



## Meet our new Pastor

REV. DONNA BANKS-TUCKER, was licensed to preach the Gospel in November 1999 and ordained in the Baptist Church in July 2001. Since that time, she has served in multiple facets of ministry, from Minister of Evangelism, Minister of Prisons, Executive Minister, Minister of Outreach, Ministry Leader for Women's Ministry, and Director of Community Affairs.

She was married to the late Melvin P. Tucker, who transitioned in April 2019.

Rev. Banks-Tucker served as an Intern with Bethany Baptist Church in Chesapeake, Virginia, under the leadership of Pastor H. Patrick Cason. At Bethany, she served as one of the intern instructors for the Showers of Blessings Recovery Program.

Rev. Banks-Tucker holds Bachelor's Degree Criminal Justice and in Religious Studies, as well a Master Degrees in Pastoral Studies, and her Master's in Divinity. Rev. Banks-Tucker began her studies for her Doctoral of Ministry at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, in 2023 and recently transferred to Wesley Theological Seminary, to begin in January 2026. She also holds a Certificate in Business Development from Kingdom Builders Business University. In September of 2025, Rev. Banks-Tucker will graduate from the VA Medical Center's ACPE (Association of Clinical Pastoral Education) Chaplain Residency Program and move forward with her Board Certification as a Board-Certified Clinical Chaplain.

Rev. Banks-Tucker has worked in several hospice agencies as a Hospice Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator. She also served on the We Honor Vets Committee as a Community Liaison and led individual and corporate Grief Support Groups, as well as Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Groups, within the communities of Virginia Beach, Portsmouth, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Her passion for hospice care has given rise to the birth of ***Shirley's House of Hope, LLC.***, a residential hospice home, named after her Mother, who lost the battle to Pancreatic Cancer, will be opening late Fall.

She has sat on the Board of Directors for Offender Aid & Restoration (OAR of Richmond); received training in human trafficking from Richmond Justice Initiative and Lott Carey Foreign Mission; she is currently a Member and Certified Speaker for Shared Hope International, which seeks to fight the injustices of human trafficking, internationally and locally.

Rev. Banks-Tucker operates under the spiritual principle of Psalm 27 - "The Lord is MY light and MY salvation, whom shall, I fear? The Lord is the strength of MY life; whom shall I be afraid? ...

WAIT on the LORD: be of good courage, and HE shall strengthen thine heart: WAIT, I say, on the LORD!