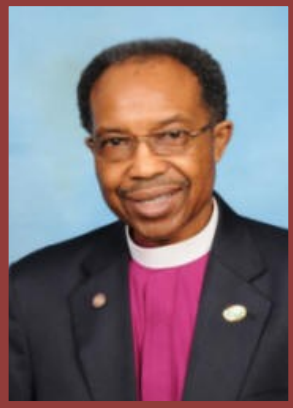


Conference Presenters & Preachers



The Opening Worship

Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr.

Bishop Henry M. Williamson, Sr. is the 52nd Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. He was elected on July 3, 2002 at the General Conference in Atlanta, Georgia and assigned the Presiding Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District. Bishop Williamson was assigned to the First Episcopal District at the General Conference in Baltimore, Maryland on July 4, 2014.

Bishop Williamson was born in Arkansas, and reared in Tennessee and Gary, Indiana. He was called to the ministry in 1967 in Gary, Indiana at Israel Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop J. Claude Allen ordained him Deacon in 1968 and Elder in 1969.

Bishop Williamson is a graduate of the historic Roosevelt High School in Gary, Indiana. He received a B.A. in Sociology from Purdue University Calumet Campus, a Master of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois, with advanced work in Clinical Pastoral Education. Bishop Williamson was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary in Monroe, Louisiana.

His pastoral ministry spanned from 1969-2002 including CME Churches in Gary, Indiana (Westside CME Church), Evanston, Illinois (New Hope CME Church), East St. Louis, Illinois (Pilgrim Temple CME Church), Indianapolis, Indiana (Phillips Temple CME), Jacksonville, Florida (Central CME Church), and Chicago, Illinois (Carter Temple CME Church). Bishop Williamson was privileged to serve as associate minister at Israel CME Church from 1967-1969 under Dr. Carrell K. Cargle, Sr. and associate pastor of St. Paul CME Church under the leadership of Bishop Dotcy I. Isom, Jr. (1972-1973).

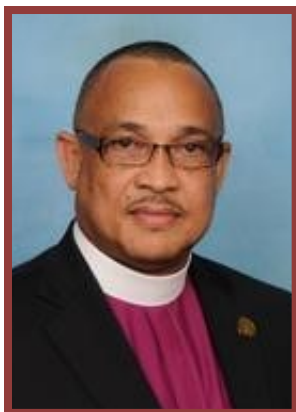
Bishop Williamson pastored at Carter Temple CME Church in Chicago for 16 years and led the congregation in growing to over 3,000 active members with 50 active ministries in the church. During his ministry in three Episcopal Districts, over 30 men and women accepted their call to preach in the CME Church. In each city while serving as pastor, Bishop Williamson motivated the congregations he led to meet the spiritual and social needs of the church and the larger community. He served as the National President of PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity) from 1991-1993, helping to stabilize the organization financially and continues to work with Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. on the National Board of Rainbow/PUSH.

Bishop Williamson is the founder and CEO of One Church One School Community Partnership Program. This nationwide program involves churches and schools in partnerships that teach our young people to Value Life and Learning. Over 200 One Church One School partnerships across the nation are positively impacting students through tutoring and mentoring programs, parent involvement, homework assistance programs, scholarships, and student empowerment conferences. The CME Church formally adopted a resolution supporting One Church, One School program at its 1994 General Conference.

Bishop Williamson has received numerous awards and Keys to the City including the 2001 Keeper of the Dream, Purdue University's Outstanding Alumni Award, Pastor of the New Generation, PUSH Dream Keepers Award, and Black Expo Award for Community Leadership, among others. Bishop Williamson serves on the Boards of Northern Trust Bank, and World Methodist Council of Churches.

