

Engaging the Faith Based Community: A Third Way

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At Harlem Children's Zone

EdRedesign
OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL



#PowerofPlace



SPARTANBURG
ACADEMIC MOVEMENT



**DR.
IRVIN
SCOTT**

Dr. Russell W. Booker
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**A THIRD
WAY**



LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE
FOR
FAITH AND EDUCATION



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**Senior Fellow, EdRedesign
CEO, Spartanburg Academic Movement**

A JOURNEY OF FAITH

2018

Spartanburg Racial Equity Report Published

Joint Funders release Spartanburg's first Racial Equity Report, revealing stark **disparities in economic mobility and life expectancy**. Findings alarm the faith community, sparking urgent conversations and calls to action.

2019

Faith Initiative to End Child Poverty Launches

The findings jolt the faith community, prompting urgent dialogue and the **launch of the Faith Initiative to End Child Poverty**.

2020

Pandemic

Stay-at-Home Order takes effect. Churches across Spartanburg close their doors especially in the most vulnerable communities. **The closures deepen the impact of the pandemic**, cutting off vital spiritual, emotional, physical and social support when it's needed most.

2021

Engaging The Spartanburg Faith Community

In response to the pandemic's impact, Dr. Booker **convenes faith leaders to identify ways to support vulnerable communities**. Four key focus areas emerge, and \$200,000 is awarded to SCBA as trust capital to begin immediate action.

2022

Summer Institute Raj Chetty Report on Interconnectedness

Raj Chetty previews groundbreaking findings on economic mobility, highlighting the powerful role of social capital. His research reveals that **faith communities foster the highest levels of interaction across socioeconomic lines**—an insight that underscores their unique potential to bridge divides and drive upward mobility.

2023

“What a Fellowship” Summer Institute (Panel) Dr. Booker Meets Irving Scott

- **April:** Dr. Booker is introduced to Dr. Irvin Scott, marking the beginning of a new collaboration.
- **Summer:** Dr. Booker is invited as an inaugural By All Means Fellow.
- **Summer:** Participates in a panel on engaging the faith community at the Summer Institute.
- **October:** Dr. Irvin Scott visits Spartanburg's Fall Conference, deepening the connection between local efforts and national thought leadership.

2024

Hurricane Helene THRIVE 2024 Neighborhoods LIFE Strategic Planning Summer Institute

- Hurricane Helene hits Spartanburg, causing widespread disruption.
- THRIVE 2024 Resilience Conference continues, spotlighting community strength.
- SAM was awarded a Promise Neighborhoods planning/implementation grant, SAM partners with MMBC
- LIFE begins strategic planning aligned with Movement 2030.
- Summer Institute held at Harvard, FIECP joins SAM team.

2025

Summer Institute Conclusion of Fellowship “Meet Irvin Scott”

- Dr. Booker concludes fellowship, reflecting on the role of social capital and the faith community in advancing upward mobility.
- Deepens connections with Irvin Scott and between place-based leadership across the nation.
- Russell introduces Irvin to place-based partnerships family!