



The Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District

Winter Convocation & Ordination

Theme: Being Creative In Our Methods

JANUARY 22-24, 2026

HOSTED BY

Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church

5760 Yadkin Road | Fayetteville, NC 28303

The Rev. Dr. Keith D. Tillett, Host Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Joseph C. Brown, Sr., Host Presiding Elder

Mrs. Devieta C. Moore, Missionary Supervisor

Bishop W. Darin Moore, Presiding Bishop

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

(Light Lunch and Dinner at 5:00pm)

Presiding Elders' Retreat with Bishop

Thursday, January 22, 2026

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM(Lunch at 12:00pm)

Presiding Elders Reconvene

Ways to Give: ENCED

Givelify:

Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District

Checks Payable To:

Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District

Attire:

Business Casual

Friday, January 23, 2026 - 2 PM EST

Worship and Ordination Service

Worship Leader - Rev. Dr. Sharon Newton

Praise and Worship - Simon Temple Choir

Processional

Call to Worship

Invocation

Opening Hymn

“The Church’s One Foundation”

The Lesson from The Old Testament

Isaiah 61:1-4

Rev. Dr. Erlinda Dobson

The Gospel Lesson

John 10:1-18

Rev. Dr. Chalmers McDougald

The Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 4:7-13

Rev. Dr. Donald Jones

Gloria Patri

Affirmation of Faith

“The Apostle’s Creed”

Rev. Dr. Fondella Leigh

Prayer

Rev. Dr. Michael Bell

Music of Inspiration

Simon Temple Choir

Presentation of the Presiding Bishop

Rev. Dr. Terry Jones

Presiding Elder of the Willington District

Introduction of the Preacher

Bishop W. Darin Moore

Music of Preparation

Simon Temple Choir

Sermon

Bishop Brian R. Thompson, Sr.

Presiding Bishop ~ Mid Atlantic Episcopal District

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

Ministry of Giving

Finance Committee

The Ordination Service

Bishop W. Darin Moore

Hymn of Consecration

Simon Temple Choir

The Presentation of Candidates for Deacon Orders

The Order for the Ordination of Deacons

(Candidates are presented by Holy Orders Committee)

Albemarle Conference

Sister Javita Bryant

Cape Fear Conference

Brother Jerry Melvin

Central North Carolina Conference

Brother James L. Lilly (MR)
Brother L. Jermaine Richardson
Dr. Vernon S. Lowery

North Carolina Conference

Guy Lester Harding, Sr. (Local Deacon)
Sister Lydia Staton
Dr. Yushonda Midgette (MR)

Virgin Islands Conference

The Ordination Ritual

Bishop: *Brothers and Sisters: If there are any of you who know of any crime or impediment in any of these persons presented to be ordained Deacons, for which they should not to be admitted to this Office, come forth in the name of God, and show what the crime or impediment is. If any crime or impediment is presented, the Bishop shall cease from ordaining that person until such time as the party accused shall be found cleared of the same.*

The Collect

(Bishop and Presiding Elders shall pray together)

Almighty God, who by your divine providence has appointed various Orders of Ministers in your Church, and did inspire your Apostles to choose into the Order of Deacons your first martyr, St. Stephen, with others: mercifully behold these your servants now called to the same Office and Administration; replenish them so with the truth of your doctrine, and adorn them with the innocence of life, that both by word and good example they may faithfully serve you in this office, to the glory of your name and the edification of your Church, through the merits of your Son our Savior Jesus the Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost now and forever

Bishop: *Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; they must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them first be tested; then, if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons. Women likewise must be serious, not slanderers, but temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be faithful to one spouse and let them manage their children and their households well; 13 for those who serve well as deacons gain a good*

standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Bishop: *Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to take up the Office of the Ministry of Deacon in the Church of Christ, to serve God for the promoting of His glory and the edifying of His people?*

Candidates: I trust so.

Bishop: *Do you inexhaustibly believe the entire Canon Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments?*

Candidates: I do believe them.

Bishop: *Will you diligently read or expound the same to the people whom you shall be appointed to serve?*

Candidates: I will.

Bishop: *It is the responsibility to the Office of a Deacon to assist the Elder in divine services. And especially when ministering the Holy Communion, to help in the distribution thereof, and to read and expound the Holy Scriptures, to instruct the youth, and to baptize. And furthermore, it is your office to search for the sick, poor, and impotent, that they may be visited and relieved. Will you do this gladly and willingly?*

Candidates: I will do so, by the help of God.

Bishop: *Will you apply all your diligence to form and model your own lives and the lives of your families, according to the doctrine of Christ; and to make yourselves, with all that is within you, wholesome examples of the flock of Christ?*

Candidates: I will do so, the Lord being my helper

Bishop: *Will you reverently obey those to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following, with a glad mind and will, their godly admonitions?*

Candidates: I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my helper.

The Presentation of Candidates for Elders Orders

The Order for the Ordination of Elders

(Candidates are presented by Holy Orders Committee)

Albemarle Conference

Reverend Bobbie J. Banks (Local Elder)

Reverend Daryl Miller

Cape Fear Conference

Reverend Linder Drye

Reverend Jessica M. Franks

Central North Carolina Conference

Reverend Geneva M. Anderson

Reverend Ida Mae Bennett

Reverend Dr. Carol Denise Bunch

Reverend Bernice Cromartie

Reverend Michelle A. Long

Reverend Dr. LaShawn McGrue

Reverend Michael McMillian

Reverend Latoya Parmele

Reverend Adrienne Wilson

North Carolina Conference

Reverend James G. Armond

Reverend Lorean Wilson-Bradshaw

Reverend Donna Dove

Reverend Glenda Jenkins-Roulhac

Reverend Dr. Janie Rouse

Virgin Islands Conference

The Ordination Ritual

Brothers and Sisters, we present unto you, these whom we intend, by the help of God this day, to ordain Elders. For after due examination, we find, not to the contrary, that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and are persons fit for the same. If, however, there be any crime or impediment in any of them, for which they ought not be received into this holy Ministry, let the accuser come forward, in the name of God, and show what the crime or impediment is.

Bishop: *You have heard, brothers and sisters, in your private examination, and in the holy lessons taken out of the Gospel and the writings of the Apostles, of what dignity and how great of importance this Office is into which you are called. And now again we exhort you, in the name of our Lord Jesus the Christ, that you have, in remembrance, inquired into how high a dignity and to how weighty an Office you are called: that is to say, to be messengers, watchmen, and stewards of the Lord, to teach and forewarn, to feed and provide for the Lord's family, to gather the outcast, to seek the lost, and to be ever ready to spread abroad the Gospel, the glad tidings of reconciliation with God.*

Have always, therefore, printed in your remembrance how great a treasure is committed to your charge. For they are the Sheep of Christ, which he bought with his life, and for whom he shed his blood. The Church who you must serve is his spouse and his body. And if it shall happen, the same Church, or any member thereof, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligence, you know the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that will ensue. Therefore, consider the end of the ministry toward the children of God, toward the spouse and body of Christ; and see that you never cease your labor, your care and diligence, until you have done all that lies in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all such as are or shall be committed to your charge unto that agreement in the faith and knowledge of God, and to that ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there be no place left among you, either for error in religion, or for viciousness in life.