Most proud of his family, he and his wife Doris Yvonne are the proud parents of Henry, Jr., a graduate of Northwestern University, and currently a financial analyst with LaSalle Partners of Chicago; and Kelli Daonne, a graduate of Chicago State University, and currently teaching Music Education in the Chicago Public Schools. Their grandsons, Jonathan and Henry III, are the source of much joy and happiness in their lives. Bishop Williamson is especially grateful to his mother Mrs. Alma J. Carvin of Gary, IN for her love, influence, and sacrifice in making him the son, husband, father and Christian leader that he is today, in the body of Christ.

Conference Presenters & Preachers



The Founders' Day Convocation Speaker *Bishop Sylvester Williams, Sr.*

Bishop Sylvester Williams, Sr., Chair of the College of Bishops, is the last of three children born to the late Edward and Georgiana Williams. Growing up in a small rural town in Hale County, Alabama, Bishop Williams was surrounded by a loving family who taught him values such as respect and caring for each other, honoring your word, being responsible, but more importantly to love the Lord. As he watched his family, particularly his mother and father, display these values, he became more keenly aware of his calling and how God had partnered with them to shape him for ministry.

Bishop Williams' parents not only taught him social and spiritual values, they instilled educational values as well. Having received his early education in the Hale County School System, he continued his education by attending the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, where he earned a B.A. degree in Health Care Management. Between this interval, however, he earned an A.A. degree in Mortuary Science from Jefferson State Jr. College in Birmingham, AL. Later, having accepted the call to ministry, he furthered his education at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, GA where he received the Master of Divinity degree in 1988, and the Doctor of Ministry Degree in May, 2008.

After accepting the call to ministry in '81, Bishop Williams served the Church and community in many capacities which included pastoral leadership at Owens Chapel, Emory Chapel, Franconia, and Southside CME Churches in Alabama; Mt. Olive CME Church in Orlando, FL; and Carter Temple CME Church in Chicago, IL. He has served as a member of the Joint Board of Finance for the Birmingham and Southeast Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin Annual Conferences; Budget Director for the Third Episcopal District; Dean of Leadership Training School for the Southeast Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin Region; a Member of the Board of Trustees at Miles College and Phillips School of Theology; Chairman, Board of Directors, for the Commission on Religion in Appalachia; and Chaplain of Brookwood Hospice in Birmingham. Bishop Williams attended the World Methodist Conferences which were held in England and Korea; he was also selected by the Interdenominational Theological Center as one of 21 pastors to participate in a 15-day Holy Land Pilgrimage for Pastoral Renewal.

On June 30, 2010, Bishop Sylvester Williams, Sr. was elected the 58th Bishop of the CME Church and was assigned to be the Presiding Prelate of the Second Episcopal District. At the 2014 General Conference, Bishop Williams was assigned to the Third Episcopal District.

Bishop Williams is married to the former Carmen Elaine Leonard. They have three children: Samantha, Sylvia, and Sylvester II.

Conference Presenters & Preachers



Dr. Maisha Handy

A native of Chicago Illinois, Dr. Maisha I. Kariamum Handy began her journey through higher education at Lincoln University (MO) receiving the Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology/Criminal Justice (1989). After relocating to Atlanta, Georgia, she received the Master of Divinity degree with honors from Candler School of Theology, Emory University (1994) and the PhD degree in Religion (Theology & Personality) from Emory University (2002). Dr. Handy currently serves as both the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost and Associate Professor of Religion and Education at the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in Atlanta, Georgia where she has been employed for 18 years.

As administrator, professor, minister, and activist, Dr. Handy is committed to the struggle for justice and liberation as a womanist scholar/practitioner. During her tenure as faculty at the ITC, Dr. Handy served as the Black Women in Church and Society Womanist Scholar (2006-2007). She is the author of "Fighting the Matrix: Toward a Womanist Pedagogy for the Black Church" in *The Journal of the Interdenominational Theological Center* and co-author of "Getting Real" in *Keep It Real: Working with Today's Black Youth*. Dr. Handy founded the *Holla If You Hear Me*/hip hop forum, a series that engages the hip hop generation, the church, and the academy in community dialogue. Dr. Handy was appointed by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) as the Historically Black Theological Schools Peer Group Reporter for the *Educational Models and Practices* initiative. She continues her work in higher education administration as a womanist committed to the unique HBCU experience of theological education found at the ITC.

