



Phillips School of Theology

The Seminary of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church



28th Pastor's Conference 80th Founder's Day

*Crowne Plaza Atlanta Perimeter Ravinia
January 8th - 11th, 2024*

Seeing the New: Discovering Next Level Ministries that Transform Churches

Reverend Dr. Paul L. Brown, Sr., President – Dean
Bishop Sylvester Williams, Chair, PST Board of Trustees
Bishop Marvin F. Thomas, Sr., Vice– Chair, PST Board of Trustees
Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr., Host Bishop
Bishop Teresa Snorton, Chair, College of Bishops

This Event is Sponsored by CNBC

Our History

The Phillips School of Theology was founded on May 30, 1944, by the action of the Lane College Board of Trustees, Jackson, Tennessee, and the leadership of Bishop J. Arthur Hamlett and Bishop C. H. Phillips. While the formal Founders' Day Service was on December 12, 1944, the school's academic program began on January 2, 1945, with the enrollment of eighteen students and seven professors. The purpose of the school was to train ministers and other religious workers for the Christian (then known as Colored) Methodist Episcopal Church and other religious bodies. Dr. Joseph A. Johnson, Jr., (elected in 1966 as the 34th Bishop of the CME Church) was elected dean of the school in 1945 and served until 1954. The 1950 General Conference of the CME Church decided to make Phillips School of Theology a connectional school. This placed Phillips with the other five CME schools in the sharing of the general Church's educational financial appropriations.

When Dr. U. Z. McKinnon was elected the Executive Dean of Phillips School of Theology in 1954, he added an extension program to the curriculum. Extension centers were established in Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia. Classes in Christian Education, theology, homiletics and administration were held and, occasionally, special workshops or institutes in missionary work and community and family life planning were conducted.

In August 1959, Phillips moved to Atlanta, GA, to become a part of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) with the leadership of many CME Church educators, including the late Bishop B. Julian Smith. Bishop Smith served as the first chairman of the Phillips Board of Trustees with its ITC affiliation. Also, in 1959, Dr. M. L. Darnell was elected Dean of Phillips and was also a contributor to the school becoming a part of ITC. With his administration, the Phillips Dormitory and office building was constructed on the ITC campus. Dr. Darnell passed on November 12, 1973.

On July 20, 1974, Dr. A. L. Dopson was elected Dean of Phillips by its Board of Trustees. Accomplishments made during his administration included a new roof on the building and the redecoration of the downstairs lounge and classroom. Dean Dopson passed on December 5, 1979. The interim administrator of Phillips was Bishop J. C. Coles, Jr., the Chairman of the Phillips Board of Trustees. Bishop Coles was succeeded as Chairman of the Board of Trustees in 1983 by Bishop William. H. Graves.

The Board of Trustees met in January 1980 and elected Dr. William. C. Larkin, Dean of Phillips. He began his administration on February 4, 1980. Achievements made under his management include the liquidation of a \$90,000 indebtedness, refurbishing the upstairs dormitory lounge, establishment of the Phillips Voice newspaper and the Phillips Bookstore, the purchase of Graves House for PST female students and students with families, the creation of the PST Honor Society, and a computerized record-keeping system for the bookstore.

The Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Brown, Sr. (elected in 2006 as the 54th Bishop of the CME Church) was elected Administrative Dean on May 27, 1990. The Board of Trustees elected Dr. Brown President-Dean in February 1991 and he served until 2006. The Pastors' Conference is one of his many achievements during that tenure.

On July 1, 2006, Dr. Marvin Frank Thomas, Sr. was elected President-Dean of Phillips School of Theology and served for eight years. Among many notable achievements during his tenure were impressive growth in student enrollment and fundraising initiatives resulting in the liquidation of the mortgage on the seminary building. In July 2014, Dr. Thomas was elected the 62nd Bishop of the CME Church and assigned Presiding Prelate of the 2nd Episcopal District.

Currently, The Reverend Dr. Paul Lawrence Brown, Sr. is President Dean. He is an honored and energetic Phillips alumnus, former pastor of Miles Memorial CME Church, Washington, DC, and brings a portfolio of excellence in the pastorate, administrative assignments with three former Senior Bishops, and the corporate workplace to Phillips School of Theology.



Rev. Dr. Maisha Handy
Interim President, ITC



Celebrating the 28th Pastor's Conference of the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) denomination and the 80th Founder's Day Celebration of Phillips School of Theology (PST) is a blessing! The presence and contributions of PST at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) are greatly honored and appreciated. As we move toward a bright and vibrant future, we are grateful for students preparing for various ministry manifestations. They are prophetic change makers who will help transform their communities through work in the church, the public square, and global settings.

Rev. Dr. Paul Brown's leadership is stellar and unwavering. His support of PST at ITC, students, staff, and the CME denomination continues to gain strength and buttress the church, community, and the world. The celebrations of this week are amplified by the CME denomination's ongoing commitment to the Black church, a liberating and transforming spirituality, and prophetic social witness. Many congratulations on the great celebrations of this week and may God continue to order your steps as you educate people for the life of ministry!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Maisha Handy, PhD,
Interim President
Interdenominational Theological Center

January 8, 2024



Greetings to the attendees the 2024 Pastor's Conference for the Phillips School of Theology. On behalf of the City of Dunwoody, I extend the warmest welcome. We are thrilled that you are here.

We are so honored that your organization chose Dunwoody for this event. Please visit our parks, take a walk on our trails, enjoy our shops, and dine at our fantastic restaurants. Our community has much to offer, and we are so glad you are here.

I know you will enjoy your special events, meetings and each other's company as you share thoughts, challenges and ideas.

When it's time to travel back home, I hope you will leave this event with fond memories of Dunwoody. Best wishes for a truly wonderful conference, and we look forward to your return in 2025 and 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn Deutsch". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lynn Deutsch
Mayor
City of Dunwoody

Lynn Deutsch Mayor
Eric Linton ICMA-CM City Manager
Sharon Lowery CMC City Clerk

Catherine Lautenbacher City Council Post 1
Rob Price City Council Post 2
Tom Lambert City Council Post 3

Stacey Harris City Council Post 4
Joe Seconder City Council Post 5
John Heneghan City Council Post 6



SIXTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT, CME CHURCH

2028 WESLEY CHAPEL ROAD

DECATUR, GEORGIA 30035

OFFICE: (404) 963-6652

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THOMAS LOUIS BROWN, SR., PRESIDING BISHOP

“BE *HOLY BOLD*: FACE NOW – EMBRACE NEXT - SEE NEW”

December 22, 2023

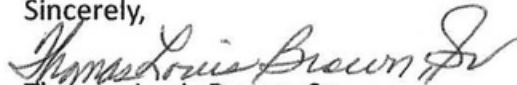
Greetings College of Bishops, Bishop Sylvester Williams, Chair of Phillips Board of Trustees, Dr. Paul Brown, President Dean, Members of the Board of Trustees, General Officers & Connectional Officers, and clergy and members of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. On behalf of the Sixth Episcopal District, CME Church, I gratefully welcome you to Atlanta, Georgia on the occasion of the 80th Anniversary of Phillips School of Theology and its Pastors' Conference.

The birth and development of Phillips School of Theology is one of many countless answers to Langton Hughes' question, "What happens to a dream deferred?" According to Bishop Othal H. Lakey, the dream of a seminary for the training of CME preachers officially dates back to at least 1922. Thanks to the venerable leadership and vision of Bishop J. Arthur Hamlett, then Chair of the Board of Trustees of Lane College and the First Episcopal District, and the tangible blessings of Senior Bishop Charles Henry Phillips, Phillips School of Theology burst forth as a dream no longer deferred in 1944. Fourteen years later, in 1958, Phillips covenanted with three other African American seminaries in the formation of Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, Georgia.

Additionally the Sixth Episcopal District has the peculiar honor of hosting Phillips for sixty-five of its 80 years. I gratefully remember Bishops P. R. Shy, Joseph C. Coles, Jr., Othal H. Lakey and Kenneth W. Carter who proceeded me in welcoming the annual pilgrim to Phillips School of Theology's founders' observance and later the Pastors' Conference. We have this privilege because our founders envisioned something new, and imagined the ministry of our Zion rising to new levels through the transformative and liberating theological curriculum and existential experiences offered by Phillips School of Theology at the ITC.

Finally, we join you in thanks for the leadership of President/Dean Brown and Chairman Williams as we gather on this epic milestone of 80 years. May the programmatic offerings coupled with our rich fellowship in worship and study galvanize us to become daring leaders for a church yearning for the more excellent way of Jesus Christ for the world.

Sincerely,


Thomas Louis Brown, Sr.



CONTACT

**BISHOP SYLVESTER W
PRESIDING PRELATE**

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ST. LOUIS, MO 63121

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(314) 381-3111 OFFICE
(314) 381-2060 FAX

EMAIL

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KANSAS-MISSOURI
MICHIGAN-INDIANA
SOUTHEAST MISSOURI,
ILLINOIS, & WISCONSIN

Third Episcopal District

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

January 4, 2023

Greetings,

Behold how wonderful and pleasant it is for us to gather again as we celebrate another Pastor's Conference and PST Founder's Day. Although forced into being socially distant, in my way of thinking, the Pandemic helped us realize how we should never take any of our blessings for granted and how thankful we should be for God's "Amazing Grace." Now that we are able to meet again, I invite you to join me in embracing our time together with thanksgiving, fellowship, and learning.

