

Rev. Dr. Ralph Basui Watkins

“The scholar with a camera!”

The Peachtree Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth
Columbia Theological Seminary

Education:

MFA, Savannah College of Art and Design
DMin, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
PhD, University of Pittsburgh

Ralph Basui Watkins is known as “the scholar with a camera!” He is an arts based researcher who does work at the intersection of spirituality, photography, documentary film and social justice. He is the author of six books, and over thirty chapters and articles. He is a sought after speaker, workshop leader and panelist. His television show *Talk it Out with Dr. Ralph Basui Watkins* was one of the top rated shows on the Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasting network for over four years (2012-2016). He is also the producer / director of three full length made for television feature documentaries: *She Is The Pastor* (2012) and *Our Journey to Palestine: A Story of the 43rd Delegation of Interfaith Peace Builders* (2013) and *Out of Egypt I've Called My Son: A Son's Journey Black to Africa - Part #1& 2 for Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasting Network* (2018) (2018). Dr. Watkins has had three solo photography shows and his photographs have been published in numerous publications. He is presently working on a documentary and photo series *Seeing the Future of the Church in the Rainbow*. Dr. Watkins is also working with Dr. Bill Brown on his seventh book *The Word Made Image: Scripture, Photography, and the Creativity of Justice*, Fortress Press, projected, Fall 2025.

In recent years, Watkins has been the artist in residence for Pride in the Pews at Spelman College, Velvet Note and St. James Live, both nationally recognized jazz clubs. He also been awarded a Louisville Institute Sabbatical Grant, Collegeville Institute Sabbatical Residency Grant, Governor's Teaching Fellowship, Lilly Teaching Fellowship, Fulbright Hayes Fellowship for study in Ghana, a Wabash Teaching Fellowship, and various awards and grants to study in Kenya, Tanzania, Egypt, Ethiopia, Senegal, and Ghana. Dr. Watkins is married to Dr. Vanessa C. Watkins, they have been married since 1982 and have three adult children.