

## CURRENT RESUME –Mary Nelson

Rev. Dr. Mary Nelson brings over 50 years of experience to the Christian Community Development Association as a Founder and former Board Member. Mary is President Emeritus of Bethel New Life a faith based community development corporation, where she served for 26 years. Bethel pioneered in creative community based efforts to build healthier, sustainable and equitable communities on Chicago's west side. Some of the most notable projects include the adaptive re-use of a closed down inner city hospital, and a smart, green, mixed use commercial center at a transit stop. The Bethel efforts are examples of ABCD in action. She still lives, works and worships in the same low income African American community. Mary actively participates in city-wide, national policy advocacy efforts. She was Executive Director (2012-2015) of the Parliament of the World's Religions where she participated in gatherings in many part of the world, fostered local interfaith connections, helped develop a Faiths against Hate initiative and led towards the Salt Lake City 2015 Parliament event. She is currently Executive Consultant. She is also on the faculty of the ABCD (Asset Based Community Development) Institute at DePaul University, on the Board of Christian Community Development Association and served on the Board of Sojourners. Mary has her PhD from Union Graduate School and six honorary PhDs, and is now doing consulting, writing and teaching. She is the author of the handbook, Empowerment, published by CCDA (2010), and has authored chapters in a number of books on sustainable community development.