I'd like to acknowledge with appreciation the stellar work of our Dean, Dr. Paul Brown who as a result of ITC's Exigency status, worked so diligently to assure the PST students could continue their matriculation uninterrupted. Consequently, our partnership with Garrett Theological Seminary has been a "Pan-Methodist Godsend." Not only is Dr. Brown to be commended, but I acknowledge with appreciation the President and the Garrett Theological Seminary Family; Bishop Charley Hames, a Board Member of Garrett; Dr. Evelyn Parker, a visiting professor at Garrett; the CME COB's and all board members of PST; and certainly the PST students whose dedication and loyalty to PST and their commitment to a theological education, see our current situation as a detour and not the end of the road.

Please allow detour to stick in your spirit. As you are aware, a detour represents a circuitous way or course; an indirect or roundabout way to get to a destination. A detour is usually temporary when the main route may be under construction. I'd like to assure you that as a destination, PST is as committed as ever to providing quality theological education to all of our preachers and members who desire such. Our commitment has not waned; this period is merely a detour since who and what we are "Becoming" is presently under construction. Please be patient, God is not through with us yet. Therefore, I ask you all not to grow weary in your love and support for we shall reap if we faint not. Remember PST is "the only seminary of the CME Church."

Well, until another time. Thank you all for your presence, prayers, and support.

Blessings Always,

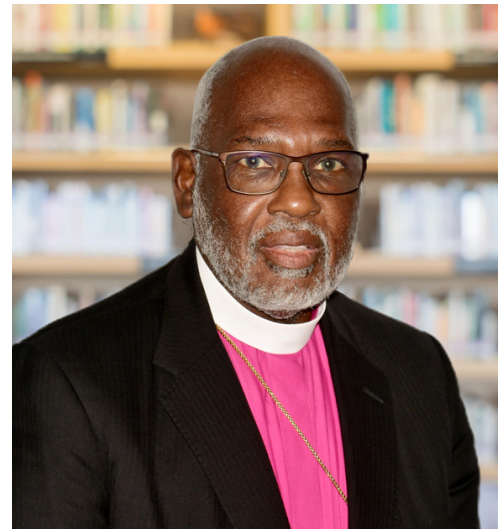
Bishop Sylvester Williams, Sr.

Bishop Sylvester Williams, Sr.



December 18, 2023

Phillips School of Theology
641 Beckwith Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30314



Bishop Marvin F. Thomas
Vice-Chair, Trustee Board

Dear Christian Methodist Church Family:

Greetings to all in the wonderful and life-changing name of Jesus the Christ. I hope this finds you well, excited, and making the necessary plans to be with the CME Church family as we gather in Atlanta, Georgia, January 8-11, 2024. As you know, we will be gathering to celebrate the 28th Pastor's Conference and 80th Founder's Day of Phillips School of Theology, "The Seminary of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church."

The purpose of this communication is to ask and encourage you to not only come to Atlanta; but to invite other persons from your sphere of influence to attend as well. Our President-Dean Paul Brown has assembled an outstanding cadre of top-notch preachers and presenters who will share insight on the theme under which we will gather. In addition, let us continue to pray for our beloved Phillips School of Theology and the ITC as God leads us to our yet awaiting future. Looking forward to seeing you in Atlanta.

Thanks for sharing and caring with us. With best wishes for a productive and successful Pastor's Conference and Founder's Day gathering.

Sincerely,

Marvin Frank Thomas, Sr.,
Presiding Prelate



Greetings beloved of God!

Please allow me to thank you for your registration and presence at this historic, 28th Pastor's Conference and 80th Founder's Day Celebration of Phillips School of Theology, indeed, the Only Seminary of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church! It is no great secret that the ITC and Phillips School of Theology have had some very difficult challenges with which it had to pivot and regroup. Indeed, we thank God for Interim President, Dr. Maisha Handy, who has taken the helm of the ITC and is seeking to assist the ITC in its "R.I.S.E." back to sustainability and vibrancy. ITC's rich history has seen ebbs and flows, highs and lows, of which our God has guided the ITC through, and we are confident God will do so again.

However, as with any educational institution, our number one priority has and continues to be our students. To that end, when the ITC announced the "Pause" in the MDIV program, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Phillips worked diligently with me to engage a seminary that would allow our students to continue their matriculation uninterrupted. I am grateful for Bishop Charlie Hames (A member of the Board of Trustees for Garrett Evangelical Seminary) and Dr. Evelyn Parker for their guidance and assistance in helping us to secure an M.O.U agreement with Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary of Evanston/Chicago, IL. I am also thankful for the new partnership we have and the cooperation which has been extended to us under the leadership of President Javier Rivera and the faculty and staff of Garrett.

As we gather at the beginning of a New Year, we are excited to have you in Atlanta as we share together over these next three days under the theme, "Seeing the New: Discovering Next Level Ministries that Transform the Church." Our lineup of speakers is nothing short of amazing and we are excited to hear what God has given to them. As we will not be going to the campus of the ITC due to building maintenance, we are looking forward to "Bringing the Seminary to the Hotel" as some of the esteemed faculty of the ITC (Former and Present) will challenge us in our Tuesday Plenary sessions. Our Alumni will lead us in our "Late Night" worship services as well as our Alumni Worship Experience on Wednesday and the Commission on Women in Ministry will lead us in a dynamic worship experience on Tuesday as well. We are excited once again to honor those ministries and ministers across the connection who have done outstanding work this past year and we will also recognize a special award honoring an individual who embodies Ecumenical and Developmental leadership.

We again thank you for your support of Phillips School of Theology and our outstanding students who continue to pursue academic excellence. We solicit your continued prayers for the future of the ITC and Phillips School of Theology!

Dr. Paul L. Brown, Sr., President/Dean



Rev. Dr. Paul Brown

President-Dean, PST

The College of Bishops



Senior Bishop L. L. Reddick, III
11th Episcopal District



Bishop Thomas Brown, Sr.
6th Episcopal District



Bishop Kenneth W. Carter
4th Episcopal District



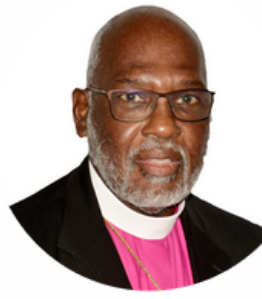
Bishop James B. Walker
7th Episcopal District



Bishop Sylvester Williams, Sr.
3rd Episcopal District



Bishop Teresa E. Snorton
Ecumenical and
Development Officer



Bishop Marvin F. Thomas, Sr.
1st Episcopal District



Bishop C. K. Heath
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Bishop Denise Anders-Modest
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Bishop Ricky D. Helton
10th Episcopal District



Bishop Kwame Lawson Adjei
11th Episcopal District



Retired Bishop
Marshall Gilmore



Retired Bishop
Othal H. Lakey

Retired Bishop
Paul A. G. Stewart

Retired Bishop
Henry M. Williamson, Jr.

Retired Bishop
C. James King, Jr.

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The College of Bishops

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Bishop Charley Hames, Jr., Ninth Episcopal District, Secretary of the College of Bishop
Bishop Ricky D. Helton, Tenth Episcopal District
Bishop Kwame Lawson Adjei, Eleventh Episcopal District
Bishop Marshall Gilmore, Retired
Bishop Othal H. Lakey, Retired
Bishop Paul A.G. Stewart, Retired
Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Jr., Retired
Bishop C. James King, Jr., Retired

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Dr. Roderick D. Lewis, Sr., General Secretary, Department of Publications
Dr. Ore L. Spragin, Jr., Editor, The Christian Index
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Rev. Dr. Reginald G. Barnes, General Secretary, Board of Personnel Services
Mr. Anthony J. Smoaks, Sr., General Secretary, Ministry to Men
Mr. Shannon L. Faulk, General Secretary, Department of Lay Ministries
Dr. Theresa Duhart, General Secretary and Chief Information Officer, Department of Communications and Information Technology
Dr. Pen Woods, Chief Operating Officer

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Ms. Vergie Phillips, First Episcopal District	Mrs. Evelyn Brown, Sixth Episcopal District
Ms. Tracy Cracy, Second Episcopal District	Dr. Paul Brown, Sr., Seventh Episcopal District
Reverend Tracey Jackson, Second Episcopal District	Mrs. Faye Crowder-Phillips, Seventh Episcopal District
Reverend Allen Page, Third Episcopal District	Reverend Dr. Venessee Burns, Eighth Episcopal District
Mrs. Evelyn Moore, Third Episcopal District	Dr. Queen Kirby, Eighth Episcopal District
Reverend Denise Anders-Modest, Fourth Episcopal District	Reverend Joseph Gardner, Ninth Episcopal District
Reverend Curtis L. West, Fourth Episcopal District	Dr. Joseph Neal, Ninth Episcopal District
Attorney J. Richette Pearson, Fifth Episcopal District	Dr. Jackson Yen Batah, Tenth Episcopal District
Reverend Lamont Johnson, Fifth Episcopal District	Dr. Wayne Williams, At. Large