For as much then as your Office is both of so great excellency and of so great difficulty, you see with how great care and study you ought to apply yourselves, as well that you may show yourselves dutiful and thankful unto that Lord who has placed you in so high a dignity; as also to beware that neither you yourselves offend, nor be occasion that others offend.

Furthermore, you cannot have a mind and will of your own; for that will and ability is only given from God. Therefore, you have a need to pray earnestly for his Holy Spirit. And seeing that you cannot, by any other means, fully understand the full extent of doing so weighty a work, pertaining to the salvation of man, but with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same, consider how

much time you should spend in studying, reading or learning the Scriptures. And further, in determining these things, you must also determine, with all of your ability, both regarding you and those especially committed to you, according to the rule of the Scriptures; how to forsake and set aside, all worldly cares and studies.

We hope that you have all weighed and pondered these things with yourselves long before this time, and that you have clearly determined, by God's grace, to give yourselves wholly unto this Office, with which it has pleased God to call you; so that as much as lies within you, you will apply yourselves wholly to this thing, and draw all your cares and studies this way. And that you will also continually pray to God the Father, by the mediation of our only Savior Jesus the Christ, for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Ghost; that by daily reading and weighing of the Scriptures you may grow riper and stronger in your ministry. And further, that you may so endeavor to sanctify the lives of you and those you serve, in order to fashion them after the rule and doctrine of Christ, be wholesome and godly examples and models for the people to follow.

And now, that this congregation of Christians here may also understand your minds and wills in these things, and that your promise may persuade you to do your duties even more, you shall answer plainly to these things which we, in the name of God and his Church, shall demand of you touching the same.

Do you believe in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus the Christ, to the order of Elders?
Candidates: I do so believe.

Bishop: *Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrine required of necessity for eternal salvation, through faith in Jesus Christ? And that you are determined out of said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge to teach them nothing, as required of necessity to eternal salvation, but that which you shall be persuaded, that may also be concluded and proved by the same?*

Candidates: I am persuaded, and have so determined, by God's grace.

Bishop: *Will you then give your faithful diligence always so to minister the Doctrine and Sacraments and Discipline of Christ as the Lord has commanded?*

Candidates: I will do so, by the help of the Lord.

Bishop: *Will you be ready, with all faithful diligence, to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's word? And will you use both public and private admonitions and exhortations to the sick, as well as to everyone within your charge, as need shall require and occasion shall be given?*

Candidates: I will, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: *Will you be diligent in praying and in reading the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies which will further provide the knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh?*

Candidates: I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: *Will you be diligent to frame and fashion yourselves and your families according to the doctrine of Christ: and to make both yourselves and them, with all that is within you, wholesome examples and models to the people of Christ?*

Candidates: I will apply myself to these things, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: *Will you maintain and set forward, with all that is within you, quietness, peace, and love among all Christian people and especially among them that are or shall be committed to your charge?*

Candidates: I will so do, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: *Will you reverently obey your chief Ministers, who have been committed the charge and government over you? And will you follow, with a glad mind and will, their godly admonitions, and submit yourselves to their godly judgment?*

Candidates: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: *Almighty God, who has given you this will to do all these things, also grant you strength and power to perform the same; that He may accomplish His work which he has begun in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(Presiding Elders shall read responsively)

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire.

And lighten with celestial fire.

Thou anointing Spirit art,

Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above

Is comfort, life, and fire of love.

Enable with perpetual light

The dullness of our blinded sight;

Anoint and cheer our soiled face

With the abundance of thy grace;

Keep far our foes, give peace at home:

Where thou art Guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son

And Thee of both to be but ONE;

That through the ages, all along,

This may be our endless song:

Praise to thy eternal merit,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Bishop: *Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of your infinite love and goodness toward us have given to us your only and most dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ to be our Redeemer and the author of everlasting life; who after he had made perfect our redemption by his death, and was ascended into heaven, sent abroad into the world his Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Teachers, and Pastors, by whose labor and ministry he gathered together a great flock in all parts of the world, to set forth the eternal praise of your holy name: for these so great benefits of your eternal goodness and for that you have promised to call these here present to the same Office and Ministry appointed for salvation of mankind, we render unto you heartfelt thanks: we praise and worship you; and we humbly beseech you, by the same, your blessed Son, to grant unto all who, either here or elsewhere, call upon your name, that we may continue to show ourselves thankful unto you for these and all of your many benefits, and that we may daily increase and go forward in the knowledge and faith of you and your Son, by the Holy Spirit. So that in your Ministers, and those over whom they shall be appointed as Ministers, may ever glorify your holy name, and cause your blessed kingdom to be enlarged through the same, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the same Holy Spirit world without end. Amen*

(Candidates kneeling with their hands on the Holy Bible)

Bishop: *The Lord pour upon you the Holy Ghost for the Office and work of an Elder in the Church of God, now committed unto you by the authority of the Church through the imposition of our hands. And be a faithful dispenser of the Word of God and of his holy Sacraments: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Bishop: *Take authority as an Elder in the Church, to preach the word of God and to administer the holy Sacraments in the Congregation.*

Bishop: *Most Merciful Father, we ask you to send upon these your servants your heavenly blessings, that they may be clothed with righteousness, and that your word spoken by their mouths may have such success, that it may never be spoken in vain. Grant also that we may have grace to hear and receive what they shall deliver out of your most holy word, be agreeable to the same, and be the means of our salvation; that in all our words and deeds we may seek your glory and the increase of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Closing Remarks

Bishop W. Darin Moore

Benediction

Bishop W. Darin Moore



Sister Javita Bryant is a native of Belvidere, NC born on September 4th, 1993, to James & Alverta Bryant. She is the youngest of four siblings, including one sister Krystle, and two brothers, Corey and Jammie. She has a host of nieces and nephews.

From a young age she has been an active member of the Bay Branch A.M.E Zion Church and has remained connected to the Elizabeth City District and Albemarle Conference. She graduated from Perquimans County High School in 2011 and completed majority of her collegiate studies from Elizabeth City State University where she pursued a degree in Business Administration. She is currently enrolled at Clinton College in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

In May 2018, she answered the call to preach under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Joseph L Walton, Pastor of Bay Branch & Winslow Grove A.M.E Zion Church. She has sat on the Public Communications Committee for the Elizabeth City District and has supported numerous initiatives at both the district and conference levels. She serves wherever she is needed. She is a licensed traveling preacher and will begin her third year of Conference Studies in the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District of the A.M.E Zion Church. Professionally, she has been employed with Huntington Ingalls Industries, Mission Technologies Division, for the past 3 years. In her role as Administrative Support, she supports Procurement, Subcontracts, and Pricing and Estimating teams across the division.

Her hobbies include travel, travel planning, attending movies and concerts, and spending quality time with family.