Dr. Handy's work is inextricably connected to her work as a pastor who is building a radically inclusive community that strives to live out the clarion call of liberation theologies. Known as "Pastor K," Dr. Handy is a minister and theologian who is dedicated to pastoral mentoring and prophetic preaching. She currently serves as the pastor of Rize Community Church in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Handy was licensed (1991) and ordained (1994) to the gospel ministry at First Baptist Congregational Church of Chicago (Baptist/UCC) and ordained as a Ruling Elder in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta (2011). She is currently a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). After 5 years of serving as the pastor of Rize, the Rize Leadership Team continues to work together to develop a growing and thriving church community that strive to bringing healing and transformation to the world by the Holy Spirit and the liberating work of Jesus Christ and the Church.

Conference Presenters & Preachers



Dr. George T. French, Jr.

For more than 100 years Miles College has continued its mission of educating and molding the minds of future local, national, and global leaders. Now, the College rests on the shoulders of President George T. French, Jr. President French served as Acting President for the institution beginning October 2005, and then as Interim President starting December 2005 when the Board of Trustees made the unanimous decision to appoint him the 14th President of Miles College in March 2006. Before serving as Interim President, President French served as a member of the President's Cabinet in the capacity of Director of Institutional Planning and Development, and as such directed the offices of Alumni Affairs; Federal Contracts and Grants; Title III; Institutional Research and Effectiveness; Congressional Relations; and Public Relations. However, his chief responsibility was to raise money for the College. As Director of Development, President French helped lead the largest Capital Campaign Fund Drive in the history of the College to that date, raising \$12 million, placing

Miles College on sound financial footing.

As President of Miles College, President French led the largest Capital Campaign Fund Drive in the history of the College, helping the College to exponentially develop and expand raising more than \$42 million, exceeding the College's goal of \$30 million. With these strategic efforts, Miles College has achieved an unprecedented financial composite score rating of 7.0, denoting that an institution is in sound financial health and position for growth, and positioning the College among the most fiscally sound institutions in the nation. To date, President French has secured approximately \$100 million dollars of funding in support of Miles College.

Under the leadership of President French, Miles College has increased allocation toward education and educational support services by 11.03%. Total operating budget increased significantly since 2005 on average of \$2 million per year. Miles College has progressively increased student access to educational funding with a recent 54.31% increase in Pell Grants awarded. Pell grants provide assistance to eligible undergraduate postsecondary students with demonstrated financial need to help meet educational expenses. Further, Miles College has recently realized a 32.28% increase in operating revenue from government grants and contracts to help bridge the ever increasing tuition gap students confront. President French has positioned Miles College as a cornerstone in the 21st Century higher education space, incrementally seeking and attracting highly qualified faculty with terminal degrees in their fields to serve its students.

During the current tenure of Dr. French's presidency, the College has a more deliberate academic focus, with faculty having secured some of the largest grants in the history of the College. Under his leadership, not only has the initiative of culture, class, and civility been placed into action, but Miles College is strategically positioned for an exciting future with the acquisition of the North Campus, a 41-acre site that more than doubles the size of the existing campus. The College has successfully been reaffirmed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges through 2023. President French was the driving force behind a \$20 million capital improvement project simultaneously building three new student oriented facilities on campus.