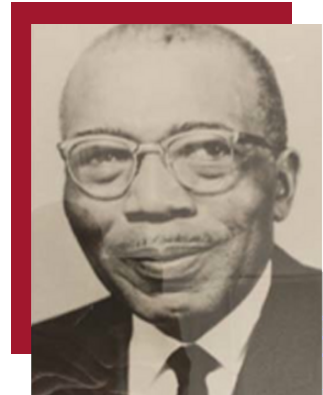
President-Deans



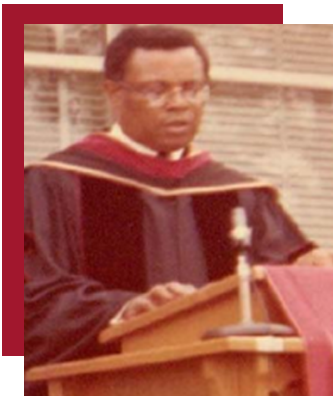
Bishop Joseph A. Johnson, Jr
1944-19954



Dr. U. Z. McKinnon
1951-1959



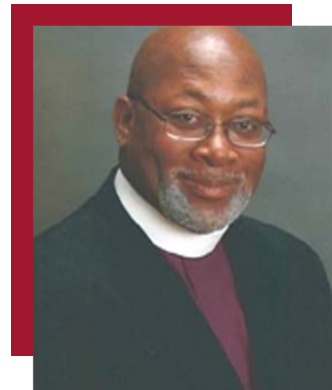
Dr. Millner L. Darneil
1959-1973



Dr. Alvin L. Dopson
1973-1979



Dr. William C. Larkin
1980-1990



Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr.
1990-2006



Bishop Marvin Frank Thomas Sr.
2006-2014



Dr. Paul L. Brown, Sr.
2014

2024 Pastor's Conference Agenda

Monday January 8

CPE Meeting	Bishop Teresa Snorton	7:00AM-5:00PM
Phillips Trustee Meeting		1:30PM-3:30PM
Phillips Trustee Dinner		4:00PM-5:00PM
Opening Service	Bishop Marvin Thomas	6:30PM-8:00PM
Late Night Worship	Alumni in charge	10:00PM

Tuesday January 9

Plenary Session	Dr. Riggins Earl	8:30AM
Plenary Continued		9:30AM-11:30AM
Conference Worship	Dr. Odessa Darrough (1st Episcopal Dis.)	12:15PM-1:15PM
Alumni Luncheon		1:15PM-2:30PM
Plenary Session	Dr. Lisa Allen-McLaurin	2:30PM-3:30PM
Afternoon Hour of Power	Rev. Dr. Valerie Tate-Everett	3:45PM-4:45PM
Outstanding Ministers service	Rev. Bernard Jackson (4th Episcopal Dis.)	7:00PM-9:00PM
Late Night Worship	Alumni in Charge	10:00PM

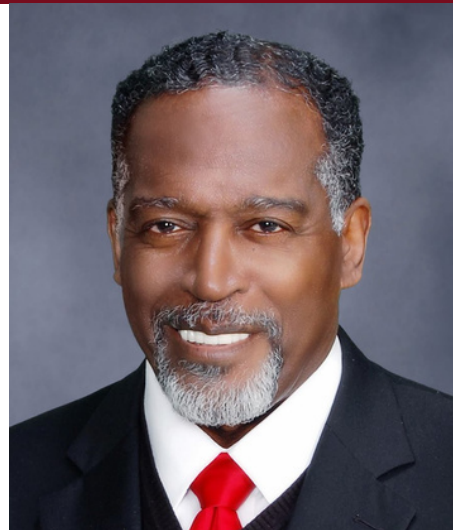
Wednesday January 10

Chaplains Breakfast		7:00AM-8:00AM
B. Julian Smith Lecture Series	Dr. Obrey Hendricks	8:30AM-10:00AM
Conference Presentation Conference	Dr. Gina Stewart	10:00AM-11:00AM
Announcements Conference in		11:15AM-11:30AM
Worship	Rev. Ian Gibson (2nd Episcopal Dis.)	11:30AM-12:30PM
Women in Ministry		12:30PM-1:30PM
Luncheon B. Julian Smith Lecture pt. 2	Dr. Obrey Hendricks	1:45PM-2:45PM
Conference Presentation	Dr. Jamal Bryant	3:00PM-3:45PM
Special Presentation	Dr. E. Dewy Smith	4:00PM-5:00 PM
Alumni Worship	Rev. Richard McDuffie (3rd Episcopal Dis.)	7:00PM-9:00PM

Thursday January 11

Convocation Worship Service	Bishop Thomas L. Brown, Sr.	10:00AM
Closing Repast		12:00PM

Dr. Riggins Earl



Riggins Earl is a professor of Ethics and Theology at the Interdenominational Theological Center of the Atlanta University Center where he has served for thirty-plus years. He holds a Ph.D. degree from Vanderbilt University in Social Ethics. He has done post-doctoral studies at Harvard and Boston University respectively. Earl has done research at the London Institute for African Studies; taught in the Religious Studies Department of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and taught religion in the university and seminary context for forty years. During that tenure, he has sought to be at the forefront of intellectual conversations about religion and the ethical and moral life particularly as it relates to black Americans.

Rev. Dr. Reginaldo Braga



The Rev. Dr. Reginaldo Paranhos Braga Jr is an Associate Professor of Religion and Education. He teaches Religion and Education courses, the intersection of these fields, and the intersection of these fields with Christian theology. Courses that he teaches include Introduction to Religious Education, Sacred Texts and Religion and Education, Teaching and Learning, Critical Theory in Education, Conversations with Educational Theorists, Philosophy of Education, Educating in Faith in Latin America, Research Methods in Religion and Education and Research Practicum in Religion and Education. His areas of expertise include Critical Pedagogies, with a focus on Paulo Freire, Latin American Theologies, and Critical Theory. His teaching and research interests include fostering educational practices that emphasize building selfhood through story linking, agency through epistemological, identity, and relational competencies, and social action through liberating and transforming practices of faith. He also coordinates the MA in Religion & Education Degree, with extensive program development in the research tracks of Congregational Ministries, Public Spaces and Public Theologies, and Teaching and Research in Education. His publications include “Práticas de Vida, Práticas de Fé, Práticas de Graça: Por uma Pedagogia do Cotidiano do Povo Brasileiro” in Carvalhaes, Cláudio, *Teologia do Culto: Entre o Altar e o Mundo*, Fonte Editorial: São Paulo, 2012; and articles in *Interfaith Peace Walk: A Peace Primer*, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Nyack, NY, and “Confessing Grace: Lessons from the Diasporic Ambiguity on Epistemology, Identity and Relationality,” Copher Lecture, 2017 in the *Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center* (forthcoming).

His current research project is the translation and editing of seminal ITC faculty work into Portuguese language. Currently, he is working on Dr. Jacqueline Grant’s *White Women’s Christ and Black Women’s Jesus* forthcoming to print in cooperation with ASTE Brazil and Faculdade Unida. He has initiated and facilitated the global and international studies initiative at ITC with educational partners in Brazil. His guild service includes co-chairing the Teaching and Learning Unit of the SECSOR/American Academy of Religion, the Forum for Theological Exploration, and the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship. He is also an ordained minister of the word and sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Rev. Dr. Mark Lomax



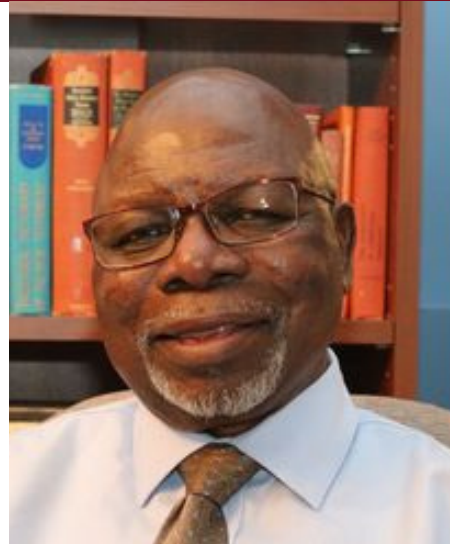
The Reverend Dr. Mark A. Lomax is the founding pastor of the First African Presbyterian Church of Lithonia, Georgia, where he has served since 1993, and associate professor of homiletics at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) where he has served since 1998.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio; a Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio; and a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

He served as pastor of the Davidson United Presbyterian Church in Davidson, North Carolina, and the Westhills Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia, before accepting the call as a new church development from the New Church Development Commission of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery in March 1993.

