

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Robert V. Taylor



ROBERT V. TAYLOR is a nationally known speaker, writer, and activist for social justice.

A native of Cape Town, South Africa, Taylor was sent to the United States by his mentor, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, in 1980 to avoid imprisonment for his anti-apartheid activity. There, Taylor served in the Diocese of New York from 1983 to 1999, helping to build a community social service center offering HIV/AIDS programs to veterans and people of color, in-home services for the elderly, day care for children of single parent families, and a community music education initiative.

Nineteen years after his arrival in the US, he was elected to become dean of St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle, making him the first openly gay Episcopal dean in the United States.

One of the frequent themes of Taylor's public speaking and writing – overcoming enclosures – was born from an experience he had at fifteen years of age, hospitalized for a failing spine. After two unsuccessful surgeries, Taylor was invited for prayer by the Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town, Bill Burnett. He was sent away with the words, "your body will not enclose you again," and true to the Archbishop's words, it never did. Taylor told his story to an all-black congregation in Cape Town at age sixteen, and ever since then, he has devoted his life to helping others identify and break through their personal enclosures.

Today, Taylor is Chair of the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation in New York, and also is the founding chair of the Committee to End Homelessness in King County, Washington. He is a graduate of Rhodes University, South Africa and Union Theological Seminary, New York. He lives in Seattle and on a farm in rural Eastern Washington.