In 1979, another medical school classmate, Dr. James Saylor, contacted Church, asking for her help. Seeing her love for patient care, she agreed to help. After a year, she was awarded the title of assistant professor and began her career as a nurse.

In 1981, she became the first African American to be appointed to the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing, where she served as an assistant professor. She remained at the university for 18 years, until her retirement in 1999.

Dr. Rita B. Church's career was marked by her commitment to providing care for underserved populations. She served as a nurse and later as a physician, always striving to make a difference in the lives of others. Her legacy continues to inspire nurses and doctors alike to follow in her footsteps and make a positive impact in the world of medicine.

In conclusion, Dr. Rita B. Church's story is one of dedication, resilience, and service. Her life work has left a lasting impact on the field of nursing and healthcare, and she remains an inspiration to all those who strive to make a difference in the lives of others.