

Richard A. Lawrence
Secretary

Richard Lawrence, a retired Methodist clergyman whose ministry is committed to social justice, organized and has served as the first Chair of the San Diego Affordable Housing Coalition for nearly ten (10) years. The Affordable Housing Coalition is an active member of ACCORD (A Community Coalition for Responsible Development), and Richard led negotiations on the housing component in the recently negotiated Community Benefits Agreement with JMIR. He is an adjunct faculty member at Springfield College (San Diego Campus) and the Western Institute for Social Research in Berkeley.

Mr. Lawrence graduated from Albion College in Michigan with a BA degree and secondary teaching certificate in English, German and Social Studies. He has a Masters Degree in Social Ethics from the University of Chicago and completed the Post-Graduate Program for Management Development at the Harvard Business School

Richard was active in the civil rights movement and took an interracial group of students from Chicago to participate in the Selma to Montgomery march. He has contributed leadership for dozens of community organizations including: Chair of Negotiations for Operation Breadbasket (PUSH) – Chicago, the Englewood Action Committee – Chicago, Cummins Engine Foundation Minority Community Development Program - Chicago, Greater Lawrence (MA) Community Foundation, the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO - NYC), the Chicago and National Black United Funds.

As a member of the clergy, Rev. Lawrence participated in the Selma to Montgomery March, organized an anti-discrimination march with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and has served time in jail for demonstrations with Dick Gregory and Al Raby. He was defeated in a run for Alderman in Chicago, however he was elected for two terms on the Lawrence (MA) City Council.