

Rev. Thomas A. Barclay
International Presiding Elder



Elder Thomas A. Barclay, Sr. is the Senior Pastor of Progressive Beulah Pentecostal Church of Chicago, Illinois. He and his wife, Lady Yvette P. Barclay, a woman of prayer, have labored together to build God's church and His people. Together, Pastor and Lady Barclay, are the proud parents of Thomas Anthony II, Priscilla Antoinette, and Dakarai Antoine, who also support the ministry as they grow in the Lord and endure the challenges of being "preacher's kids". God is working His will in the family according to Philippians 2:13.

In 1979, Pastor Barclay received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa and, in 1981, a Master's degree in Social Work from Indiana University. He received post-graduate certification from Yale University. For 18 years, he held leadership positions with Youth Guidance, a social service agency that works with elementary and high school faculty, staff and students. He worked for DePaul University Urban Education Department as an Education Consultant.

Pastor Barclay was ordained in 1992 with the United Pentecostal Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc. (UPCAG). He served several years as the National Youth Director. He credits much of his spiritual development to his parents, the late Bishop Fitz and Mother Geraldine Barclay.

In 1995, Pastor Barclay succeeded his father as Senior Pastor of Progressive. Right away, God called him to move outside the church walls to reach people in the streets. In 1999, God directed him to full-time pastoral ministry, where his focus continues to be on evangelizing individuals who battle problems such as life-controlling substance abuse, prostitution, alcoholism, and homelessness.

In 2009, Pastor Barclay was elected as the International Presiding Elder of the United Pentecostal Council of the Assemblies of God, Inc. (UPCAG). He currently provides leadership to 42 churches throughout the United States and the Caribbean. He continues to motivate Pastors to leave the four walls of the church to go into the hedges and highways to compel men to come to Christ. Through education, inspiration, and modeling, Rev. Barclay has galvanized UPCAG to return to their original commitment to do missions, both locally and abroad.