Under the leadership of President French, Miles College is rated in the top three most underrated historically black colleges and universities according to HBCU Digest. Furthermore, he has led the College to an unprecedented financial composite score rating denoting that an institution is in sound financial health and among the most fiscally sound in the nation. President French has great influence outside of the Miles College campus as well. He has won numerous awards to include Birmingham Spotlight "Man of the Year" award. He is also a member of the Regions Financial Diversity Advisory Council. President French serves as an officer of the Birmingham Business Alliance Executive Committee as Vice President for Workforce Development. In 2011, he was appointed the Treasurer of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. He has been invited to the White House to meet with President Obama and members of his Cabinet. President French was appointed by the United States Congress, at the recommendation of Majority Leader John Boehner, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Congresswoman Terri Sewell, as one of 18 appointees in the country, to serve on the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI). The NACIQI advises the Secretary of Education on the establishment and enforcement of the standards of academic accreditation and on the eligibility and certification process for institutions of higher education. He was also appointed by the United States Congress to serve on the U.S. Department of Education Negotiated Rulemaking Committee in support of student aid and access to affordable postsecondary education.

President French earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with an emphasis in Policy Analysis from the University of Louisville. He was competitively accepted into the University of Richmond Law School, where he matriculated for two years before being recruited by then President Albert Sloan to reposition Miles College as the Director of Development. He completed his final year of law school at Miles Law School, earning a Juris Doctorate. President French holds a J.D. It is a rare accomplishment to pursue both a Ph.D. and J.D. He is All But Dissertation (ABD) for his second doctorate, a Ph.D. from Jackson State University, where he is completing his dissertation on the topic of 21st century challenges in higher education and the use of transformational and transactional leadership as solutions. A native of Louisville, Kentucky, President French represents a long line of past Miles College presidents who were members of the clergy, having served as pastor with CME churches around the country.

Conference Presenters & Preachers



B. Julian Smith Lecture Series

Dr. John Kinney

John W. Kinney, a native of Wheeling, West Virginia, received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Marshall University, and Virginia Union University School of Theology and a Ph.D. from Columbia University/Union Theological Seminary in New York.

He is a distinguished systematic theologian, academician and administrator. Under his leadership as Dean of the School of Theology at Virginia Union, the Doctor of Ministry and Master of Arts Programs were established, the Master of Divinity Program experienced unparalleled growth and the Continuing Education program was expanded. He also serves as Senior Vice President of Virginia Union University and Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Beaverdam, VA. Additionally, he has served as Assistant Professor of Theology -Chicago Theological Seminary; adjunct faculty at Randolph Macon College, Ashland, VA; Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA and the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA. Among his fellowships and awards are the Rockefeller Doctoral Fellowship; Fellow of the Graduate School, Columbia University; and President's Fellow, Columbia University. He is currently a consultant to the American Baptist Convention, the Progressive National Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Virginia and the United States Navy and Army Chaplain Corps. He has served as Chair of the Commission on Accrediting for the Association of Theological Schools. His writings are included in several publications and he is involved in several research activities.

Dr. Kinney is nationally known as a prolific scholar and a "powerful vessel with a prophetic voice." He is admired for his inspired guidance, priceless wisdom, creative thinking and empathetic leadership. Dr. Kinney shares his life, work and ministry with his wife, Quentina McDaniel Kinney. Together, they are the proud parents of three birth children, four foster children and 19 grandchildren.

Conference Presenters & Preachers



Conference Presentation Dr. Judy Fentress-Williams

Dr. Judy Fentress-Williams is Professor of Old Testament at Virginia Theological Seminary. She joined the faculty in 2002.

Dr. Fentress-Williams received her Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Yale University in 1999. Her dissertation entitled, "What Has Happened to the Son of Kish? A Dialogic Reading of Saul in I Samuel" reflects her interest in a literary approach that celebrates the multiple voices and inter-textuality of scripture. She earned her M.Div. from Yale

Divinity School in 1990 and her A.B. in English from Princeton University with certificates in African-American Studies and American Studies in 1984.

Prior to her appointment at Virginia Seminary, Judy was a member of the faculty of Hartford Seminary from 1994-2002 as Professor of Hebrew Bible. She was also the director of the Black Ministries Program, a certificate program designed to meet the needs of African-American clergy and laity in the greater Hartford area.

