



Clarence Hightower, Ph.D. is the Executive Director of Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties, part of a national network of more than 1,000 organizations and one of the largest Community Action agencies in Minnesota. In this role, Dr. Hightower guides the work of an agency first established in 1964 as part of the “War on Poverty.” His responsibilities include the management of a \$20+ million annual budget, a staff of nearly 300, and 13 work sites. Prior to Community Action, Dr. Hightower spent 10 years as President/CEO of the Minneapolis Urban League.

His 34 years of executive leadership in the Twin-Cities non-profit sector also includes serving as Executive Director of both The City, Inc. and North Community YMCA. He is the author of *Claiming the Constitution*, and has been a featured columnist for *Insight News* (“Urban Views”), *The Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder* (“The Anti-Poverty Soldier”) and other Twin Cities publications.

In 2002, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system (MnSCU), where he served until 2014. Dr. Hightower was elected Chair of MnSCU’s Board of Trustees in 2012, the first African American to ever hold that distinction. He is the recipient of The Minneapolis Award, as well as a Bush Foundation Leadership Fellowship.

Dr. Hightower earned his Bachelor’s Degree from Southwest Minnesota State University and his Master’s Degree in Human and Community Service from George Williams College in Aurora, Illinois. In 2015, he graduated summa cum laude from Jackson State University, earning his Ph.D. in Urban Higher Education. An ordained minister, devoted husband, and proud father of one daughter, Dr. Hightower is the Pastor of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in north Minneapolis.