Dr. Lomax has served on various Presbytery and General Assembly committees and task forces and as Interim President-Dean of the Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary. Dr. Lomax has traveled to numerous African nations as a pastor, professor, and tour guide. In 2007 he taught at the Reformed Institute of Theological Training in Eldoret, Kenya, and participated in a conference on HIV/AIDS in Malawi, East Africa. He is a published author who preaches and lectures and has ecumenical and interfaith appeal and experience.

Dr. Temba Mafico



Dr. Mafico formally served as the distinguished professor of the Old Testament and Semitic languages for the Interdenominational Theological Center. Earlier in his career, he excelled as a minister and a chaplain for the United Church of Christ and Chikore High School, respectively. Over the years, he has found success with the University of Zimbabwe, the Association for Theological Schools and the Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center as well. In addition to enjoying his role within the Interdenominational Theological Center, Dr. Mafico notes teaching at the Chikore High School, the University of Zimbabwe and serving as pastor of the Congregational Church (UCC) rank among his proudest accomplishments.

An expert in his field, Dr. Mafico earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of London, and a Master of Arts, Master of Theology and a Doctor of Philosophy from Harvard University. In order to remain aware of changes in the field, he is affiliated with the Society of Biblical Literature, the International Association for Mission Studies and the Association for the Study of Black Religion. During his spare time, Dr. Mafico has contributed to the Student Christian Movement, the Manicaland Development Associations and the Universal Evening School in Zimbabwe.

Rev. Dr. Lisa Allen- McLaurin



The Rev. Dr. Lisa Allen-McLaurin is an Emmy and Webby-award-winning pastor, professor, and public theologian who also serves as the Coordinator of Practical Ministries for the Sixth Episcopal District of the CME Church. She graduated from Millsaps College and the University of Southern Mississippi with Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D. degrees in piano and music education.

Dr. Allen-McLaurin also holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Dr. Allen-McLaurin is the author of the forthcoming text, *A Womanist Theology of Worship: Liturgy, Justice, and Communal Righteousness* (Orbis Books). Her previous works include *Worship Matters! A Collection of Practical Essays on the Practical and Spiritual Discipline of Worship* (Creative Publishing, 2015) and *Development Comes Before Deliverance: A 9-Week Sermon Series and Bible Study for Pastors and Congregations* (Creative Publishing, 2018).

Dr. Allen-McLaurin was a featured musicologist in the 2015 Emmy-award-winning documentary, *Reflect, Reclaim, Rejoice: Preserving the Gift of Black Sacred Music*. She is married to Thomas McLaurin and their blended family includes five children and two grandchildren.

Dr. Valerie Tate Everett

Commission on Women in Ministry - Hour of Power Worship Service



Dr. Valerie Tate Everett, a native of Youngstown, Ohio, is proud of her most recent appointment as the first female Senior Pastor at Westside Community CME Church in downtown Atlanta, GA. Her most recent pastorate was at St. John CME Church in Winston-Salem, NC. Her ministerial journey is inclusive of being Senior Pastor of St. Luke CME Church in Thomasville, GA, and Pastor at Phillips Metropolitan CME Church, in Hartford, CT, where she also served as the Chair of the Board of the Ida B. Wells Senior Living Facility. She is also blessed to hold the distinction of being the first female University Chaplain and Director of Religious Life at both Clark Atlanta University (CAU) and Lincoln University, Pennsylvania. She also worked as the Director of Student and Community Life at The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), Atlanta, GA, where she was on staff and a member of the faculty at the (ITC). Dr. Everett has a Bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism from Georgia State University, a Master of Divinity, and a Doctor of Ministry degree, with honors from the ITC. She was granted fellowships with the ITC Ford Black Women in Church and Society and Nissan Nets. She served as an Advisory Board Member for the Youth Hope Builders Academy and the (CAU) Annual Women's Empowerment Conference. She is also the recipient of the Delta Sigma Theta Fortitude Educational and Cultural Development Center, Inc., Pinnacle Leadership Award. She proudly mentors seminarians and served as an Adjunct Faculty Preaching Consultant at McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University, Atlanta, GA. Dr. Everett was an active member of the Minister's Conference of Winston-Salem & Vicinity and a sub-committee member of the Education Committee. Additionally, she partnered with the Maya Angelou Healthy Equity Triad Clergy Council. She was also appointed as the Dean of Leadership Training for the Carolina Region in the Seventh Episcopal District. She has been honored with The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) James H. Costen Emerging Leadership Award; The Legacy of Sisterhood Award from The Lincoln University Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.; and an inductee of the Theta Phi National Honor Society. She is a proud recipient of the eminent Dr. Gardner C. Taylor Preaching Award from The Morehouse School of Religion at The ITC and was awarded the 2018 Pastor of the Year for The Sixth Episcopal District of the CME Church. She is the founder of Voices of Valor Ministries, and the author of "You Will Make It Through The Night, Its Morning."

Rev. Bernard M. Jackson

**Outstanding Minister
Service Speaker**



Pastor Bernard M. Jackson was born on June 13, 1985, to the parents of William B. Jackson and Jeweline Jones in Brooklyn, New York. His family migrated to Victorville, California in September of 1998. They united with the Emmanuel Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, under Reverend Dr. James E. Markham. He recognized his calling into the ministry at the age of 17 and was licensed a Local Preacher by the late Reverend Dr. William R. Johnson Jr., Presiding Elder of the Los Angeles/San Diego District. He was later ordained an Elder in Full Connection in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church at the Twenty-Second session of the Southern California Region Annual Conference under the hands of Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr. From August 2003 to December 2006, Reverend Jackson served as an Associate Minister at the Williams Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Augusta, Georgia under pastoral leadership of Reverend Dr. Paul W. Gardner, Sr. From December 2006 to July 2010, he served the Historic Holsey Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Sparta, Georgia. From July 2010 to July 2012, he served the Saint James Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbus, Georgia. From August 2012 to August 2021, he served the Phillips Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Los Angeles, California. Presently, he proudly serves the Reeves Temple Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Reverend Jackson is a graduate of Paine College in Augusta, Georgia, where he finished Magna Cum Laude, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History with a minor in Religion.

A constant advocate for change and awareness, Jackson's outpouring of concern for the people of God is evident, especially in his work with the young adults throughout the Connectional Church. He has a contagious spirit of generosity that overflows throughout every facet of his ministry. He has a tremendous passion for God's Word and has dedicated his life to encouraging the people of God. His greatest achievement in life besides his relationship with Jesus Christ is his pride and joy, his children – Penelope Michelle and Timothy Martin.

Dr. Obery H. Hendricks

B. Julian Smith Lecturer



A lifelong social activist, Obery Hendricks is one of the foremost commentators on the intersection of religion and political economy in America. He is the most widely read and perhaps the most influential African American biblical scholar writing today. His recent book, *Christians Against Christianity: How Right-Wing Evangelicals Are Destroying Our Nation and Our Faith* (Beacon Press, 2021) has gathered wide acclaim. Cornel West calls him “one of the last few grand prophetic intellectuals.”

Hendricks’ award-winning book, *The Politics of Jesus: Rediscovering the True Revolutionary Nature of Jesus’ Teachings and How They Have Been Corrupted* (Doubleday, 2006), was declared “essential reading for Americans” by the *Washington Post*. Social commentator Michael Eric Dyson proclaimed it “an instant classic” that “immediately thrusts Hendricks into the front ranks of American religious thinkers.” *The Politics of Jesus* was the featured subject of the 90-minute C-SPAN special hosted by the Center for American Progress, “Class, Politics and Christianity.” The tenth anniversary of its publication was acknowledged at a major 2016 panel at the American Academy of Religion at its annual convention in San Antonio, TX. Governor Howard Dean, former chair of the Democratic National Committee, has called his book, *The Universe Bends Toward Justice: Radical Reflections on the Bible, the Church and the Body Politic* (Orbis, 2011), a “tour de force.”

A former Wall Street investment executive and past president of Payne Theological Seminary, the oldest African American theological seminary in the United States, he is currently a Visiting Scholar at Columbia University in the Department of Religion and the Department of African American and African Diasporic Studies; a Visiting Professor at Union Theological Seminary; and Emeritus Professor of Biblical Interpretation at New York Theological Seminary. An Ordained Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Hendricks holds a Master of Divinity with academic honors from Princeton Theological Seminary, and both the M.A. and Ph.D. in Religions of Late Antiquity from Princeton University.

Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart

Conference Presenter



The Reverend Dr. Gina Marcia Stewart is a pastor, preacher, visionary, builder, mentor, adjunct professor, and daughter of Christ Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. She has led the congregation of Christ Missionary Baptist Church since March 1995. She is a native Memphian and "daughter" of Christ Missionary Baptist Church where she was baptized, and mentored for ministry by her predecessor and former pastor, the Rev. Eddie L. Currie. On March 4, 1995, she was elected by majority vote to serve as the pastor of Christ Missionary Baptist Church. She is the first African American female elected to serve an established African American Baptist congregation in Memphis and Shelby County.