Dr. Fentress-Williams' published essays include, "The Bible in Dialogue" in *September 11: Religious Perspectives on the Causes and Consequences*, "Location, Location, Location: Tamar in the Joseph Cycle" in *Bakhtin and Genre*, and "Exodus" in *Biblia Africana*. She recently published a commentary on the book of Ruth for the Abingdon Old Testament Commentary Series. A member of the Society of Biblical Literature, she is an active participant in the Bakhtin and Biblical Studies Group and she serves on the Advisory Board for the Office of Religious Life at Princeton University.

Judy is married to Kevin Williams, M.D. and they have two children, Samantha and Jacob.

Conference Presenters & Preachers



Dr. William D. Watley

Rev. William D. Watley, Ph. D. is the Senior Pastor of the historic Saint Philip African Methodist Episcopal Church in Atlanta, GA.

A preacher par excellence, Dr. Watley's homiletical ability is both nationally and internationally recognized. He has the distinction of being the Conference Preacher for the Hampton University Minister's Conference for two consecutive years as well as a Conference Lecturer. At the invitation of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., Dr. Watley preached to over 20,000 people at their annual International Holy Convocation. He was a lecturer for the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church's Pastor's Conference held at Philips School of Theology. Dr. Watley has preached at the Potter's House in Dallas, Texas, as well as Bishop T.D. Jakes'. Moreover, Dr. Watley has preached on the continents of Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and South America in addition to the island nations of Cuba, Barbados, Bermuda, and Trinidad.

A mentor and educator, Dr. Watley has served as a visiting professor at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New York Theological Seminary, and Princeton Theological Seminary as well as a guest lecturer at Harvard University, Payne and Turner Theological Seminaries.

A prolific author, Dr. Watley has written and edited twenty-one books and has authored several booklets and articles throughout the past two decades. He is the founder and C.E.O. of New Seasons Press, the publishing division of William Watley Ministries.

Dr. Watley has served as both a member and officeholder for several prominent organizations over the last twenty years. An ecumenical leader, Dr. Watley served as the Associate General Secretary of the Council on Church Union (COCU), a member of the Missions Unit for the World Council of Churches (WCC), and a member of the Governing Board for the National Council of Churches (NCC). He served on the Board of Directors for Beth Israel and Horizon/Mercy Hospitals (NJ), the United Negro College Fund and the Fund for Theological Education. In addition, he was a member of the Advisory Boards for First Union Bank, the African American Pulpit, and the Interpreter's Bible Commentaries.

Dr. Watley received his Bachelor of Arts in Theology from St. Louis University and a Master of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center. He received a Master of Philosophy and his Doctor of Philosophy in Ethics from Columbia University. He holds a Doctor of Divinity from Payne Theological Seminary, and in addition, completed post-doctoral work at the Ecumenical Institute in Celigny, Switzerland and Harvard's Institute for Education Management.

Conference Presenters & Preachers



Rev. Mark J. Hill

Rev. Mark J. Hill, Pastor of Cleaves Memorial CME Church, Denver CO, is a native of Philadelphia, PA, and was raised as a member of the St. Paul CME Church in Chester, Pa. He is the son of Mr. Ross Hill Jr., (deceased) and Rev. Dr. Uylee R. Hill-Waugh (husband James Waugh), former pastor of Mount Olive CME Church in Orlando, Florida both now deceased.

Prior to the call to ministry, Rev. Hill served our United States Army for 7 years; He was recipient of numerous awards of excellence and outstanding leadership. He was honorably discharged in 1992 after having served in both, the Desert Shield and Desert Storm. His most memorable army experiences were the years spent in Honduras, Panama and on tour in Seoul Korea. Though, he didn't know it at the time, this too was ministry and God was calling him to an even greater work.

