors into the election. 2024 Harris Campaign advisor. [Social Change Approach](#)

Written Works:

[DEI Is Resistance: "I'll Take You There"](#) – What Mavis and the other Staples taught us about being a "for all" America. And why standing for it, especially when they make it illegal, matters more than we can imagine.

[2025 – How We Fight](#) – 1,460. That's how many days there are between Martin's 96th birthday and his 100th, between the 2024 and the 2028 elections. And each day, in every way, we fight for a society that works for all of us, rather than just some of us; a land made for you AND me.

[2025 MLK Day Open Letter](#) – There were two irreconcilable ideologies on display on January 20th – encapsulated in Martin's dream and Trump's inauguration. That juxtaposition has much to teach us, including how the choices made over the next four years will determine our nation's fate.

[2024 Election Reflections](#) – 12 letters about the 2024 election, how history may very well look back on this as the beginning of the end of democracy in the United States, and what we, the people, can do to make us one again.

[This Land Is Your Land](#) – Three-book series (I. *The Three Ages*, II. *The Five Stages*, III. *The Four Actions*) about how the greatest sociological shift in US history is changing everything, and what that change requires of us.

[Me and Mary](#) – Memoir set in post-civil rights era Birmingham, Alabama, about an African American grandma, the grandson she raised, and the lessons she taught him.

Social Justice Films:

[Tipping Point \(documentary\)](#) – *What the 2020 Portland Protests Tell Us About the State of America.*

[The Patient \(documentary\)](#) – *What People on the Edge of Life Can Teach the Rest of Us about Living.*

[LUZ](#) – Two bisexual Latinx men must learn to distinguish manhood from machismo if they're to have a future.

[Room to Grow \(documentary\)](#) – Six youth spanning the LGBTQIA+ spectrum and the families that affirm them.

[The Falls trilogy](#) – Two devout Mormon men who fall in love heroically seek to reconcile all parts of themselves.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Mary Moore Institute for Diversity, Humanity & Societal Transformation – Founder (2020-) Social change think tank and center for activism with a singular goal – help us become a “for all” society. Projects include:

America for All – Broad-based social resistance effort that empowers each of us to do three things: 1) Stand with everyone who needs us to stand with them, 2) Ensure that everyone who doesn't have enough, has enough, and, 3) Transform the United States into a “for all” society.

Social Underground Railroad (SUGGR pronounced “sugar”) – Network of individuals and organizations committed to doing everything they can to stand with those who need us to stand with them – from aiding people trapped in poverty

to hiding people in danger of being deported – just like the original UGRR did with slavery.

Level Up Apps – Leverages app technology to build collective power – everything from *My Lawyer* (an on-call attorney network instantly available by video during any police encounter) to *Shop Your Values* (makes it easy to identify businesses that stand all of us rather than against some of us).

HomeWorks Homes – Social justice real estate firm. Created by people who grew up in poverty, HomeWorks Homes removes homeownership barriers (credit scores, large down payments, high interest rates) for anyone making \$30K/yr. (\$15/hr.)

iPeerion – Partner (2017-2019) Social impact venture incubator that focuses on making advanced technologies like AI, blockchain, and alternate currencies socially equitable, universally beneficial and environmentally sustainable.

Medical Retirement (2013)

Defy Ventures – Founding Chairman, Senior Advisor (2009-2012) National felon-to-founder EIT (Entrepreneur-in-Training) program that has equipped 10,000 people with felonies to launch and lead their own ventures instead of facing constant rejection when applying for already low-wage positions. www.defyventures.org.

2008 Obama Campaign – Strategist, National Faith-Based Outreach. Leading advocate of a shift in Democrat strategy from abdicating the faith-based vote to the religious right, to going after it. Pioneered national clergy organizing effort that equipped congregations in lower-income communities to engage in civic action both at the national level and with governors, mayors, city councils, police chiefs, and district attorneys.