Dr. Stewart was recently inducted into the Martin Luther King Board of Preachers-Class of 2018 (April) and elected to serve on the National Board of the NAACP (February 2017). In August 2015, she was elected to serve as the Second Vice-President for the Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention. She also serves as a member of the Advisory Council for the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University and a co-convenor for the Women in Ministry Conference, Cynthia L. Hale Convenor and a Trustee for the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Pastors Conference. She is a former board member of the Advisory Board for The African American Pulpit, The National Civil Rights Museum, and Bread for the World. Dr. Stewart is the founder of Greater Works Inc., a non-profit organization devoted to philanthropy and ministry development. She is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. In September 2015, she released her first book entitled *We've Got Next: HERstory in HIStory*.

Under Dr. Stewart's leadership, MBC has experienced significant numerical, physical, and financial growth. The church has purchased several additional properties to accommodate their increasing growth. The church offers more than fifty ministries, which are intended to minister to the Spirit, Soul, and Body of every person and lead to personal transformation. She travels extensively conducting workshops, revivals, and seminars. Dr. Stewart is a woman with a heart for God and God's people.

Rev. Ian Gibson

Noon Day Speaker



Rev. Ian Gibson was born in Cleveland, Ohio on May 9, 1983, to Rev. Bruce and Rev. Hope Gibson. He is the eldest of two sons; his younger brother is Rev. Louis Gibson. Rev. Ian Gibson grew up in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church traveling to the various churches that his father pastored in the Cleveland-Pittsburgh District. He accepted Christ at age 12 and his call to preach in June of 2007. He was licensed to preach in 2008.

Rev. Gibson was educated in the Painesville City Local School District and graduated from Harvey High School in 2001. He earned a dual Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration & Sport Management from Baldwin-Wallace University in 2005 graduating with cum laude honors. At Baldwin-Wallace, Rev. Gibson was a four-time letter winner as a sprinter and long jumper on the track team, earning all-conference honors as a member of the 4x100 meter relay. While at Baldwin-Wallace, he purchased a commercial cleaning franchise which he owned and operated for two years with his business partners. He subsequently left the partnership for a three-and-a-half-year career at Key Bank, beginning in a management trainee program before spending the remaining time working in the wealth management division of Key Private Bank.

In May 2013, he graduated magna cum laude from the Phillips School of Theology at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA, with a Master of Divinity Degree. While at ITC, he was a dean's list student and was inducted into the International Society of Theta Phi, an honor society for theological students, scholars in the field of religion, and outstanding religious leaders.

In 2013, he was ordained a traveling deacon by Bishop Sylvester Williams, Sr. Bishop Marvin Frank Thomas, Sr. ordained him a traveling elder in 2014, and admitted him into Full Connection in 2016. He has pastored CME congregations in Sandusky and Dayton, Ohio, and presently serves as the pastor of Metropolitan CME Church in Cincinnati, OH. He serves as the executive assistant to the presiding Bishop of the 2nd Episcopal District, Bishop Denise Anders-Modest.

Rev. Ian is married to Mrs. Bethany Gibson. They are the parents of three children: Ruby, Benjamin, and Charlotte.

Rev. Dr. Odessa G. Darrough

Noon Day Speaker



Rev. Dr. Odessa G. Darrough serves as Pastor of Bullock Temple CME Church in Little Rock, Arkansas. Dr. Darrough previously served as pastor in the following Arkansas Region CME churches: New Light CME Church in Nashville, Trinity CME Church in Magnolia, Allen Temple CME Church in Crossett, and Penny Chapel CME Church in Parkdale. Dr. Darrough's career with AT&T represents 33 years of caring and sharing through her managerial and human resources skills. After retiring in 2003, she continued her love for people by passionately volunteering her time and talents. Dr. Darrough is an advocate for healthier lifestyles and promoting civil and human rights. She currently serves in the following positions: State president of Arkansas, Vice-Chair Age-Friendly Little Rock Commission; member of the board of Directors and Chairperson, Supervisory Committee for Telcoe Federal Credit Union, and National Ambassador for AARP Create The Good Program. Other positions include former Chair of the Board of Directors of Arkansas Hospice and current member of the Society of Human Resource Management, P.E.O. International, and Sigma Beta Delta Honor Society. She is the founder of the Annual Minority Health Fair held in Crossett, Little Rock, and Nashville, and the Annual Little Rock Community Connection Civil Rights Summit and Community Festival. Dr. Darrough serves as President and CEO of Innovative Lifestyles for Senior Living, Inc.

Dr. Darrough holds a BA in Organizational Management from Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas, an MA in Business and Human Resources Development from Webster University in Little Rock, Arkansas, and a Doctorate in Business Administration with an emphasis in Human Resources Management from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Dr. Darrough is a native of Arkansas and has two grown sons and five grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, and gardening.

Dr. Jamal Harrison Bryant

Conference Presenter



Dr. Jamal Harrison Bryant was born on May 21, 1971, in Boston, Massachusetts, to John Richard and Cecelia Bryant (née Williams). He has a younger sister. He was raised in Baltimore, Maryland, where, as a child, he attended his father's church Bethel A.M.E. Church. He preached his first sermon when he was very young at Bethel titled "No Pain, No Gain."

As his father would later become the 106th Bishop of the AME Church at the 1988 General Conference in Forth Worth Texas, Jamal continued his ministerial journey through education. Dr. Bryant attended Morehouse College where he earned an undergraduate degree in political science and international studies. He obtained a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University. He received a doctorate of ministry degree from the Graduate Theological Foundation.

Dr. Bryant is a successful pastor serving most notably the "Empowerment Temple Church of Baltimore, MD, where Dr. Bryant was credited with the exponential growth of the church, specifically those between the ages of 18 to 36. Currently, Dr. Bryant serves as the Senior Pastor of the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church where he continues to experience phenomenal growth in membership and ministries.

Dr. Bryant is the proud and doting father of three lovely young ladies; Topaz, Grace, and Adore. Dr. Bryant is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Dr. E. Dewey Smith

Conference Presenter



Dr. E. Dewey Smith is the Senior Pastor/Teacher of The House of Hope Atlanta, The House of Hope Macon, and The House of Hope WestPointe – one church in three locations – with a membership roll of more than 10,000.

A proud native of Macon, GA, he has been a minister of the gospel for more than 30 years. He commenced his preaching ministry at age 17 and his pastoral ministry at 19. God has highly favored Dr. Smith by allowing explosive growth and outreach to accompany his ministry. Under his leadership, The House of Hope Atlanta was blessed to purchase a 60-acre, 6-building campus, featuring a 7,000-seat Cathedral.

Smith is a learned man. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College, in Atlanta, GA; graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Master of Science degree from Amridge University in Montgomery, AL; and earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. Additionally, he was inducted into the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Board of Preachers at Morehouse College as a “Distinguished Preacher.”

Dr. Smith is also professionally involved in music, media, film, and television production. Smith launched “The Hope TV Network” in 2020 and its programs have received over 300 million views & and won 22 prestigious Telly Awards. Additionally, in the Fall of 2021, Smith released his first solo project entitled, “God Period” under his record label, Pebble Street Records. He’s a 2022 Stellar Award-winning solo artist whose debut album, “God Period,” was named one of the top albums of 2021 by Billboard. His first single, “Your Presence Is A Gift,” also scored #1 on the Billboard Gospel Airplay Charts. Smith is also a 2022 two-time Dove Awards solo artist nominee. Smith is also the Founder/Overseer of the “Ambassadors Assembly” Network, a fellowship of over 300 pastors and leaders from across the globe. Ambassadors Assembly is an ecumenical fellowship that provides ministry oversight, comprehensive ministry strategies, and para-church support to churches and leaders throughout the world.

Dr. Smith is married to the lovely, former Andrea Fambro, his best friend of over 30 years. They have been blessed with two sons: Kamari Elijah and Kylen Isaiah.

Rev. Richard McDuffie

Alumni Service Speaker



Pastor Richard McDuffie is a native of Bradenton, Florida. The son of Eddie and Martha McDuffie and the youngest brother of fifteen brothers and sisters. He is a graduate of Manatee High School in Bradenton Florida, a graduate of Miles College in Birmingham Alabama, and the Phillips School of Theology, a part of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta Georgia. Pastor McDuffie has served in the pastoral ministry of the CME Church since 1983. Pastor McDuffie has served as an adjunct instructor at Miles College in Birmingham, Alabama, Calhoun Community College in Decatur Alabama, and the Huntsville Bible College in Huntsville Alabama. Pastor McDuffie has pastored nine CME churches. Friendship CME Travers, Florida, New Grace CME Church Plant City, Florida, Mays Chapel CME Church Sipey, Alabama, Saint Mark CME Church Edgewater, Alabama, Gardner Memorial CME Decatur, Alabama, Metropolitan CME Church Birmingham, Alabama, Phillips CME Church Huntsville, Alabama, Saint John CME Church Akron, Ohio, and in August of 2014, he was assigned to the Lane Tabernacle CME Church in Saint Louis, Missouri. Pastor McDuffie is married to Lady Toni Rochelle Bankhead Evans McDuffie. Pastor McDuffie is the father of seven children, fifteen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Pastor McDuffie's vision as pastor of Lane Tabernacle CME Church is to build on the work of the dedicated ministers who have given stellar leadership to this congregation and community. To help position this congregation for the work of kingdom building through vibrant worship, the study of God's word, and community outreach; that the Bible calls us to be a part of in this community of Saint Louis. By the power of God's Spirit, we will commit ourselves to this goal.