Rev. Hill has always felt the Lord's hand on his life and accepted the call to ministry in 1991. His early years in ministry were served in the 5th Episcopal District; Jacksonville/Orlando Region; Florida Annual Conference, under the leadership of Presiding Elders Harold Peterson (deceased) and Desi Echols, and Presiding Prelates, Bishop Richard O. Bass, (deceased), Bishop Paul A. Stewart, Sr., and Bishop Lawrence L. Reddick III; where he received his Traveling Deacon and Elder's orders and Full Connection.

During his time in Florida Rev. Hill served as Associate Minister of the Isom Memorial CME Church, Ocala Fl., and the Carter Tabernacle CME Church, Orlando, Fl. While serving at Carter, Rev. Hill and his wife Alesia served as CYF Directors and implemented such programs as Teens Loving Christ (TLC). He was later hired as the Director of Evangelism and served in that capacity for 7 years. While serving at Carter Tabernacle Bishop Stewart assigned him as Supply pastor to the St. Paul CME Church in Gainesville, Florida.

In 2003, Rev. Hill was transferred to the 3rd Episcopal District at the request of Bishop Paul A. Stewart Sr. to pastor the Cleaves Memorial CME Church. To date, Rev. Hill is the longest serving Pastor yet. He strongly believes still that "eyes have not seen, nor ears heard, nor has it entered the heart of man, the thing which God has prepared" for the Cleaves Church! 1Corinthians 2:9.

Rev. Hill's educational accomplishments include a high school diploma from St. James Catholic All Boys School in Chester PA. A Specialized Degree in Architectural Design from the American Institute of Design, Phila., Pa., and a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from the Luther Rice University and Seminary in Lithonia Ga. In 2012, a promise he made to his mother, Rev. Hill received his Master of Divinity and a Degree Certificate in Pastoral Care and Counseling from the Iliff School of Theology, Denver, Co.

In 2017-18 Rev. Hill completed 4 units of CPE from Transitioning Pathways CPE Training Center based out of Los Angeles, Ca. In addition to pastoring, Rev. Hill now serves as a part-time chaplain for Agape HealthCare and Hospice and Aurora I.C.E Detention Center providing spiritual care and counseling to diverse clientele. He is planning to obtain Board Certification for Chaplaincy in May of 2019.

Rev. Hill is married to Mrs. Alesia C. Hill, and they are the proud parents of 3 children, Bobby Thomas, Jr., Alexis Monet and Mark Hill II. They have 1 grandson, Bobby Thomas III, and expecting a set of twins as early as mid-December 2018.

Rev. Hill's deepest compassion can be found in the Word of our Lord, Luke 4:18; "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised"Rev. Mark Johnathan Hill; Preacher, Psalmist, Pastor all to the Glory OF God!

Conference Presenters & Preachers



Reverend Da'Henri R. Thurmond, Sr.

Da'Henri R. Thurmond, Sr. is a native of Augusta, Georgia. He is the third of four children born to the late Mr. Earl H. Thurmond, Sr. and the late Maxine W. Thurmond. He received his early education in the Richmond County, Georgia school system and is a graduate of Westside Comprehensive High School. He then attended and graduated from Georgia Southern University where he was inducted into the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society. He continued his education as a magna cum laude graduate of the Medical College of Georgia where he was inducted into the IMHOTEP society as well as Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities with a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy. He is a 2015 magna cum laude graduate of the Interdenominational Theological Center, Phillips School of Theology with a Masters in Divinity, where he received the Bishop Thomas L. Hoyt Scholarship and the Isaac B. Clark Preaching Award. He is currently pursuing the Doctor Ministry designation from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio under mentors Bishop Sir Walter Mack, Dr. Herbert Miller, Jr., and Dr. William Watley. His area of concentration is Developing Leadership for Effective Programming in the Post-Modern Generation.