Ethos Social Justice Advising – Principal, (2007-2012) – Clients included: **NBC Education Nation** (Diversity strategy), **New York City Office of the Mayor – Bloomberg Administration** (Anti-poverty, LGBTQ+ inclusion), **The Main Street Initiative** (Economic redress strategy for small businesses and homeowners impacted by the housing market collapse).

Community Organizer (2003-2006)

Hurricane Katrina Relocation Action – New Orleans – Built a network of mostly Houston and Dallas area churches who helped Katrina refugees relocate and restart their lives there. Facilitated their relocation.

Human Harmony Project – Co-organized simultaneous concerts in 11 countries all on the same day to commemorate the 10th anniversary of UNESCO's **International Day of Tolerance**.

Home in Harlem – Homeownership advocacy on behalf of long-time Harlem residents in danger of being displaced by gentrification and the expansion of Columbia University above 125th Street.

New Yorkers Against War on Iraq – Coordinated with pastors, priests, rabbis, imams, and other clergy across New York City to send the message to the rest of the United States that New Yorkers were, by a plurality, opposed to the war and did not blame Iraq for 9/11.

Music Bridge – Co-founder, President (1999-2002) Early-stage digital music platform that allowed artist-activists, unsigned artists and artists with AIDS to get their music out into the world. Pioneered by-the-song metadata encoding for MP3s. Launched *Artists for Equality*, a campaign that encouraged music artists to take a stand against homophobia to help prevent teen suicide. (Company acquired. Proceeds distributed to artists/shareholders.)

College Kids – Chief Operating Officer (1997-1998) Nonprofit that empowered high-poverty communities to help make college attendance and graduating debt-free a realistic possibility for their children.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Marin – Caseworker/Diversity Strategist (1996)

Pastoral Ministry

BayMarin Community Church – Associate Pastor (San Francisco)

AIDS Chaplain (San Francisco)

Death Row Chaplain (San Quentin)

9/11 Crisis Care Chaplain (New York City)

Palliative Care Chaplain – Creator of “Here Now”, a support program that helps people facing their mortality to make the most of their lives in the ways that matter most to them.

Spiritual Activism

Be Reconciled – Racial Justice workshop for historically white churches that want to be anti-racist

Adjunct Professor, Activist in Residence – Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary

After Exodus – Conversion Therapy Support Group

SFIGC – San Francisco Interfaith Gospel Choir

Co-organizer of the first Northern California MLK Day of Service (1994)

National effort to engage historically white congregations in observances of Martin Luther King’s birthday (1990)

Raise the Roof – Fundraising concert that brought Northern Californians of diverse spiritualities together to support the rebuilding of the over 30 historically black churches burned in the early 1990s.

Civic Advocacy

Canvasser: Richard Arrington, first African American mayor of Birmingham, AL (1979)

Organizer: Terri Carr, Oklahoma University’s first female and African American student body president (1986)

Organizer, Gavin Newsom, San Francisco Board of Supervisors (1998)

Advisor, Ferguson City Council candidates (2015)

Advocate: NY State Senator Brad Hoylman’s bid to become the first LGBT+ Manhattan Borough President (2021)

Advocate: *Yes on Proposition K* – San Francisco domestic partnership ballot measure to provide minimal legal protections for same-sex couples, especially in the face of AIDS (1990)

Evangelicals for Marriage Equality (2015)

Rallied religious support for the *Matthew Shepard & James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act* (2010), *George Floyd Justice in Policing Act* (2020), and the *John Lewis Voting Rights Act* (2021)

EDUCATION

Capstone University, School of Theology – Doctorate of Theology, Spiritual Direction – Dissertation: *The Spirit of Democracy – Why Only Faith Incarnations that Leave Authoritarianism Behind Have a Future.*

Columbia University, Teachers College – doctoral program, Social Psychology, Adult Learning & Leadership

Columbia Business School – MBA, Social Enterprise

Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary – Masters of Divinity, Social Ministry

University of Oklahoma – BA, Social Psychology