Pastor McDuffie's theme for doing ministry can be summed up in this verse of Scripture from Micah 6:8: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good: and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Rev. Dr. Joseph B. Gordon

Carter Temple CME Church, Pastor

ECUMENICAL AND DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY AWARD



A native of Detroit, Michigan, Reverend Dr. Joseph B. Gordon is a graduate of the University of Michigan, holding a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Communications and a Master of Divinity from the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL. He earned the Doctor of Ministry degree in Prophetic Preaching from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. Since 2014, he has served as the pastor of Carter Temple C.M.E. Church in Chicago, IL.

Prior to Carter Temple, Dr. Gordon served as pastor in four assignments in the states of Illinois and Michigan.

Under his leadership, there have been capital improvements, as well as increases in stewardship, membership, and community involvement. However, and most importantly, lives have been changed and souls have been won for the kingdom of God. His passions are preaching, teaching, and working with civic and community leaders, health care issues, and other concerns directly related to the African American experience and the urban church. He believes in the power of partnership and is wholly persuaded that change happens through collaboration. He is married to the former Nivea Lathan.

Reverend Anthony H. Menzies

1ST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OUTSTANDING MINISTER



Anthony H. Menzies was born in Nashville Tennessee on January 13, 1953. He was educated in the Benton County school system. He graduated from Holladay High School in 1970 as a Salutatorian. He attended Friendship C.M.E. Church in McIlwain, Tennessee, until he joined Blairs Chapel in Jackson, Tennessee, in 1989.

It was at Blairs Chapel under the leadership of Rev. Charles W. Adams that he answered the call to preach. In 1990 he was licensed to preach and assigned to his first church, Montezuma C.M.E. Church in Henderson, TN.

He was admitted to Full Connection in 1993 under Bishop William H. Graves, Sr. He has pastored several churches in west Tennessee and is currently assigned to Mt. Pleasant in Milan, Tennessee, and Johnson Chapel in Trenton, Tennessee.

He serves as treasurer of the Milan Ministerial Association. He serves as Co-Ordinator for the Gibson County Christian Methodist Episcopal Pastors Fellowship. He serves as vice president of More Than A Few Good Men in Milan, which is a mentoring group for young men aged 5 to 18. He is also a member of the Jackson Madison County Branch of the NAACP. He was employed with the E. I. DuPont Company for 43 years until he retired in 2021.

He has been married to Evelyn Menzies for 32 years and they have 5 children, 9 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren.

His favorite scripture is: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (1Peter 2:9)

Reverend Vincent E. Farris



2ND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OUTSTANDING MINISTER

Rev. Vincent E. Farris, the newly appointed Presiding Elder of the Louisville-Lexington District of the Second Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is the son of Emma T. Johnson and the late Dennis Cooke. He is one of eight children. Presiding Elder Farris is married to the former Felice Moria Dean. They have three children – Shlea, Tatianna, and Tavonta, and five loving grandchildren, Ghlea, Azaleah, and Rayma Ferguson and Ace and Ava Robinson.

Elder Farris received his early education in the Fayette County Public School System (KY) and is currently enrolled at Simmons Bible College (KY) where he is seeking a degree in Christian Education.

Presiding Elder Farris answered the Call into the Ministry in 1996 under the pastoral guidance of Dr. Wendell Oldham. Presiding Elder Farris has had the pleasure to be Pastor at the following churches:

Corinth C.M.E. (Winchester, KY), Allen Chapel C.M.E. (Winchester, KY), Loving Union C.M.E. (Bowling Green, KY), St. Paul C.M.E. (Owingsville, KY), Woods Chapel (Millersburg, KY), Johnson Memorial (Ashland, KY), Keas Tabernacle C.M.E. (Mt. Sterling, KY), Phillips Memorial (Louisville, KY), and Brown Memorial CME Church (Louisville, Kentucky) where he currently serves as Pastor.

Presiding Elder Farris is a Servant of the Most High GOD who loves to serve the people.

Rev. Dr. Richard D. Shaw

3RD EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OUTSTANDING MINISTER



Reverend Dr. Richard D. Shaw is the pastor of the St. Matthew CME Church in Milwaukee Wisconsin.

Pastor Shaw takes pride in his humble beginnings growing up in a small town in Alabama. A native of Marion, AL, born to a single mother with 5 siblings, he counts it a blessing to be able to have served the CME Church in the various capacities in which God has made available to him and the opportunities granted by the bishops who entrusted the work of the church to him.

Reverend Dr. Richard D. Shaw is happily married to his college sweetheart Dr. Toni Shaw. They met 32 years ago on the campus of Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL. Drs. Richard and Toni Shaw have been married for 30 years with three children, and four grandchildren. They have been partners in ministry for over 26 years.

Reverend Shaw graduated from the Francis Marion High School in Perry Co., AL, in 1988. He continued his academic journey at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL (BA); Governors State University in University Park, IL (MA); Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, IL (M.Div.), and received his D.Min. from Garrett through the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS). While attending Garratt, he received the Parish Promise Award.

Richard loves spending time with his wife and family. He enjoys fishing, grilling, camping, and outdoor life. He is a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Reverend Johnny Porter

4TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OUTSTANDING MINISTER



Reverend Johnny Porter is the pastor of the Shorts Chapel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Bassfield, MS. She served as pastor of Rose Hill Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbia, MS. for an honorable fifteen (15) years.

Reverend Porter is the wife of Mr. Booker T. Porter. She is the mother of three sons, Robert, Michael, and Kelvin. The Lord has also blessed her with nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Reverend Porter received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, MS. She received her Master of Christian Education from the prestigious Wesley Biblical Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi.

Reverend Porter serves as MS-South Regional Ministerial Examination Committee Chair, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. She is the Social Concerns Director for the Gloster Hattiesburg District. She serves on the Board of Directors for Safe Haven Outreach Ministries. She also is a member of the Jefferson Davis County Ministerial Alliance. Reverend Porter has a desire and plan for outreach ministry, evidenced by her commitment to serving others. She intentionally spends time with the elderly in the community and nursing homes.

Reverend Porter believes in preaching and teaching God's Word. She also believes in reaching out to people, to save souls so that God may receive the glory. Her most quoted Scriptures:

"Bless the Lord Oh my soul, and all that is within me, Bless His Holy name." (Psalm 103: 1)
"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." (Psalm 34:1-3)

Reverend Gloria Longstreet

5TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OUTSTANDING MINISTER



Rev. Gloria L. Longstreet is the only child born to the late Leonard and Beulah Benson on December 7, 1957. She was born and raised in the Coconut Grove community of South Miami Florida. Gloria received Christ and was baptized at the age of 9. After having issues with the double standards of the Baptist church, she left and later joined the Carter Tabernacle C.M.E. Church in 1988. While at Carter, she sang with the Mass Choir for 10 years while ushering. She held the offices of Usher Board President, Women's Missionary Society President, Stewardess Board President, and Florida Region Stewardess Board President before studying to be licensed as a local preacher. The call to ministry was so overwhelming that she decided to trust God to allow her to fulfill her dream of acquiring a college education. Gloria relocated to Birmingham, Alabama in 2005 and enrolled at Miles College. She graduated in 2009 with a Bachelor of Social Work (Magna Cum Laude). She then continued her studies and enrolled in the Phillips School of Theology at the ITC. She graduated with a Master of Divinity in 2019.

Rev. Longstreet has worked on the Clerical and Registration Staff for several General Conferences, Pastor's Conferences, and The Unity Summit. Rev. Longstreet was always diligent and effective and has done an exceptional job.

Rev. Gloria Longstreet is the mother of 2 children (Gary Benson and Tina Raines). She has 2 grandchildren Gavin and Mya Benson.

Rev. Longstreet continues to live her life as her mother taught, "Measure my success by the number of rights in my life and not the disappointments of wrong." Rev. Longstreet also believes in caring for others. As her mother would often remind her, "Life is not worth living if you can not help others less fortunate than yourself." Her favorite passage of Scripture is Psalm 23 because surely The Lord has been her Shephard.

Rev. Pansy Reddick Washington

MDiv, MS, BA, AS



6TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OUTSTANDING MINISTER

Rev. Pansy Reddick Washington, an ordained elder in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (C.M.E.), currently serves as the Executive Coordinator for the Sixth Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Rev. Washington serves Bishop Thomas Brown, Sr., Presiding Prelate, and the Sixth Episcopal District in the rollout of all Programs and activities District-wide. Additionally, she coordinates and supervises the administrative and technical needs of the Sixth District office through a sizable volunteer staff. She provides administrative and coordination support to Bishop Brown and the Episcopal district organizations. In addition to her support to the Sixth Episcopal District, Rev. Washington serves as Chief of Staff to the staff of the CME Chief Administrative Officer, Dr. Pene Woods.