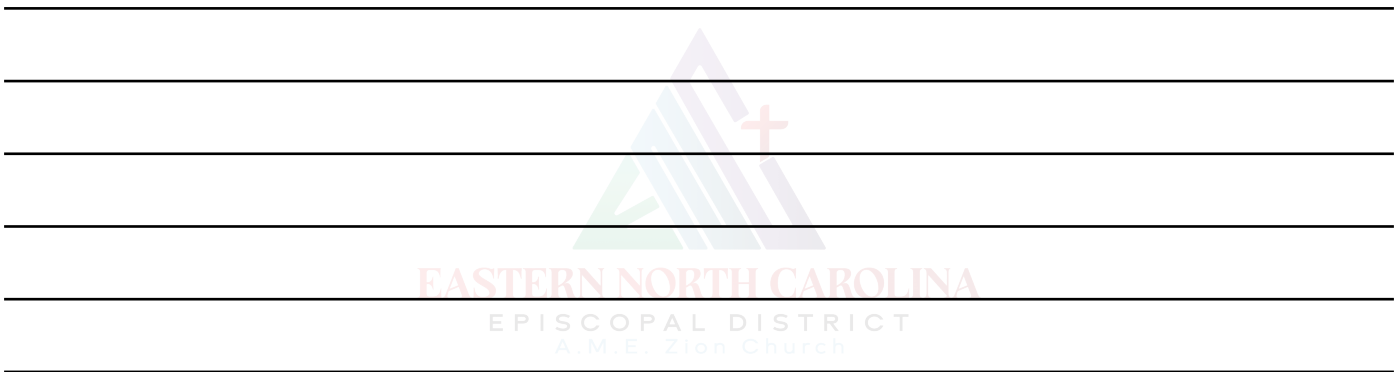
Her favorite scripture is Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust God with all thine heart lean not into thy own understanding, in all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct your path."



Deacon Elect, Brother Jerry Melvin, became a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in the year 2013, at Sam Springs of the Goldsboro District of the Cape Fear Conference, located at Roseboro, North Carolina. He has been married to his wife, Joann, for 51 years. To this union, 3 children were born: Michael Andrew, 46 (wife Tamala, grandson Tyler), Jerry Kenneth, 19 (deceased 2003), and Jessica Denise, 33.

There has always been a call to Christian leadership in his life, which he gladly submitted to after discovering the profound Leadership and Doctrinal Structure of the well-organized A.M.E. Zion Church. Before entering the call of Ministry, he was elected vice-chair of the Board of Trustees and Superintendent of Church School. In 2018, he became a licensed Exhorter for 2 years. In 2020, he became a licensed Local Preacher for 3 years. In 2023, under the leadership of Bishop Kenneth Monroe, he joined the Cape Fear Annual Conference on 2 years trial basis as a Traveling Preacher. In January 2025, he was given a Supply Pastor Charge by his Presiding Elder, Andrew Dixon Brown, at Shaw Temple A.M.E. Zion Church in Rosehill, North Carolina.

At the Annual Conference in October 2025, he was brought into full connection with the Cape Fear Annual Conference under the leadership of Bishop W. Darin Moore and given the Pastoral Charge of Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church at Harrells, North Carolina, where he presently presides as Pastor.





He is blessed with a loving wife, **Tatyana Lilly**, and is the proud father of three children—**Kameron, Cayden, and Tamera**. James is the son of **Rev. Dr. James M. Lilly and Kathy Lilly**, whose faith, leadership, and example have played an important role in shaping his life and ministry.





Brother Richardson has earned an Associate Degree in Accounting, and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He also hold a North Carolina State, Teachers and Insurance License.

Brother Richardson preached his Trial Sermon on November 19, 2000. He was admitted into the Central North Carolina Conference.



EPISCOPAL DISTRICT



Dr. Vernon S. Lowery has more than 25 years of experience in education and has served as a school administrator for over 14 years. She began her career after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology with a minor in Chemistry from Methodist University. She later obtained master's degrees in education (Secondary Biology) and School Administration from Fayetteville State University (FSU), where she also earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership.

Throughout her career, Dr. Lowery has received numerous professional recognitions and certifications and has authored multiple articles while leading educational presentations at the local, state, and national levels. As an instructional leader, she has been honored as Cumberland County Principal of the Year, a recipient of the Fayetteville/Cumberland Human Relations Commission's Inez Easley Award, a Fayetteville 40 Under 40 honoree, a Trademark Woman of Distinction, and an Epic Educator at the nationally recognized Model Schools Conference. She was also selected as a Chinese Delegate through the Confucius Institute, representing the United States in Beijing, China.

In pursuit of lifelong learning, Dr. Lowery recently completed the North Carolina School Superintendents' Association (NCSSA) Aspiring Superintendent Program, followed by the NCSSA Aspiring Superintendent Executive Leadership Program. In addition to her work in education, she is a licensed North Carolina realtor, a Broker-in-Charge, and the owner of Royalty SAI, a real estate school. Her work in real estate is rooted in a deep commitment to promoting homeownership as a pathway to breaking cycles of poverty.

On a personal level, Dr. Lowery is most proud of her role as a mother. Having been an orphan of the State of North Carolina, she is deeply committed to advocating for children who do not have a voice. Dr. Lowery has been engaged in ministry throughout her life, serving through teaching and music. She began preaching in 2015, joined the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 2016, and preached her trial sermon, "What Do You Do?-I Smell the Rain", on November 5, 2021. Her daily mission is to serve and has hopes to leave people and places in a better place.



Sis. Lydia Staton was born and raised in Pitt County, North Carolina. She grew up at the York Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church under the watchful care of her parents Julius and Jessie Mae Best. She was greatly influenced by her grandmother, Mrs. Maude Essie Burke, who instilled within her a life of service to others. She graduated from C.M Eppes High School in 1920. She attended Elizabeth City University (Social Science), Beaufort Community College (Nursing), Barton College in Wilson NC (Social Work Research Core), Brody School of Medicine (Diabetes Education), and Emory University (T2 Diabetes Education). She was employed as a registered nurse at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville North Carolina. After a brief period at Pitt, she relocated to Miami Floria where she worked at the VA Medical Center in Critical Care for a number of years. After returning to Greenville NC, she worked at the Vidant Medical Center as an RN. She worked in the area of Critical Care, Advocacy for Patient Bill of Rights, Diabetes Education, and director of Outreach for the Diabetes Department, where she was nominated as a North Carilina Great Nurse.

She served faithfully at the York Memorial AME Zion Church as a Sunday School Teacher, Deaconess, Usher, Choir Member, and President of the Washington District WH&OM Missionary Department. She answered the call to preach and gave her trial sermon on October 7, 2021. With a zeal to grow in the ministry, she attended the Washington District Local Preachers Classes, and enrolled at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University, where she graduated May 11, 2024, with a Master's Degree in Christian Education.