Reverend Thurmond has been employed as a Respiratory Therapy Supervisor and a Senior Clinical Oncology Specialist within Pharmaceutical/Biologic Sales. In spite of an exciting and rewarding career, he acknowledged a higher calling and purpose for his existence and began his journey as a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ. For four years he served under the Rev. Dr. Donald Jordan, pastor of the Trinity C.M.E. Church in Augusta, Georgia. Pastor Thurmond was inspired, challenged and blessed by Dr. Jordan who continues to serve as his mentor.

In 2005 he was appointed pastor of the Rock of Ages C.M.E. Church. While at Rock of Ages, disciples were added, new ministries were formed, other ministries were revived and the fellowship was reinvigorated. Rev. Thurmond is an ordained elder in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church where the presiding prelate is Bishop Thomas Louis Brown, Sr.

In July 2008, Rev. Thurmond was appointed Pastor in Charge at St. Paul C.M.E. Church in Savannah, Georgia where the prophetic, visionary and legendary Rev. Dr. Henry R. Delaney was the Senior Pastor. In July 2009, Rev. Thurmond was appointed Senior Pastor at St. Paul. God continues to show himself strong in the life and witness of "The Paul" faith community with the blessings of a growing congregation, new ministries and partnerships. Rev. Thurmond currently serves on the Joint Board of Finance for the Central Georgia Region, member of the General Connectional Board, was a delegate to the 2010, 2014 and 2018 General Conferences, the World Methodist Conference in Durban, South Africa, the African American Ministers Leadership Coalition, the school council of Hubert Middle School and the Savannah Alliance of Pastors. He is a proud Life member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Rev. Thurmond is happily married to Antoinette Johnson Thurmond. They are the blessed parents of a son, D. Ramsey Jr. and a daughter, Barbara Maxine.

Conference Presenters & Preachers

Afternoon of Power

Commision on Women in Ministry

Pastor Gwendolyn Lewis-Pabon'



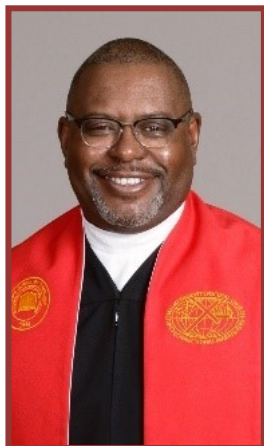
Pastor Gwendolyn Lewis-Pabon is the daughter of the late Theodore Roosevelt and Julia Mae Mayfield Lewis. Rev. Pabon attended Meadows-Draughon College receiving a diploma as a Medical Administrative Assistant. Additionally, she holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration degree from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas and a Master of Divinity with a concentration in Psychology of Religion from the Interdenominational Theology Center, Philips School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1996, Pastor Pabon began her journey toward ordination in the CME Church. She was ultimately ordained into Full Connection in 2001 through the Louisiana Region of the C.M.E. Church. She has served as District and Regional Young Adult Director, Facilitator, Leadership Training School, District Secretary, Regional Conference Assistant Secretary, District Joint Board President, Regional Joint Board member, General Conference Delegate, Connectional Clergy Representative, Connectional Commission on Women, and served as a Female Student Trustee at the Interdenominational Theological Center. Further, she served as Executive Director of the Boy's and Girls Club in Claiborne Parish, Homer, Louisiana.

Since 1996, she has merged congregations, built and renovated churches, and in many churches, she was the first female pastor to be assigned. Her appointments have included churches on the 4th and 6th Episcopal Districts, totaling fifteen charges, including her present appointment at Mt. Zion Christian Methodist Church, Minden, Louisiana. Rev. Pabon is married and has 3 sons.

Conference Presenters & Preachers

Outstanding Ministries Across The Connection



Rev. Gregory Scott

Rev. Gregory Scott was born in Phenix City, Alabama to Elizabeth Scott Walker and raised by his grandparents, Rev. and Mrs. J. L. Scott. Rev. J. L. Scott was a 55-year pastor in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME). He spent his childhood in Auburn, AL and at the age of fifteen the family moved to Crawford, AL. Rev. Gregory Scott graduated from Smith Station High School in 1981, served 11 years active-duty in the United States Air Force as an aircraft mechanic, and spent 17 years working at Uniroyal-Goodrich, as an industrial mechanic. He is married to the phenomenal Angela Scott and through a blended family they have six wonder children and eleven grandchildren. He loves to read, enjoys playing golf, and watching Auburn University football.

