



Dr. Clifford Thompson Class of 2016

Dr. Clifford Thompson graduated from Las Plumas High School (LPHS) in 1972 with an overall 3.5 grade point average and was a Top Ten student all four years. He was a Bank of America, PG&E and National Merit Scholar, and won first place in the Rotary International public speaking forum. He lettered in football, basketball and track and was a member of Block LP. He was class president during his freshman and sophomore years and student body president as a senior.

While at LPHS, Clifford was very involved in the music program, serving on the Music Council, playing in the Concert Band, and was the first drum major at LPHS when the school won its first trophy in the Feather Fiesta Days Parade. He also served as assistant band director.

Following graduation from LPHS, Clifford earned his B.A. degree from University of California at Davis (UCD) in 1976, and then went on to earn his B.S. and M.S. degrees at Californian State University, Hayward in 1984. He earned his Ed.D degree at the University of San Francisco (USF) in 1999. While at UCD, Clifford was one of the founding members of the UCD Black Gospel Choir. In addition to his BA, BS, and Ed.D degrees, he earned his Masters and Doctor of Theology degrees at Fuller Seminar.

Clifford's 35 years in education originated in Oroville where he was a substitute teacher at Sierra Del Oro School and continued teaching in Oakland, CA at the elementary, secondary, and university levels. He spent many years working in the public school system during the daylight hours and at universities in the evening and during the summers.

He taught at Stonehurst and Garfield Elementary Schools and Madison Middle School, all in Oakland, and served as principal at both Oakland Technical and Emery High Schools. His university teaching took place at Patten University, California State University, East Bay, and the University of Phoenix.

In 2010, Dr. Thompson was appointed to lead the prestigious new Dr. Herbert Guice Christian Academy, and was principal there for three years. The private elementary school in Oakland achieved distinction for its excellent academic performance by its students. In 2013, he served as principal of the 100 Black Men Community School, an all-male public charter school in Oakland and is currently the principal of the Community School for Creative Education, also in Oakland. He has no immediate plans for retirement.

Along with his busy career in education, Clifford found time to author his first book, [Apologetics: What Do You Really Believe](#), published in 2012. He is currently working on his second book which will deal with educational leadership and has published numerous newspaper articles on test taking strategies, learning the basics, navigating the educational system and parental support.

Throughout his career, Clifford has received many awards and recognition for his contributions to education and his community. Among institutions that have recognized Dr. Thompson are Catholic Charities of the East Bay, University of San Francisco, Oakland Unified School District, Evangelical Outreach Ministry and Interaction Associates. In 2015, he was the keynote speaker at the Knowledge Is Power Youth Leadership Conference in Oakland.

Dr. Thompson has been highly involved in his Oakland community for many years, not only in his church, but as an educational liaison for Civic Pride, Board member for Catholic Charities, a community reading tutor, and serving as a food bagger and server for the Oakland Food Bank.

In addition to the above, Clifford has never forgotten his home town, having been a 25 year participant in the Oroville religious community as a motivational speaker, officiant, and community organizer in South Oroville. For 17 years, he has served as master of ceremonies for the Oroville Martin Luther King (MLK) Celebration, and was the keynote speaker on two occasions. One of his greatest pleasures is his continued involvement in the MLK celebration. Performing weddings and funerals in Oroville are also part of Clifford's community service.

Dr. Thompson has made his home in Oakland for 36 years and is the father of one son who lives in New York.