She married Mr. James Staton, and she has three children, Darryl, Reginald, and Jessica. She is a proud member of Delta Sigma Thea Sorority Inc. and has committed herself to a life of learning and service.



DR. YUSHONDA MIDGETTE

Dr. Yushonda Midgette is a resident of Jacksonville, North Carolina, (Onslow County) and traveling preacher serving in the New Bern District of the North Carolina Conference at St. Julia African Methodist Episcopal Church, Reverend Trishaun Kendall, Pastor. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degrees from UNC-Wilmington and received “Outstanding Alumna Award” from the same. After answering the call of God upon her life to preach, she holds a Bachelor’s in Theology and Doctorate in Divinity degrees and continued her seminary work at Payne Theological Seminary and Shaw University. As an educator, she recently earned her Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership, Ed.D. degree in 2023.

Dr. Midgette is a visionary, preacher, former nationally syndicated radio/talk show host, educator, poet, motivational speaker, and author of a well-renowned children’s book entitled: “Love Me, Don’t Hurt Me A Stand for School Safety, No Bullying, No Violence” in which she advocates against guns, violence, and bullying amongst school-age children with a signed proclamation by Mayor Bill Saffo, Wilmington, North Carolina.

Her gifts and talents unto the Lord have been used to bridge the gaps of building individual, family, and children legacies through ministry, as a vessel of hope, inspiration, and truth for generations to come.

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
A.M.E. Zion Church

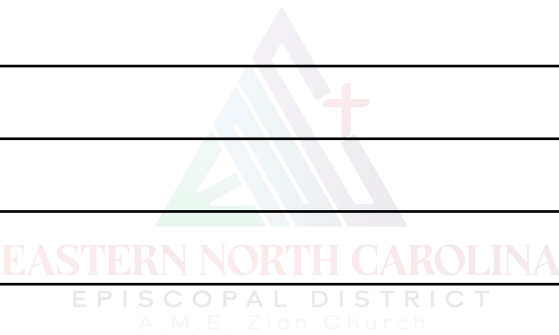


My name is Rev. Bobbie J. Banks. I am a devoted servant-leader within the AME Zion Church, passionately committed to guiding individuals and communities toward spiritual growth, social justice, and purposeful living. I am Donald Banks's wife and the mother of three children and two godchildren. Raised in a Christian home by my late father Reverend George Johnson Sr. and Mrs. Addie Mae Johnson, my life reflects the strong heritage and resilience of the AME Zion tradition.

Ordained in 2020, I have served as Associated Minister at Rebecca AME Zion Church to the present day. My ministry focuses on putting faith into practice through community involvement and advocacy. Whether offering individual counseling or leading worship, I strive to create spaces where people feel seen, valued, and empowered.

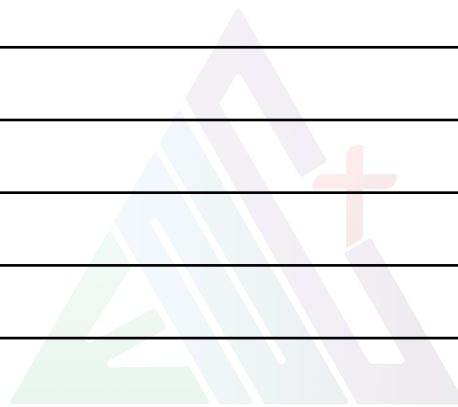
A graduate of Elizabeth City State University, I hold a BA Degree majoring in Sociology. Outside of the pulpit, I join youth programs like summer camps and vacation Bible school, and advocate for community members at youth and adult sports events. Alongside my roles as a Sunday school teacher, accomplished athlete, and conference studies participant, I also help care for several of my twelve siblings.

I deeply believe in the transformative power of faith, community, and justice. My mission is clear: **to help people discover who they are, whose they are, and what they are called to do—rooted in the AME Zion Church’s legacy of liberation and love.**





In 2014 I retired as a Program Manager in Eastpoint, NC. I am currently employed as a Marriage and Family Counselor/Social Emotional Learning Coach in Cumberland County School System.

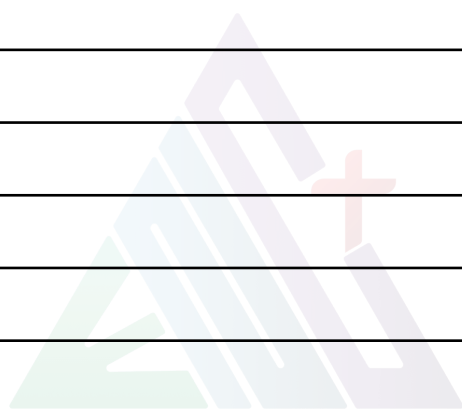


A.M.E. Zion Church



She has been preaching the Gospel with clarity and conviction since 2019. Rev. Franks is passionate about bridging faith and technology while advocating for justice and empowerment. She has served in various leadership roles, including Southeastern Regional Vice President of the Varick International Christian Youth Council and has participated in key social justice movements including NAACP Moral Monday Rallies and the Historic Thousands on Jones Street.

Grounded in Isaiah 40:31, Rev. Franks is committed to inspiring believers, mentoring future leaders, and uplifting God's people through ministry that combines biblical teaching, social justice, and the transformative power of faith.



EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA
EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
A.M.E. Zion Church



She earned her associate and bachelor's degree in theological studies at Carolina College of Biblical Studies, and she plans to pursue her master's degree in the future. She has faithfully served in various capacities as an Associate Minister at Simon Temple AME Zion Church for almost 20 years, evangelizing, making disciples, by serving in prison ministry, as a class-leader, Ministry Group Leader, Sunday school, ML and Bible Study teacher, preaching, and other spheres of ministry in and outside the walls of the church.

She enjoys spending quality time with her family, decorating projects, and painting. Her favorite motto is, “I wouldn’t take nothing for my journey now. I’ve come too far to turn around! To God be the glory!”

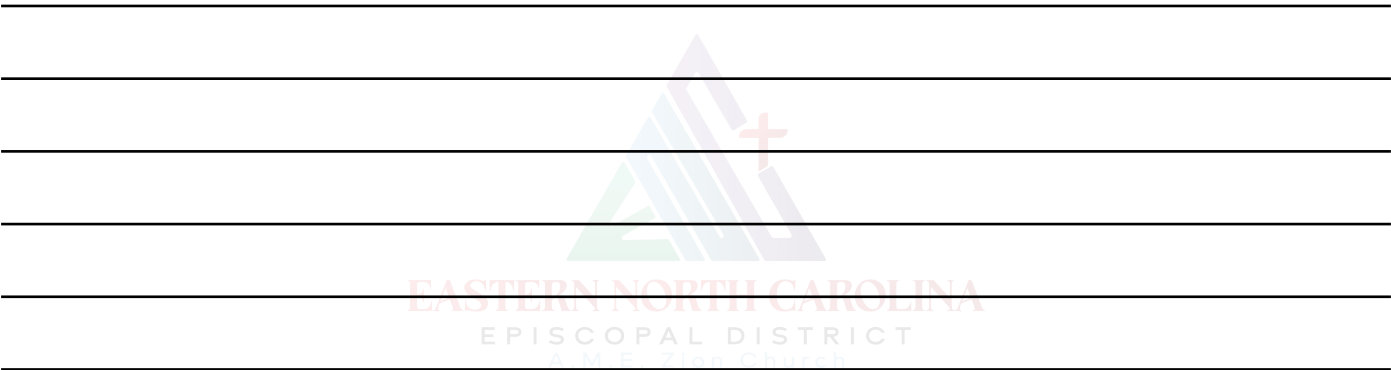




Reverend Ida Mae Bennett, born November 13, 1960, in Bennettsville, South Carolina, is a devoted woman of God with a deep and unwavering faith. Raised as the middle child of eleven siblings by the late Vaster and Sarah Quick, she learned early the values of leadership, compassion, and perseverance. Rev. Bennett’s life is marked by her strong belief in God’s love and guidance, trusting fully in Him as the source of her help and strength.

