



# InterFaith Advisory Board

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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## Reverend Dr. James M. Thomas

### Board Member

Rev. James M. Thomas is a distinguished figure in academia, activism, and spiritual leadership. Currently serving as an Assistant Professor of Pan-African Studies at Cal State LA and the Pastor of Living Word Community Church, Rev. Thomas has dedicated his life to advancing social justice and fostering community empowerment.

His commitment to advocacy is evident through his various leadership roles, including his presidency of the San Fernando Valley NAACP and his co-founding of Clergy for Black Lives. Additionally, he actively organizes with Black Lives Matter LA, championing the cause of racial equality and systemic reform.

Rev. Thomas's academic journey reflects his multidisciplinary approach to addressing societal issues. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Administration from Fisk University, followed by a Bachelor of Science in Political Science/Jazz Vocal Performance and a Master of Science in Urban Affairs and Public Policy Analysis from Southern Illinois University. He furthered his education by earning a Doctorate in Policy, Planning, and Development from the University of Southern California.

His spiritual journey intertwined with his academic pursuits, as he attended Fuller Theological Seminary and was appointed as Special Advisor to the President on diversity issues. As a former Benjamin Mays Scholar, Rev. Thomas is deeply rooted in the belief that the black church plays a pivotal role in fostering societal transformation. He ardently advocates for a world free from racism, where justice, peace, and righteousness serve as catalysts for community development and economic progress.

Rev. James M. Thomas stands as a beacon of hope and inspiration, utilizing his expertise, passion, and faith to effect positive change and uplift marginalized communities. His unwavering dedication to social justice continues to leave an indelible mark on society, inspiring others to join the fight for a more equitable and inclusive world. More importantly, he is a husband and father of three sons and one daughter.

Rev. Dr. James M. Thomas, Pastor  
Living Word Community Church, President SFV NAACP, Assistant PAS Professor Cal State LA, Co-Founder  
Clergy4BlackLives

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