

HISTORY

TEMPLE OF JUDAH

THE FOUNDER



The late Bishop Melvin Williams, Sr.

THE VISION AND VISIONARY

The Temple of Judah, formally the True Apostolic Church of our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, was founded in 1949, by the late Bishop Melvin Williams, Sr., a visionary preacher and a man of great faith.

The first service was held in a renovated garage previously abandoned in the East End of Richmond, VA. Then Elder Williams, used orange crates as a lectern to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Rapid growth forced the congregation, in just a short time, to relocate to a vacant house on 17th Street and then to a new larger facility on Williamsburg Avenue. We remained at this location until the Lord blessed us with a church building in 1959 at 2120 Venable Street (our current location).

Transition

Bishop Williams continued to spread the Gospel throughout the '50s, '60s, and '70s—using various avenues of media available to him, i.e., radio, T.V. He fought the extreme prejudices of that day to proclaim the truth to anyone who would listen. He persevered and the Lord added to the church daily.

“This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.”

Bishop Williams continued faithfully declaring the counsel of the Lord, until 1972, when he chose to retire and pass the mantle to his son, Elder Melvin Williams, Jr.

Eld. Williams took the reigns with vigor and tenacity. While maintaining the foundations his father had established, he set a course towards more outreach and social ministry—aiming to do what Jesus did; minister to the downtrodden, brokenhearted, and less-fortunate. He developed many social programs in the City of Richmond that are still active until this day. He established a subsidiary—the Citadel of Hope; a place for a weary traveler—to assist and aid Richmond and surrounding areas with the many social and economical tragedies that were plaguing the inner-city. Such programs as: The Food Pantry, The Clothes Closet, Fuel Assistance, Utility Assistance, After School Tutorial, Crime Watch, Youth Mentoring, Senior Care, Summer Youth Camp, Job Placement, Homeless Shelter, and many more are still

being facilitated. Elder Williams who later became Bishop Williams believed that the church reached far beyond the four walls of the building and extended into communities surrounding the church.

The church grew rapidly and Bishop Williams wanted to make sure that after the natural needs of men and women were met that we minister to the spiritual man as well. He instituted the 5:00 a.m. Prayer Service, which still exists, as well as a number



Williamsburg Avenue Location



Current Location

Contact Us

Temple of Judah Ministries

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of christian education venues for people to come, study and learn the Word of God. This secured his plan for a well-rounded ministry.

THE NEW

After 54 years at our current location, the Lord has blessed us to acquire a new church campus. This facility will help us to expand our ministry even more. It houses a 850 seat sanctuary, a 300 seat chapel, two school buildings with numerous classrooms, an administrative and social building to house all of our community outreach, and more than generous grounds to build.

All praise belongs to God for the great things he has done.

THIS IS THE LORD'S DOING!

The years have been long and the journey has not been easy. However, we have remained faithful and have run well. We have been challenged, but we stayed in the fight and the Lord has brought us out.

We are just a ministry in the heart of the city, with the people of the city in its heart. Our aim is to minister to the mass by any means necessary. We will continue to serve until the Lord comes. In this the 21st Century, we will work to meet the needs of the people, we will be the church where the Lord dwells and He alone will be worshipped and praised, the Word of God and Prayer will be pre-eminent. Come visit with us!