Rev. Bennett received her education in Marlboro County public schools and continued her studies at Chesterfield Marlboro College in Cheraw, South Carolina. She completed four years of conference studies through the North Carolina Eastern Episcopal District of the AME Zion Church and earned an associate degree from Carolina College of Biblical Studies in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She remains committed to lifelong learning and is pursuing the completion of her bachelor’s degree.

Currently, Rev. Bennett serves as an Associate Minister at Simon Temple AME Zion Church under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Keith Tillett and Lady Kerri Tillett. Her service includes roles as a Trustee, Deaconess, Woman of Excellence board member, and active volunteer in church and community outreach ministries. Married for 42 years to her husband, Mr. Ronnie Bennett of Cameron, Texas, she is the proud mother of two daughters and grandmother of three. Guided by Lamentations 3:22–23, Rev. Bennett continues to serve faithfully, seeking always to please God and extend His love to others.





Reverend Dr. Carol Denise Bunch is a devoted servant of God whose faith journey reflects a life of growth, obedience, and unwavering trust in God’s divine purpose. Born in Raleigh, North Carolina, she was nurtured by strong church traditions that laid a firm spiritual foundation. Through seasons of transition, struggle, and spiritual refinement, God patiently shaped her calling and character.

Dr. Bunch united with Grace African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, where she had been nurtured in faith since childhood and where she ultimately embraced her call to ministry. After a season of discernment, she responded to God’s call to return to her spiritual home. In faithful obedience, she resumed active ministry at Grace AME Zion Church, renewed in purpose and commitment—marking the beginning of a lifelong devotion to preaching, teaching, and serving God’s people.

In addition to her ministerial calling, Dr. Bunch pursued academic excellence, earning a PhD in Counseling Psychology. In 1999, she founded Adonai Christian Counseling Services, where she continues to actively serve individuals and families through counseling, supervision, and consultation. For more than twenty-five years, her work has consistently reflected a deep commitment to holistic healing—spiritual, emotional, and relational.

Though retired from academia, having served as an Associate Professor of Psychology at Shaw University and as Associate Dean of Counseling at Apex School of Theology, Dr. Bunch continues to serve actively at Grace AME Zion Church. She utilizes her gifts in ministry and counseling to edify the body of Christ. With a deep passion for spiritual growth and healing, she remains steadfast in walking out her threefold call: **to preach the Word, to teach with wisdom, and to trust God to bring healing and transformation.**

Secure in the promise that the Lord is present, mighty to save, and ever at work renewing His people in love (Zephaniah 3:17).



REVEREND BERNICE CROMARTIE

Reverend Bernice Cromartie, a native of Lumberton, North Carolina, is an Associate Minister at Bethel A.M.E. Zion Church in Spring Lake, North Carolina. Having been nurtured in the A.M.E. Zion Church from childhood, Reverend Cromartie continues to serve faithfully under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit.

Answering the call to ministry with a heart for service, Reverend Cromartie is committed to spreading the Gospel both within and beyond the church walls. Her ministry is rooted in providing spiritual guidance, counseling, and advocating for social justice, with a special focus on young adults and families. She is deeply passionate about spiritual formation, evangelism, and community outreach, seeking to help others experience God's love in practical and transformative ways.

Reverend Cromartie received her Bachelor of Science in Education (Birth-Kindergarten) with a minor in Social Work from Fayetteville State University in June 2009. She was awarded her Local Preacher's License by the Cape Fear Conference on September 3, 2005, and later obtained her Traveling Preacher's License on January 7, 2006, under the leadership of the late Bishop Richard K. Thompson. On January 22, 2011, Bishop Thompson laid hands on and prayed for Reverend Cromartie as she received the office of Deacon in the A.M.E. Zion Church.

In continued service to the denomination, Reverend Cromartie has been appointed as a Conference Evangelist in the Central North Carolina Conference of the A.M.E. Zion Church for the conference year ending November 2026, by Bishop W. Darian Moore, Presiding Prelate of the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District.

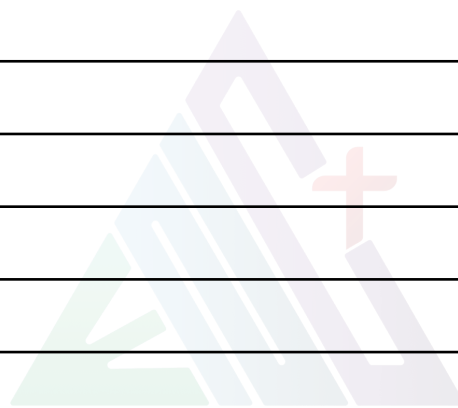
In addition to her ministerial calling, Reverend Cromartie is an entrepreneur and the owner of Nanny's Korner Day Care Center, Inc., established in April 1998. Through this endeavor, she faithfully served the community by providing quality childcare and support services for families with children from birth through school age.

Reverend Cromartie enjoys gospel music, uplifting sounds, and cherishes time spent with family—especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is currently pursuing further theological education with plans to earn a Master's Degree in Theology and to become a Licensed Chaplain, continuing her lifelong commitment to serving children, young adults, and communities with compassion and faith.



I am privileged to be an ordained Deacon in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Presently, I hold the following offices in my local church; district and connection as are respectfully listed. Women's Ministry Leader, President Minister's Spouses and Widows(ers) Fellowship, and 2nd Vice President of the A. M. E. Zion International Ministers' Spouses & Widows(ers) Fellowship.

I am blessed to be the mother of two daughters and three grandchildren. I am a Veteran of the United States Army where I served honorably.



EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

A.M.E. Zion Church



REVEREND DR. LASHAWN MCGRUE

Dr. LaShawn Monique McGrue is a devoted servant leader whose life is a testament to faith, wisdom, and service. Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. McGrue's early years were shaped by a strong sense of responsibility and a commitment to excellence, both academically and spiritually. As the eldest of three children and the oldest grandchild, she embraced leadership from a young age.