Rev. Washington has previously served as pastor of the Holsey Temple C.M.E. Church in Atlanta, Georgia, and Amos Memorial CME Church in Los Angeles, California, and as Associate Pastor, responsible for pastoral administration, of Phillips Temple CME Church, Los Angeles, California. She is an anointed woman of God, committed to leading others to Christ, in fulfilling the Great Commission. Her administrative gifts have opened doors for her in the CME Church, the religious arena, and the corporate world.

Rev. Washington is married to Mr. Jonathan Washington for 37 years. They are parents to one adult son and god-parents to seven.

Reverend Billy R. Thompson



7TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OUTSTANDING MINISTER

Reverend Billy R. Thompson is the son of Ellen and Tommy L. Thompson of Lexington, SC. He has been married to Letorsha Geiger Thompson for 21 years, and to this union, they have acquired 7 beautiful children. Janessa, Raven, Billy Jr., Ramon, Dimitri, Immanuel, and Faith. They have one daughter-in-law, 6 grandchildren, and a host of other relatives.

Rev. Thompson was introduced to the Lord at an early age but began faithfully serving in the ministry in 2002 at Good Hope CME Church under the direction of Rev. Lena Mae Williams. He was nurtured by several great pastors, the late Rev. Lena Mae Williams, the late Rev. Jacob Middleton, Rev. Joe Nathan Brown, and Elder Faith R. Houston of the Winston-Salem Greenville District. He did his initial sermon in 2002 and was licensed in the Quarter Conference of 2003 by Elder Jimmy Gilbert. He was admitted to trial that same year, an ordained traveling deacon in 2004 by Bishop Charles Helton, later ordained traveling elder under Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt and received full connection by Bishop James B. Walker. He has Studied at the Institution of Practical Theology or IPT under the direction of Dr. Beverly Anne & William Austin. He was appointed to Pine Pleasant CME Church by Bishop James B. Walker where he is now serving proudly since 2017.

Rev. Thompson has supplied and assisted other ministries in Allendale, Jackson, Columbia, Gilbert, Leesville, Lexington, Sumter, Columbia, and other surrounding areas.

He is committed to the Great Commission, creating, and making disciples. He loves God, he loves Jesus, and he is led by the Holy Spirit! His favorite scripture is Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them."

Pastor William F. Johnson



8TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OUTSTANDING MINISTER

Pastor William F. Johnson is a faithful and committed husband, father, and grandfather. He is thankful to his wife, Lady Valda Johnson's love and support in the various facets of ministry. She is truly a helpmate in every sense of the word and is a loving and caring ministry blessing to congregations, wherever he serves.

Pastor Johnson is a graduate of Tulsa University, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 2018, he received the "Minister of The Year Award" from the East Texas Links Chapter (while serving in the Tyler District of the Central Texas Region and pastoring the Mt. Nevelton CME Church in Bullard, Texas). He pastored Mt. Nevelton for 20 years and is entering his 2nd year of pastoring St Mark CME Church in Wills Point, Texas, in the North Tyler District of the Central Texas Region. His 42 years in ministry also include pastoring churches in the Dallas/Fort Worth/Northwest Texas Region. Their locations include Azle (Wesley Chapel), Grand Prairie (Shady Grove), and Corsicana (Wesley Chapel). Pastor Johnson served as Senior Assistant Pastor at Carter Metropolitan (Fort Worth) and Cedar Crest Cathedral (Dallas). Additionally, he served as an Associate Minister at Christ Temple CME Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma in the Ninth Episcopal District, while attending Tulsa University.

Pastor Johnson served in Annual Conferences as Assistant Secretary, Conference Treasurer, and Chair of the Committee on Minutes. He is currently serving as the Annual Conference Joint Board of Finance Chair and Treasurer for the Eighth Episcopal District's Empowerment Banquet & Fundraiser Committee.

Pastor Johnson is an avid reader, and keeps in tune with the time clock ticking on world events, signaling the return of Jesus Christ! He Loves the Lord, his family, his church, and The Word of God, and is eager to continue to prayerfully fulfill his divine purpose, as the Lord leads.

Rev. DeLeesa Meashintubby



Rev. DeLeesa Meashintubby is the proud pastor of St. Mark CME Church in Eugene, Oregon. St. Mark CME is the oldest African American Church in Eugene. She is a wife, a mother of 3, and a grandmother of one grandson.

Rev. DeLeesa Meashintubby is also the Executive Director of the Volunteers In Medicine Clinic, in Springfield, Oregon. She holds a degree in healthcare administration and several medical certifications. She also serves on the Board of Trustees of Bushnell University, PeaceHealth Board of Directors, and the Eugene Chamber of Commerce Board. In 2019 she was named the Eugene Chamber Business Leader Woman of the Year and in January, 2023 was awarded the Eugene Chamber First Citizen Award. Her passions include her faith, her family, and her community.

9TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OUTSTANDING MINISTER



Rev. Godwin Kofi Adu



10TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OUTSTANDING MINISTER

Rev. Godwin Kofi Adu was born on 25th August 1960 at Kwae near Kade in the Eastern Region of Ghana.

He completed basic school in 1978 and continued in the second circle and continued to the Polytechnic and attained his Higher National Diploma (HND) in Building Technology in 1984.

He also studied at Changing Ways Bible College and attained a Diploma in Counseling in 2005 and a Degree in Biblical Studies in 2007.

He was employed at the YMCA Technical Training Center in 1985 as a Technical Instructor and was appointed as a Principal of the school from 2010 to 2020 when he retired.

He joined the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in 1986 and was ordained as a Local Preacher in 2000, and Full Connectional Elder in 2005.

He opened Christian Prayer Ministry (CME) as a branch of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church at Asylum at Accra in 2005 where he is Head Pastor with a membership of 160 and 4 trained and ordained ministers.

He is married to Regina Adu and has 4 children; 1 male and 3 female.

Rev. Dr. William Daudi Nzoza

11TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OUTSTANDING MINISTER



Reverend Dr. William Daudi Nzoza is a Mission Supervisor of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church of Tanzania. Rev. Dr Nzoza is married to Mrs. Bigtha Lazaro and has five children named Ginethon, Sarah, Livingstone, Jefferson, and James. Rev. Dr. Nzoza has been working with CSO for more than 22 Years as a Project Coordinator. He also served as a Chairperson of the NGOs Network for more than 6 Years. His hometown is Kigoma Urban.

Rev. Dr. Nzoza has professional experience in Project management and also has attended various trainings and workshops in Financial Management, Project Design, Project Monitoring and Evaluation, and Defense for Human Rights. And he is a facilitator at the District level. Currently, he is a board member of Chumvi Secondary School, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of Ndela Youth Development Center, and a Mission supervisor of the CME Church Tanzania Region.

Rev. Dr. Nzoza has a diploma in project management and a diploma and Bachelor's Degree in Bible and Theology, including a Bachelor's Degree in Church Management and an Honorary Doctorate in Ministry.

In 2019, during the International Unity Summit in Nairobi, Nzoza was awarded an outstanding award as a Pastor of the Year in the Eleventh Episcopal District. The 11th District involved 14 countries in Africa.

Alumni

1960

Davis, Abraham E.
Jones, James A., Jr.

1961

Kirby, Queen Elizabeth
Williams, Willie Clyde

1962

Dean, Gene Robert
Douglas, Jesse Lee
Gathers, George E.
Mays, Willie
Smith, William T.

1963

Brown, Edward Lynn
David, Arthur L.
Graves, William H.
Larkin, William C.
Purham, Louis T.

1964

Delaney, Henry, Jr.
Miles, Joel
Pratt, Thomas A.

1965

Burt, Gene Eddie
Chambers, Will Earl
Debroy, Theodore R., Jr.
Hicks, Earlie H.
Hoyt, Thomas L., Jr.
Kimbrough, Marjorie L. (UMC)
Smith, Nathaniel J.
Stone, Willie Edd

1966

Bonner, Wardell
Davis, Elijah
Jackson, Mance C.
Pace, Betty Walker (72)
Stewart, Paul A. G.

1967

Jones, Willie C.
Okorley, Seth M.
Robinson, John H. (72)

1968

Harold, Austin L.
Bonner, Julius C.
Johnson, William R., Jr.

1969

Harvey, Henry P.
Kendrick, Franklin D.
King, Alex R.
Plummer, Roy G.
Sloan, Albert J.H., II

1970

Dopson, Alvin L.
Hentrel, Ike A.
Poole, Jerry
Quaye, Nii Gordon

1971

Aker, Clyde E.
Carter, Nathaniel, Jr.
Gathers, George E.
Hicks, Earlie
Long, Curtis (Independent)
Wilker, Willie

1972

Alexander, Johnny R.
Douglass, Jesse L.
Ford, Robert L.
Grantham, Joseph
Harmon, Woodrow, Jr.
Johnson, Larry L.
Pace, Betty Walker ('66)
Robinson, John H. ('67)

1973

Davidson, Albert
Mitchell, Caesar C., Sr.

1974

Jackson, Othel R.
Minor, Luther
Williams, Anthony L.
Woodfork, Jerry D., Sr.

