

**Presiding Elder Valarie J. Walker** was born in Winter Haven, Florida. She is a gifted preacher, teacher, administrator, workshop presenter, evangelist, writer, poet and Presiding Elder. She graduated with honors from the University of South Florida and taught Elementary Education and Gifted Education for 17 years in the Tarrant County and Polk County Public School Systems.



**Presiding Elder Walker** began teaching in 1978, she received the call to preach on March 13, 1990 and after teaching for 18 years, she stepped out on faith and accepted the full-time Pastoral Ministry in 1996. She received her first Pastoral appointment to Mt. Olive AME Church, Trilby, FL, on September 25, 1994. She received her second appointment as the first female Pastor to St. Paul AME Church, Ft. Meade, FL, on March 16, 1996.

**Presiding Elder Walker** received her third appointment, as the first female Pastor to Allen Chapel AME Church, Sanford, FL, on September 30, 2001. As Pastor, in Sanford, she was an advocate for justice for Trayvon Martin. She served on many committees and continues this fight for justice for all. After 13 years of pastoring a congregation of over 450 members, God's favor smiled on her, and on September 26, 2014, Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr., appointed her the first female Presiding Elder of the Orlando District of the Central Conference of the Eleventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, where she humbly, loved, supported, encouraged, empowered and presided over 24 wonderful Pastors and Churches. And on December 19, 2021, God's favor smiled on her again and Bishop Frank Madison Reid, 111 appointed her Presiding Elder of the Quincy Monticello District of the Florida Conference of the Eleventh Episcopal District where she faithfully leads, loves, supports, encourages, empowers and presides over 32 wonderful Pastors and Churches.

**Presiding Elder Walker** has held many leadership positions in the Polk County School System, the African Methodist Episcopal Church and in every community where she has resided, pastored and served. She has received numerous awards and accolades throughout her career and Ministry. She has taught several Empowerment Workshops and preached many Revivals and Women Conferences all over the United States. She is the founder of "New Beginnings ~ To the Next Level," a Women's Empowerment (WE) Ministry, that passionately ministers to women of all ages. Her delight is her Seed Ministry to the homeless, hurting and needy, as she daily seed into their lives.

**Presiding Elder Walker** really loves people. She delights in being a servant of the most high God. She deeply loves her entire family, friends and mankind. She is the devoted mother of 1 son, 1 daughter-in love, grandmother of 4, and great grandmother of 1. She celebrates and appreciates her devoted mother, 3 siblings, 6 nephews, 3 nieces and her entire family.

**Presiding Elder Walker** gives God all the glory for the things He has done in her life and for others. It is her belief that, "a radiant smile all the time will keep the Spirit of the Living God flowing through you." Her favorite Bible verses are **Proverbs 3:5-6; Ephesians 3:20**. Her words of wisdom are "With God, Make life work for you."

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only **light** can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only **love** can do that." **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**