Dr. McGrue first heard the call to ministry at just 13 years old while attending New Jerusalem Baptist Church of Cleveland, Ohio. This early spiritual awakening set the foundation for her lifelong dedication to serving God and others.

Her educational journey began in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and continued at Baldwin Wallace University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts. Driven by her calling, Dr. McGrue pursued advanced theological studies at Liberty University, earning both her Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling.

Dr. McGrue's ministerial calling was further affirmed in 2017, when she formally answered God's call to serve in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church under the guidance of Bishop Brian R. Thompson. Dr. McGrue currently serves on the ministerial staff of Simon Temple AME Zion Church and is an associated minister at St. Mark Oakcliffe, leading the local Women's Home and Overseas Ministry. Her ministry is marked by compassion, spiritual guidance, and a commitment to empowering women and families through faith.

In addition to her spiritual leadership, Dr. McGrue has dedicated over 30 years to public service, currently serving as Supervisor of the Labor and Employee Relations Section in the Region 5 Chicago Branch of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Her professional experience enriches her ministry, allowing her to serve with integrity, empathy, and a deep understanding of community needs.

Dr. McGrue is a loving wife to Leonard McGrue and mother to Devin and Amber, whose support inspires her daily walk with Christ. Guided by her favorite scripture, 2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." —Dr. McGrue's life reflects the values of faith, wisdom, and service.

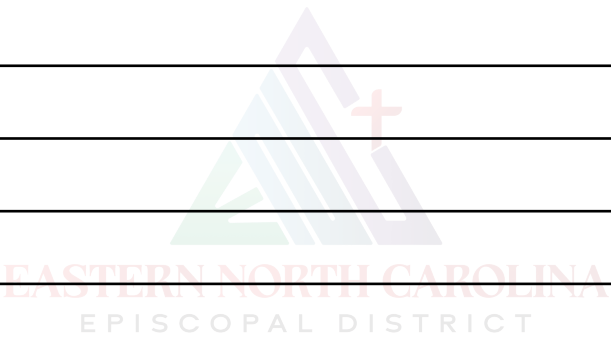


Michael McMillian is a devoted servant of the Lord and a traveling preacher committed to proclaiming the Gospel with sincerity, humility, and conviction. He holds a degree in Biblical Studies, which has strengthened his theological foundation and equipped him for effective ministry. Michael’s long term calling is to pastor, and he continues to prepare himself spiritually and academically for that assignment.

Michael has been blessed with 46 years of marriage to his wife, Cynthia McMillian. Together, they have one daughter, a son-in-law and two grandsons who bring great joy to their lives. His family remains a central source of strength and encouragement in his walk with Christ.

In addition to his preaching ministry, Michael serves as a substitute lead teacher at a childcare center and assists in managing the center’s Food Pantry, where he faithfully supports families in need. He is also known throughout the community as the “Watermelon Man,” a small farmer who uses his watermelon stand as a unique outreach ministry. Through this work, Michael prays with visitors, offers encouragement, and shares the love of Christ in everyday moments.

Michael’s life and ministry are marked by a deep love for God, a heart for people, and a commitment to serve wherever the Lord opens a door. His mission is to lift up the name of Jesus and make a lasting impact on every life he encounters.

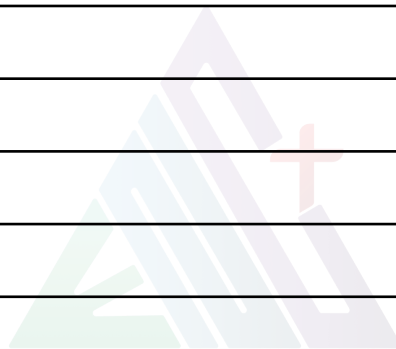




Rev. Miller's home church is Leigh Temple A. M. E. Zion Church. He is presently the Supply Pastor Macedonia and Cannan Temple A. M. E. Zion Churches.

Rev. Miller is employed at the Northeast Academy for Aviation and Advance Technology.

He is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors and is the past president of Perquimans County NAACP.



EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
A.M.E. Zion Church



Reverend Latoya Parmele is a dynamic, first-generation preacher whose ministry is rooted in Psalm 118:17: “I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.” A proud native of Hamilton, North Carolina, she is the firstborn child of the late Jasper Lee Parmele and Alfretia Jane Parmele.

Nurtured in the faith by her grandmother, the late Mittie L. Greene, and baptized into the AME Zion Church at nine months old, Rev. Parmele is truly “Zion bred.” She publicly professed her faith in Jesus Christ at the age of 18 and answered God’s call to ministry at the age of 33, preaching her trial sermon on May 5, 2019, under the leadership of Dr. James Davis.

Rev. Parmele was licensed and ordained as a Deacon in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in January 2024 under the leadership of Bishop Kenneth Monroe. She is a devoted and faithful member of Grace AME Zion Church in Raleigh, NC, where she faithfully serves in numerous leadership roles, including Superintendent of Sunday School and a committed community activist, working and walking along side leadership in evangelism and missionary work.

Known for her humble spirit and passionate fiery delivery of God’s word. Rev. Parmele is intentional about winning souls for Christ, Rev. Parmele believes in doing God’s will regardless of the cost and partnering with the Holy Spirit to restore lives to Christ. She also brings her dedication beyond the church, having served the State of North Carolina for over 19 years, as a Tax Auditor with the North Carolina Department of Revenue.



REVEREND ADRIENNE WILSON

Reverend Adrienne Wilson was born and raised in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She attended Pine Forest High School and continued her education at North Carolina Central University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN). She furthered her academic accomplishments by receiving a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) from Chamberlain University and is currently enrolled in the Doctoral for Nursing Practice program.

Reverend Wilson is a dedicated Registered Nurse who has worked at WakeMed Health and Hospitals for over 21 years. Her commitment to her profession is evident through her long-standing service and her role as a Christian counselor at her workplace. She has made a significant impact by leading many of her patients and coworkers to Christ through her prayers, counseling and guidance.

In July 2006, Reverend Wilson answered her calling to ministry. She is an ordained Deacon and an Elder-Elect in the AME Zion Church. Serving as a Conference Evangelist at Wesley Chapel, she is passionate about preaching, teaching, and counseling. Reverend Wilson is actively involved in the children's ministry and the children's choir, dedicating her time and energy to nurturing young lives in faith.

Together with her husband, Reverend Wilson has counseled young married couples facing difficulties in their relationships. Through prayer, guidance, and their shared faith, they have helped revive and restore marriages, giving thanks and praise to God for working through them.

Reverend Adrienne Wilson loves the Lord with all her heart, mind, and soul. She has committed her life to Christ and all that he has called her to do. One of her favorite scriptures is Matthew 28: 19 & 20 "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever the Lord commands" She believes without a shadow of a doubt that God will be with her until the end of time.



Rev. James Gregory Armond was born in Brooklyn, NY. He moved to Darden NC where he was raised by his grandparents from the age of three to seven. He attended the Jamesville School where he graduated in 1980. After his graduating from High School, he returned to New York where he worked in exporting shipping and receiving.

