



**Keynote Speaker  
Dr. Jeanelle Norman**

**Theme: Christian Love Overcomes All  
Barriers”**

**(Romans 12:9-10, 14-21)**

**Dr. Jeanelle Norman served as the chairperson of the Education Committee for the NAACP Illinois State Conference for more than ten years. During her tenure, she was invited by legislators to testify before two committees of the Illinois General Assembly: Transportation Committee (Senate) and the Elementary and Secondary Education Committee (House). Dr. Norman has organized successful mobilizations at the State Capitol on educational issues relevant to the NAACP Illinois State Conference.**

**She has had a commitment to education for many years at different educational levels. She has taught in the elementary schools in Danville and Decatur. In 2002, she retired as a professor from Richland Community College. In 2003, she was among the first faculty to be honored as Professor Emeritus. Dr. Norman was elected to serve on the Decatur Board of Education for three consecutive terms, 12 years. For ten years she served as the president. On another note, oftentimes in educational administration classes, the case of the Decatur 14 non-tenured teachers being fired for striking is discussed. Dr. Norman was one of those teachers. Ironically, while serving on the Board, she worked with the same superintendent and attorney who had fired her.**

**Currently, Dr. Norman is the Coordinator of the Community Restorative Board of Macon County Adult Redeploy Illinois Project. Her role is to recruit and train volunteers who help adults understand the harm their crime caused the community and what needs to be done to restore the harm. The adults have committed non-violent crimes.**

**She is the current president of the NAACP Decatur Branch and is active in the community. Under her leadership, the NAACP has worked diligently in providing services to the community, including fighting for justice and equality. The NAACP and the Decatur Police Department established an Area Leaders Educators Response Team (ALERT) in order to disseminate accurate information to the community in the event of an incident involving the police and the shooting of African Americans. This is the first group in the State of Illinois to form such a union, and the Governor of Illinois praised the Decatur Branch and the Police Department after an incident. ALERT has been instrumental in bringing “calmness” to the community after two incidents.**

**The fruits of Dr. Norman’s labor have not gone unnoticed. In 2016, Mayor Julie Moore-Wolfe and the Chamber of Commerce selected her as the *Citizen of the Year*. Other organizations that have honored her work include the Boys and Girls Club, Outstanding Board Member; NAACP Decatur Branch, Joe Slaw Civil Rights Award; Chamber of Commerce, Civic Leadership Award; and St Peter A. M. E. Church, Community Service Award, just to name a few.**

**She is the proud mother of Torria J. Norman, Professor at Black Hawk College; Jillian L. Norman-Faulcon, Speech Language Pathologist in Tampa; and “Grandma” to Karis Jeanelle. She has been a member of the Church of the Living God CWWF since 1974.**

**Her favorite scripture: “In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy path.”**