

Irving Lambert Outstanding Urban Ministries Award Recipient Karen Brewer

Karen Elaine Brewer is senior pastor of Atonement Covenant Church located in the Englewood community of Chicago. For nineteen years she worked at Illinois Bell Telephone Company. She transitioned to the field of domestic violence after personally surviving domestic abuse. She began working as a volunteer and then became an advocate.

In 1984, she founded and became executive director of People Abused and Battered United (PABU) in Englewood, providing services to victims of domestic violence and their families.

In 1997, Brewer became executive director of Wellspring Transitional Living Center, located in the South Chicago community, and program services for PABU continued through Wellspring. Three years later she began working as a domestic violence advocate/trainer and consultant for a variety of agencies including the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Violence Against Women, the Illinois State Department of Human Services, the City of Chicago Mayor's Office, Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network, Cook County State's Attorney Office, Institute for Public Safety at UIC, Metropolitan Family Services, and the University of Illinois Extension 4-H programs.

In 1991, Brewer became a member at Calvary Covenant Church. While there, she received a minister's license. In 2002, she became a member of Atonement Covenant Church and served as associate minister until 2005, when she was called to become senior pastor.

While serving as pastor, she continues to volunteer and advocate for those impacted by violence through her role as a regional coordinator for AVA (Advocacy for Victims of Abuse). As a coordinator, she is available to educate clergy and lay leaders and assist churches in the development of their ministry for victims of abuse. In an effort to share her passion for strengthening families affected by abuse, she recently participated in a video produced by TotallivingNetwork1 titled *The Karen Brewer Story: A Journey into Domestic Violence*. Please visit YouTube to see the short film.

She is married to Michael J. Brewer Sr. and they have six children, fifteen grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.