In 1989 he returned to North Carolina and began working in Farmville in Shipping and receiving. It was there that he met and married Sis. Mamie Swinson, and joined the Star of Zion AME Zion Church in Hookerton NC. He is the father of three children and ten grandchildren.

He attended Lenior Community College for two years working toward his Bachelor’s degree. Rev. Armond later answered the call to preach, under the late Dr. Margaret Blackmon. He served faithfully at the Star of Zion AME Zion Church in various offices. He was ordained as a Local Deacon in 2018. In 2020 he was asked to supply the Morning Star AME Zion Church in Ayden NC. He joined the North Carolina Conference in 2021 and tested out of first year studies and his Local Deacon status was lifted. He was appointed as support by his pastor of Morning Star and Reedy Branch AME Zion Churches. Rev. Armond is supported by his wife, who is Local Preacher and talented singer.

Rev. Armond is a faithful and loving pastor and is taking the Reedy Branch AME Zion Church to new heights. He continues to stand strong in the Lord and growing as loyal young preacher.



Reverend Lorean Wilson-Bradshaw is the pastor of Jericho A. M. E. Zion Church in Kinston, NC. Reverend Lorean Wilson-Bradshaw is a dedicated servant of God, an accomplished entrepreneur, and Community Leader. She currently serves as the Pastor of Jericho AME Zion Church in Kinston, NC, where she leads with grace, wisdom, and a heart for the people.

Rev. Wilson-Bradshaw is a woman of many talents, successfully balancing her spiritual calling with her professional endeavors. As the owner of Lorean's Creative Hair Design, she brings beauty and confidence to her clients. Her academic achievements reflect her diverse interests and commitment to lifelong learning: Rev. Lorean Wilson Bradshaw holds a B.A. in Criminal Justice from North Carolina Wesleyan University, a B.A. in Biblical Studies from North Carolina College of Theology (NCST) and an Associate in Cosmetic Arts.

Beyond her professional and ministerial roles, Rev. Wilson-Bradshaw finds her greatest joy in her family. She is the devoted wife of The Reverend Reginald E. Bradshaw. Together, they share the blessing of two handsome sons and the abundant joy of nine grandchildren.

Rev. Lorean Wilson-Bradshaw's mission is to be a vessel of hope and a catalyst for transformation. Whether she is standing behind the pulpit, working in the salon, or spending time with her family, her goal is to reflect the love of Christ in everything she does. She believes that through faith and education, there is no limit to what we can achieve for the Kingdom of God."

Her Favorite Scripture is: "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."
— Philippians 4:13



She is also a Sunday school teacher, a Class Leader and also serves on the Alter Guild, and Transportation Committees.

Rev. Dove is pursuing a Bachelor's of Science degree, in Christian Studies at the University of Mount Olive.





Glenda Jenkins Roulhac was born and raised in New Bern, NC to Percy and Nancy Jenkins. She has earned a Bachelor and Master' Degree in Social Work from East Carolina University. She is also Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist and a Certified Clinical Supervisor.

She has worked in the field of addiction with God's guidance for 31 years. He has blessed her to complete 2 years of local preacher training and 4 years of preacher training in the North Carolina Conference. God has blessed her to be an ordained Deacon in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AME Zion) Church. She an active member in Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church, which is her home church. She is currently the New Bern District's Director of Evangelism.

Rev. Roulhac accepted her call into the ministry publicly in 2012. She preached her trial sermon. October 11, 2018.



EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA
EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
A.M.E. ZION CHURCH



REVEREND DR. JANIE ROUSE

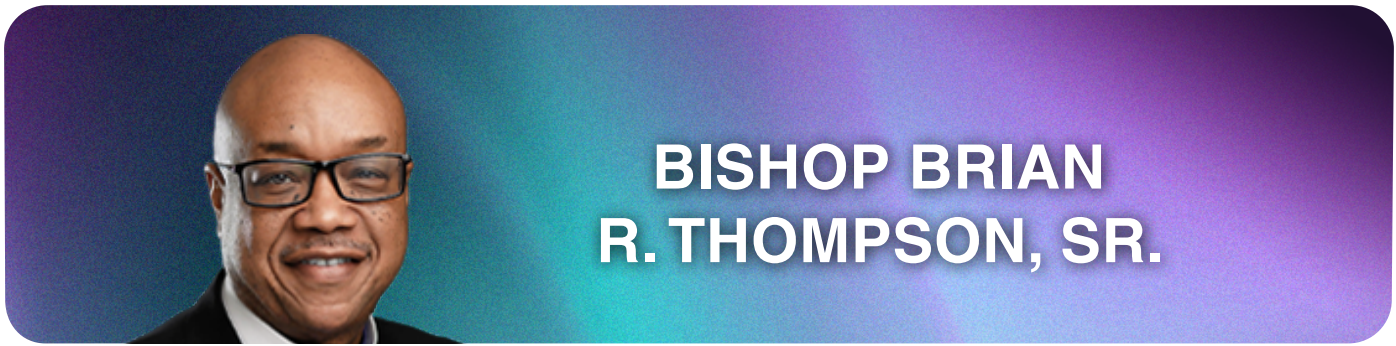
Rev. Dr. Janie Rouse was born and reared in Sumter SC. She graduated from Hillcrest High School, received her Bachelor's of Art degree in Social Science from Claflin University, Master of Social Work from the University of South Carolina and earned her Doctor of Ministry Degree in 2022 from Charlotte Christian College and Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina.

She was employed as a social worker with the Sumter County Department of Social Services, in the area of Child and family services, and the South Carolina Department of Corrections, she retired in 2005 as Associate Warden of Program Services from Turbeville Correctional Institution.

After moving to North Carolina, Dr. Rouse was employed and retired from the Duplin County Schools as a middle school social worker. Dr. Rouse has served as an adjunct Professor with the University of South Carolina, New England University and University of North Carolina Wilmington in the School of Social work. She is a managing partner of the Rouse Leadership Group LLC. She has volunteered and served on the board of The Duplin County Department of Social Service, The American Heart Association, Crossroads Homeless Shelter, The Mantle Bearers Project at the University of Mount Olive and The Nehemiah Initiative of Pitt County. She is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority in Greenville, North Carolina.

In 2017, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Larry Smith at Big Zion AMEZ Church in Kenansville, NC, Dr. Rouse answered the call to be a voice calling out in the wilderness to bring dying souls to Christ. She served on the ministerial staff at Big Zion AMEZ Church until 2022 and at York Memorial AMEZ Church in Greenville, NC. under the leadership of Rev. Demond Hairston and later Rev. Darius Ballard. On November 22, 2025, she was appointed as Pastor of Cherry Run AMEZ in Washington, North Carolina. A daughter of the Late Conyers and Sarah White. She is married to Dr. Lawrence Rouse, and they are the parents of 3 children and grandparents of one grandchild.

'Call to me and, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.' ~ Jeremiah 33:3



BISHOP BRIAN R. THOMPSON, SR.

