

**GENERAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE
and
THEME SPEAKER**



The Reverend Michael Blair

Rev. Michael Blair serves the General Council of the United Church of Canada as the General Secretary, a role he began, November 1, 2020. He is the first person of African descent to serve in this role in the United Church.

In his time at the General Council Office, he has served in a number of capacities including as Executive Minister for Ethnic Ministry; and Executive Minister, Church in Mission. Before joining the General Council staff, Michael served as the Executive Director of the Toronto Christian Resource Center (CRC) in Regent Park, Toronto. Michael previously served as a congregational minister of a number of Baptist churches in Toronto and St. Catherine's, Ontario; a staff member with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at the University of Toronto, and as a community chaplain with the Ontario Multifaith Council's Reintegration Program.

Michael serves as Chair for the Mission from the Margins working group of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism. In 2021, Michael delivered the Gandier Lecture at Emmanuel College, on the theme of Becoming the Beloved Community. He also recently contributed the Afterword to For the Sake of the Common Good, a collection of essays in honour of Lois Wilson, one of his mentors.

Born in Jamaica, Michael is a graduate of Ontario Bible College (Tyndale), University of Waterloo and Wycliffe College, Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto. He is the father of two adult sons.

Michael enjoys photography in his spare time.