

CAMPHOR MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 100 Years Founders Day Speaker Sunday, June 25, 2017

Stephen Emanuel Handy Sr. is the pastor of McKendree United Methodist Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He graduated from Dillard University in New Orleans with a B.A. in Business Administration. He also has a Master's degree in Business Administration from Tennessee State University, a Master's degree in Divinity from Vanderbilt University and is currently working on his Doctorate in Divinity degree from Wesley Seminary.

In June of 2009 Stephen was appointed by the Bishop to become the first African-American Pastor at McKendree United Methodist Church, the mother church of Methodism in the Tennessee Annual Conference. Stephen is participating in a revitalization movement within the Downtown area where McKendree is located. The people of McKendree focus on bridging bridges of hope through the love of Jesus Christ! As a multi-generational, multi-ethnic, and multi-cultural congregation, McKendree is creating a culture of discipleship by connecting, receiving, discipling and accountability through Wesleyan life groups. Our vision and mission of the church is clear: Glorifying God by making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

McKendree Church is now greatly involved in outreach ministries to impact downtown and surrounding areas with the love of Jesus Christ by offering: Weekly feeding programs, a Clothing Closet, and an in-house men's shelter called The Foundry. McKendree Church also has an organic rooftop garden (the first in downtown Nashville), with vegetables providing fresh additions to the church's feeding programs. Pastor Handy is leading the church to extend the body of Christ to more off-campus locations called The Encounter. These Encounters are designed to be a multi-racial, multi-cultural faith movement for the purpose of building bridges of hope so that people come to know, love, serve and share Jesus Christ with others. Our missional focus involves partnering with elementary and middle school students by engaging in life skills, critical thinking and goal setting.

Pastor Handy is a gifted communicator who is passionate about helping people understand the necessity of a relationship with Jesus Christ and serving our neighbors. He believes that "spreading the gospel" and "equipping the saints for the ministry of Jesus Christ" need to be reclaimed within the body of Christ! He has a contagious love for all of God's people regardless of color, culture, creed, or circumstances! Stephen believes "God is doing a new thing" (Isaiah 43:19) and that WE are the new thing!