In 2013, he graduated from Athens State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies. In 2016, 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 matriculating through ITC he was inducted into Theta Phi, the International Honor Society for theological students. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta, GA focusing on church leadership and community witness.

He was baptized at the St. Luke CME Church, Auburn, Alabama. Rev. Scott began preaching in October 2001, at Mt. Zion CME Church, Smith Station, AL. In 2002, Bishop L. L. Reddick, III, ordained him a Deacon at Ferguson Chapel CME Church, Opelika, AL. His first pastoral appointment was in 2003 to the White Chapel CME Church, Wadley, AL. In 2005, he was ordained an Elder at Hall Memorial CME Church in Montgomery, AL; in July 2007, he was admitted into Full Connection and assigned by Bishop Reddick, to serve as the pastor of the Oak Grove CME Church in Athens, AL, Huntsville District, North Central Alabama Region (NCAR). In July 2011, Bishop Teresa E. Jefferson-Snorton, the 59th Bishop and the first female Bishop of the CME Church, assigned him to the Jackson Chapel CME Church in Courtland, AL. In 2013, the Jackson Chapel CME Church and Rev. Scott received the Lawrence County NAACP Presidential Award for their community involvement. In January 2017, Bishop Jefferson-Snorton assigned him to Phillips Temple CME Church, Phenix City, AL. While in Phenix City, he was elected to serve as Vice-President of the Executive Board of the nonprofit organization Children and Family Connections of Russell County, Alabama. He also served as advisor to the nonprofit organization that was established under his pastorate at Phillips Temple, Power Through Christ Ministries (PTCM).

In July 2018, a new chapter began in Rev. Scott's ministry as Bishop Jefferson-Snorton assigned him to the historic Phillips CME Church, Huntsville, AL, NCAR. It is an honor and a privilege to be a dedicated servant and the proud pastor of Phillips CME Church. To God be the glory.

Conference Presenters & Preachers

Alumni & Friends Worship Service



Rev. Kenneth D. Thomas

Reverend Kenneth D. Thomas is the pastor of the Lane Metropolitan C.M.E. Church in Cleveland, Ohio. A native of Brownsville, Tennessee, he pursued his secondary education at Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee, graduating, Cum Laude. He matriculated at Phillips School of Theology, at the Interdenominational Theological Center, where he earned his Masters of Divinity Degree in Homiletics and Worship with and minor Pastoral Care and Counseling.

He has served the church well. He served as a member of the Committee on Ministerial Examination for the West Tennessee Region (1999-2003), Southeast Missouri Illinois Region (2004-2009) and Ohio Central Indiana Region (2014 to present). He served as the Treasurer for the Memphis District CME Church, 1999-2003. As teacher, he has taught in Christian Convocations throughout the United States. Furthermore, Reverend Thomas was an instructor of the Interdenominational Theological Center's Extension Program.

Reverend Thomas is a 5th generation CME. He has pastored several churches and has actively been ministering for almost 30 years. He has been blessed with the opportunity to minister in various cities around the country. Whether he is preaching to a few individuals or a multitude of people, Reverend Thomas delivers the Word of God with an eagerness to see Christians walk in the blessings of the Lord. He has a unique preaching style that every generation represented in the Body of Christ can comprehend and appreciate.

He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the NAACP, and the Order of the Flame, World Methodist Evangelism.

Reverend Thomas' favorite scripture is Proverbs 3:1-8: ¹My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: ²For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. ³Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: ⁴So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. ⁵Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. ⁷Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. ⁸It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.