

Rev. Terrence L. Melvin

Rev. Terrence L. Melvin holds the second highest office in the New York State labor movement – Secretary-Treasurer of the 2.5 million members, New York State AFL-CIO. In July 2007, Mr. Melvin was elected to this position. In August 2008 and 2012, 2016 and just recently in 2020, he was re-elected to four-year terms.

In 1980, Melvin started his career as a member of Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) Local 427 at the Western New York Developmental Center. CSEA is a Statewide Union representing over 250,000 state, county, municipal and private sector workers throughout New York. Over the years, he held numerous elected and appointed positions in his statewide and International union, AFSCME.

In May 2012, at the 41st International Convention of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU), Rev. Melvin was elected unanimously as the organization's new president, succeeding William (Bill) Lucy, who had held the position since he co-founded CBTU in 1972. CBTU, which is dedicated to addressing the unique concerns of black workers and their communities, has 58 chapters in major U.S. cities and one in Ontario, Canada.

In the community, Rev. Melvin is a long-time activist who has touched many lives. Outside of his Labor life, Rev. Melvin is actively engaged in Labor allied and community organizations.

In the political realm, Rev. Melvin knows the power of the vote. He is continuously working to increase voter registration, promoting Get-Out-The-Vote drives, and is active in national, state, local, city and school board elections.

Since being elected Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. Melvin, in addition to performing his constitutional mandated duties, has focused on developing lasting ties between labor, religious organizations and community partners. With this, in December 2008, he spearheaded the development of the NYS AFL-CIO Community Outreach Department which he oversees the day-to-day operations. This program was designed to make a lasting connection between AFL-CIO constituency groups, local communities, and religious leaders.

In March of 2016, Rev. Melvin was a founding member of the Global African Workers Institute (GAWI), where he currently serves as President. The Global African Worker Institute is a transnational educational network bringing together organizers and scholars to explore issues facing workers of African descent and to join in efforts at social and economic justice.

In August 2020, Mr. Melvin was appointed Executive Director of the National AFL-CIO Racial Justice Task Force. In this role he seeks to inculcate racial justice into every aspect of the labor movement.

Amongst his various Labor and community roles, Mr. Melvin is a man of devout faith and spiritual belief. He is an ordained Baptist Minister. He serves as Associate Minister and Assistant to the Pastor at Second Baptist Church, Lackawanna, New York.

Rev. Melvin is a graduate of the Rochester Center for Theological and Biblical Studies with a bachelor's degree in ministry. He is married to Sonja Marie Melvin, and has three children: Candice, Terrence II and Crystal; and two beautiful granddaughters, Cadence and Terrin; and one grandson, Theseus.