



Internal Memorandum

To: **Governing Board and Faculty of Christian Bible Institute & Seminary**

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From: Honorary Degree Nominations Committee

Date: 12 July 2024

Re: Nomination for Honorary Doctorate- Fall 2024

Name of Honoree: Reverend Helen Johnson-Ford

Church Denomination: Methodist/ A.M.E.

Church Affiliation: New Bethel A.M.E. Church
311 Marker Street
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

Degree Type: Doctor of Divinity



BIOGRAPHY of REVEREND HELEN JOHNSON-FORD

The Reverend Helen L. Johnson-Ford is a trailblazer and one of America's great pastors. A native of Florida, Rev. Johnson-Ford was born in Tallahassee, but she grew up in Fort Lauderdale, where she received her primary education in the Broward County School System.

I. Education

Rev. Johnson-Ford continued her education both nationally and internationally, having studied at Moda University in Istanbul, Turkey, which sits on the

continents of both Europe and Asia; at Maryville College (Maryville, Tennessee); at Edward Waters College (Jacksonville, Florida); and at Anita Priest School of Interior Design (Miami, Florida).

II. Call to Ministry

Rev. Johnson-Ford answered her call to ministry in 1989 at Mt. Hermon A.M.E. Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

At Mt. Hermon A.M.E., Rev. Johnson-Ford became the first woman to be ordained as an Assistant Pastor in 1992, and was then assigned to the position of Director of New Member's Ministry. Continuing on in her journey of being the first female pastor, in 1994, Rev. Johnson-Ford was transferred to Jacksonville, FL to serve as Youth Pastor, Greater Grant Memorial A.M.E. Church.

In 1995, Rev. Johnson-Ford was appointed Assistant Pastor of Mt. Olive A.M.E. Church, Jacksonville, FL.

In 1997, she was appointed as the first female pastor and assumed her first charge at Bethlehem A.M.E. Church (McAlpin, FL). Rev. Johnson-Ford has also pastored at New Bethel A.M.E. Church in Jasper, FL; Palace A.M.E. Church in Havana, FL (first woman pastor); Bethel A.M.E. Church in Monticello, Florida; and Bethelonia A.M.E. Church, Tallahassee, FL.

III. Leadership in Ministry

Rev. Johnson-Ford has many positions within the African Methodist Episcopal Church of which she was the first female clergyperson to hold the position. These positions include: Florida Conference Statistician; Board of Trustees (Secretary); and Steward and Finances Committee (Secretary).

Rev. Johnson-Ford has also served as the Vice President to the Conference Women in Ministry; as Secretary to the Conference Adjustment of Presiding Elders Salary, Conference Board of Examiners and the Director of Evangelism.

On the Episcopal level, she has served as the Treasurer of Women in Ministry and the Corresponding Secretary of the Women in Ministry. Rev. Johnson-Ford also has trained others on HIV-AIDS, Pastoral Care, and Preventive Education.



IV. Community and Church

Rev. Johnson-Ford is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; the NAACP; the Advisory Board of Jefferson County High School; and the Advisory Board of Covenant House.

She is the immediate past senior pastor of the **Mount Olive A.M.E. Church in Gainesville, Florida.**


She is currently the senior pastor of New **Bethel A.M.E. Church, Altamonte Springs, Florida.**

Approved:

Dr. Tony V. Lewis
President, Christian Bible Institute & Seminary

Date: 12 July 2024

DOCTOR OF DIVINITY NOMINATION






























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