1975

Cowley, Gilbert T.
Johnson, Johnnie B.
Obong, Edet Ekoi
Walker, Oliver D.
Whitlock, Q. H., Jr.

1976

Brown, Thomas L.
Gardner, Paul
Peterson, Harold
Wilks, Robert L., Jr.

1977

Taylor, Shelby B.
Washington, Joseph E.
Watkins, Lloyd

1978

Cheeseboro, Willie
Massey, James D.

1979

Atwater, Melvin L.
Bonner, Robert, Jr.
Green, Timothy R., Jr.
King, Charles
Scott, Robert
Spears, Conway

1980

McGriff, James E.
Mitchell, Frances V.
Owens, Willie N.
Patrick, William O.
Price, Jerome B., Sr.
Robinson, Curtis T.
Stokes, Richard F.
Thomas, Marvin

1981

Baker, Mary H.
Bass, John N.
Ewing, Martha M.
Napier, Lindsey
Price, Jerome B.
Price, Timothy
Smith, Benjamin L.

1982

Doyle, Satchell
Haynes, William C.
Hunter, Christopher C.
Pace, John
Williams, Thomas J.

1983

Arnold, Marion H.
Dumas, Leroy E., Jr.
Fryer, Larry
Johnson, Larry L.
Peoples, Robert L.
Pitts, Etha P.
Walker, James B.

Alumni

1984

Maness, J. Ronzell
Robinson, James R.

1985

Abiade, Zawdie K.
Buchanan, Clarence
Daniels, Alvin
Hargrove, Lynn
Stewart, James T.
Williams, Roy L.
Zak, Frederick J.
Zak, Roderick

1986

Davidson, DeAndre' M.
Henderson, Tony C.
Liggins, Bennie R.
Mack, Leroy H

1987

Echoles, Desi L.
Felder, Quincy L.
Jackson, Robert L., III
Jamar, James E.
Key, Patrick J.
Kynes, James B.

1988

Barker, Michael L.
Newton, Michael E.
Price, Jerome B., Sr.
Williams, Sylvester

1989

Boncy, Paul L., Jr.
Carroll, Earl C.
Clark, Harold
Evans, Stanley K.
Manning, Christopher N.
Smith, James E., Jr.

1990

Batie, Larry
Craig, Eugene A.
Davis, Tyrone
Donaldson, Elisha D.
Dugas, Leslie
Foreman, Woodrow W.
Gardner, Joseph C.
Hazel, Kathryn S.
Johnson, Christopher
Jones, Harlan K.

Smith, Edward
Smith, William T.

1991

Betts, Leonard N.
Brown, Paul L.
Brown, Thomas L., Sr.
Greer-Cook, Eunece F.
Loving, Hattie
Purham, Aaron L.
Ridgley, Clara H.
Washington, Phillip D.
Whitmore, Jeffrey J.

1992

Gilbert, Alvin C.
Haliburton, Wesley S.
Williams, Nellie C.

1993

Johnson, William J.
Simmons, Bobby R.
Wilburn, Stevey
Wilson, Hughlett W.

1994

Allen, L. K.
Averett, Jesse, Jr.
Blount, Horace
Campbell, Mary
Delaney, Valerie
Garrett, Alpha B.
Richard, Charles

1995

Burns, Vanessee
Colquitt, Joseph
Reese-Young, Regina
Robinson, Anthony

1996

Boggan, James E.
Heath, Clarence K.
Mays, Wayne W.
Thomas, Kenneth D.

1997

Askew, Dianne
Green, Robert W.
Taylor, Carlton
Taylor, Marcus

1998

Anders-Modest, Denise M.
Waugh, Uylee
West, Curtis, Jr.
Yenn-Batah, Jackson

1999

Claybon, Darryl
Downey, M. Deloris
Gardner, Charles C.
Griffin, John D.
Hartfield, David C., Jr.
Jones, Donnell R.
Lester, Peris J., I
Wade, Dwayne L.

2000

Bass, Claude
Dawson, Joyce
Goss, Christopher
Holloway, Billy R.
Houston, Faye
Johnson, Bernard
McDuffie, Richard S.
Pasley, John D., Jr.
Williams, Wayne A.

2001

Allen, Kenneth
Bell, William H., Jr.
Blackmon, Janice D.
Fletcher, Shirley H.
Gardner, Paul W., Sr.
Harris, Dexter L.
Massey, Oscar M.
McKinney, Stevie D.

2002

Bolden, Dorothy Ann Lee
Boswell, Charles K.
Buford-Clark, Sucena
Goforth, Mark W.
Head, Horace A.
Lue, Marvin C., Jr.
Martin, Eric T.
McIntyre, Lavonia E. K.
Reed-Wright, Earthalee
Walker, Kaylan B.
Walker, Nola J.
Williams, Alvin R.
Willis, Ermanno A.

Alumni

2003

Burt, Alisha R.
Patterson, Alelike "Lisa"
Payton, Luevonnia Ann
Yenn-Batah, Jackson

2004

Allen, Cedric C.
Fleming, Gloria L.
Lewis, Robert L.
Hardrick, Marquise L.
Murphy, Mario K.
Page, Allen, III

2005

Duckett, Adrian J.
Ellison, Keith E.
Jones, Felix M.
Whiteside, Janie K.
Williams, Gregory M.
Williams, Leon H.

2006

Best, Bobby
Briggs, Arthur, Jr.
Claybon, Darryl
Cochran, John
Goliday, Cheryl
Jackson, John W.
Jackson, Rutha M.
Jackson-Douglas, Leticia
Thornton, Eddie

2007

Harris, Clifton E.
Hayes, Lionel
Keith, Ouida
McNeese, Kimmie
Barnes, Reginald G.
Callaway, Eron J.
Dawson, Joyce
Hopkins, Calvin
Marshall, Jermaine J.
Norwood, Robert
Wilks, Keith
Williams, Sylvester

2009

Bell, Jr., Willie C.
Capers, Jamie L.
Dukes, Jennifer
Hicks, Doris L.
Neal, Kornelius
Wright, Irvin

2010

Armstrong, Sheryl D.
Banks, William
Brooks, Donna L.
Finkley, Janci
Gattis-Hopkins, Emmalyn
Hardaman, Joya
Haynes, Gloria W.
Hill, Michael K.
Keys, Cassandry
McGriff, Alton
Monmouth, Raynard
Walton, Reginald

2011

Donna Brooks
Cassandry Keys
William Smith, III
Carolyn Carlisle
Earlie Douthard
Bobby Goliday
Mildred Watson
Brenda Williams

2012

Baum, Brandon
Cooper, Mark
Dunbar, Ericka
Dykes, Omar
Harris, Geraldine
Jackson, Amber
Jenkins, Hillard B.
McDaniel, Geraldine
Moody, Jacson
Thomas, Jane E.

2013

Vincent Andujo, Jr.
Brown, Walter
Reuben C. Caro
Venice Coleman
Ian S. Gibson
Lawrence Monday Jefferson
Lamont Johnson
Richard Johnson
Octavia S. Lindsey
Gloria L. Longstreet
Shadene Stewart
Moria L. Santino
Lavonia McIntyre
Alford M. McClaney

2014

Vincent Andjuo, Jr.
Walter L. Brown, Jr.
Reuben C. Caro
Venice C. Coleman
Ian Gibson
Lawrence Jefferson
Lamont Johnson
Richard Johnson
Octavia S. Lindsey
Gloria L. Longstreet
Alford McClaney
Moria Freeman Santio
Shadene Stewart

2015

Timothy Grady Butler
Loyd Hicks
Javon Douglas Jackson
Jill J. Jackson
Andre' C. Loyd, Jr.
Amber Louisa Lowe
Herman "Skip" Mason, Jr.
Freeman McKindra
Leon F. Parker III
Rafaele V. Robinson
Marcus Julius Rogers
Da'Henri R. Thurmond, Sr.

Alumni

2016

Keedra Keeley
Roslyn Mafico
Valda McCauley
Acquirneta McNair
Edward Moultrie
Carol Perry
Gregory Scott
Lillie Shaw
Gwendolyn Tolbert

2017

Janice Brooks
Sheila Crabb
Lindsey Napier
Eddie Richardson
Rickdrieka Sanders

2018

Tommie Benjamin
Myrtle Bussey
Barbara Fitzhugh
Amber Jackson
Herman Mason
Eloise Walker

2019

Jerome Bates
Geraldine Harris
Kai Horn
Miya Lee
Lindsey Napier
Yolande Petty

2020

Andrew Archer
Sheaneter Bogan
Russell Brooks
Marshall Coleman
De Wayne Hickman
Elisha Thomas
Larry Woods

2021

Pamela Peoples
Gerald Rowe
Marecia Stephenson
Reginald Walton

2022

Sheila Crabb
Tiffiany Echoles
Lorenzo Heggs
Angel Howard
Alexis Jay
Percy Johnson
Samuel McKinsey
Gwendolyn Pabon
Yolande Petty
Arthura Seabrook Buchanon

2023

Lesha Agnew
Sharon Francis Thomas
David Patten