The Right Reverend Brian R. Thompson, Sr., a native of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, holds a bachelor's degree in communication from Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, NC, as well as both a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. In July 2021, he was elected as the 106th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion (A.M.E. Zion) Church, initially overseeing the Western Episcopal District, which includes churches in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington.

As of the General Conference in July 2024, Bishop Thompson now serves as the Presiding Prelate of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District, encompassing the Allegheny, Barbados, East Tennessee C Virginia, Guyana, Ohio, Philadelphia C Baltimore, St. Vincent, and Virginia Conferences.

Bishop Thompson's journey with the A.M.E. Zion Church began in 1994. After serving in several pastoral roles across East-Central North Carolina, he was appointed to Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church in Fayetteville, NC, in 2001, where he ministered until his election to the Episcopacy. During his twenty-year tenure, God worked through him to expand the congregation from 300 to 3,000 members. Under his leadership, the church built a new edifice and acquired several adjacent properties dedicated to outreach, making community engagement a defining feature of its ministry.

In addition to his ecclesiastical responsibilities, Bishop Thompson was hand selected by President Barack Obama to serve on the National Community Policing Initiative, which aimed to foster mutual respect and healthy relationships between police forces and the communities they serve. He is also, the founder of the Brian R. Thompson Sr., Annual Golf Tournament, which has raised over \$100,000 in college scholarships for students pursuing higher education.

As an active Bishop in The A.M.E. Zion Church, he serves on the Board of Trustees for Livingstone College and Hood Theological Seminary. He is a member of the Pan Methodist Commission and a delegate to the World Methodist Council.

Bishop Thompson is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He is married to Reverend Felica Raines Thompson, Missionary Supervisor of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District, and together they are blessed with two miracles from God they're proud of – Alexis and Brian, II.



BISHOP W. DARIN MOORE

Bishop W. Darin Moore is a native of Mt. Vernon, NY and began his college education at Livingstone College, graduating from Purchase College, in Purchase, NY with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. Theological studies were done at Yale University Divinity School obtaining the M.Div. from United Theological Seminary. He received his Doctor of Ministry Degree from UTS as well as an honorary Doctorate from Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina.

Pastoral assignments for Bishop Moore have included Clarksville and MorningStar AME Zion Churches, Monroe, NC; Mt. Olivet AME Zion Church, Greensboro, NC; and Jones Tabernacle AME Zion Church, Indianapolis, IN. While in Greensboro, he served on the Commission for the Greensboro Coliseum and the County Commission on Children and Youth. In Indianapolis, Bishop Moore served two terms as President of the Board of Directors for the Greater Indianapolis Church Federation and was the Presiding Elder of the Indianapolis District for the AME Zion Church. He became the pastor of his home church, Greater Centennial AME Zion Church in 1993 and served faithfully until his election as a Bishop.

In July, 2012 Bishop Moore was elevated to the episcopacy from Greater Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church, Mt. Vernon, NY as the 99th bishop in succession. During his tenure as pastor of Greater Centennial the congregation grew from a few hundred to more than 6,500 members.

Bishop Moore was elected President of the Mount Vernon Board of Education. Additionally, he served as President of the United Black Clergy of Westchester, the Founding Chairperson for Save Our Seed Ministries, and a member of the Westchester County African American Advisory Board. He is Founder and the past President of the Greater Centennial Community Development Corporation and past President of Greater Centennial Homes where he led in the construction of the James Varick Homes for 1st time home buyers, construction of the Zion Court Apartments, and a \$12 million substantial renovation of Greater Centennial Homes.

Twice, he has been selected as the Morning Preacher for the Hampton Ministers' Conference, an annual gathering of more than 10,000 ministers and musicians from around the country, he has been inducted into both the Morehouse College MLK Board of Preachers and the inaugural class of the Bishop Alfred G. Dunston College of Preachers at Livings-

tone College. Bishop Moore's sermons have been published in The African American Pulpit Forum and the Balm in Gilead Journal. He is the author/editor of two books.

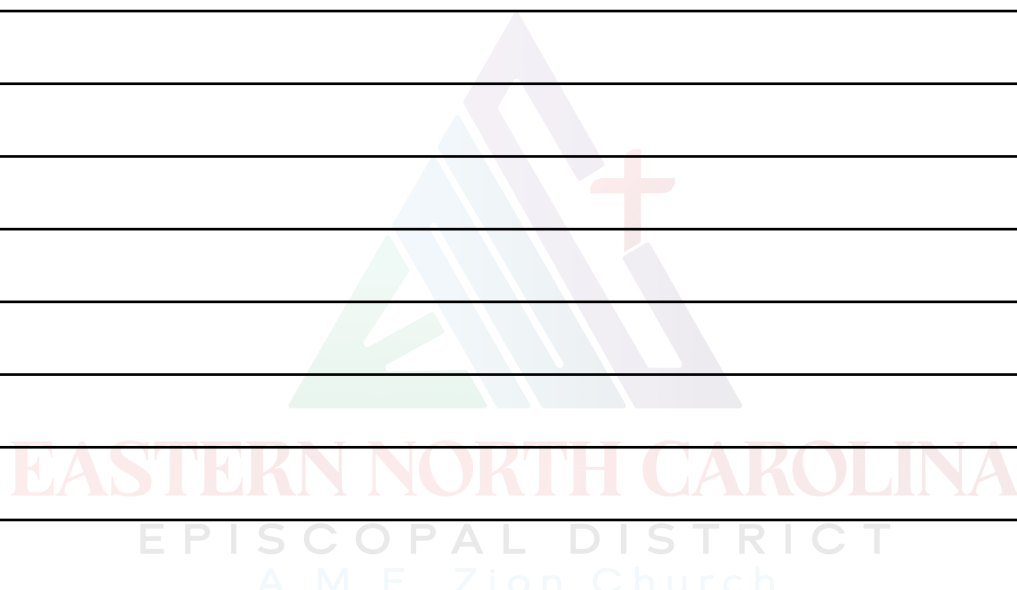
Bishop Moore is a Past Chair of the National Council of Churches, USA, Chair of the Hood Theological Seminary Board of Trustees, Vice Chairman of the Livingstone College Board of Trustees, and a member of the World Methodist Council. He also serves as Chairman of the Restructuring Commission and the Connectional Budget Board of the AME Zion Church.

Bishop Moore is the Presiding Bishop of the Eastern North Carolina Episcopal District, which includes the Albemarle, Cape Fear, Central North Carolina, North Carolina, and Virgin Islands Conferences.

A loving husband to Devieta C. Moore, and devoted father to Daron (Elaina), Dana (Kevin), and Dion. He and his wife are proud grandparents of five grandchildren, Jayli, Creed, Kevin, Carter, and Dailyn.

Bishop Moore uses as his theme:

“It’s our OUTREACH that validates our UP REACH!”





EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA
EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
A.M.E. Zion Church



Eastern North Carolina Evpiscopal District
PO Box 97395
Raleigh, NC 27624



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