



NORTHERN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE WORLD, INC.  
5TH EPISCOPAL DIOCESE



*Office of the Diocesan Bishop*  
Bishop Ira Combs, Jr., D.D.

322 Madison Street • Jackson, MI 49202 • Church Phone 517-784-2079 • Cell 517-499-6404 • Email ira@admingrp.net

**A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE BISHOP HARRY L. HERMAN**

**To The Presiding Bishop, The Honorable Bishop Theodore Brooks; First Assistant, Bishop Mark C. Tolbert; Second Assistant, Bishop Michael D. Hannah; Former Presiders, The Full Bishops Board, as well as Suffragan Bishops, District Elders, Advisory Board and Northern District Council Constituents; and finally, to the precious members of the Herman Family:**

**I extend to you Apostolic Greetings and our prayers for healing in this season of bereavement:**

Today we honor Bishop Harry L. Herman, the sixth Diocesan Bishop of the Northern District Council (NDC), succeeding the following Bishops of the Fifth Episcopal Diocese of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World International:

1. Bishop Samuel N. Hancock (founder of the NDC): 1923-1938
2. Bishop Harry Barnett (Niles, Michigan): 1938-1951
3. Bishop James Leo Sipes (Bedford, Indiana): 1953-1962
4. Bishop Ross Perry Paddock (Kalamazoo, Michigan): 1962-1984
5. Bishop Willie Burrel, Sr. (Muskegon, Michigan): 1984-1995
6. Bishop Harry L. Herman (Kalamazoo, Michigan): 1996 – 2013

Bishop Herman served the Northern District Council for 17 years with quintessential distinction and noteworthy moral rectitude. It was Pope John Paul II who said: "How can we profess faith in God's word and then refuse to let it inspire and direct our thinking, our activity, our decisions and our responsibilities toward one another?" These words are expressions of the life and service of Bishop Harry L. Herman. He positioned himself to challenge contemporary social, cultural, and racial norms in that he chose the fellowship and organizational affiliation of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World despite attempts to lure him away to our sister organizations based on race. This decision alone made Bishop Herman and Bishop Paddock anomalies in the ranks of Apostolic Pentecostal leaders.

Though his personality was unique among our ranks, his faithfulness, devotion, love for God in Christ, and the Apostolic doctrine were unparalleled among his peers. His contributions extended beyond the service of the office of the Bishop in the Northern District Council and the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World International.

"He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee,  
but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" – Micah 6:8

Bishop Herman was an Apostolic theologian and brilliant writer who left on record a collection of works that are now part of his legacy on file with Aeon Bible College and the Northern District Council. These include, but are limited to the following:

- Principles of the Apostolic Doctrine
- Pastoral Leadership
- Church Governance
- Evidence of One's Calling
- Minister's Introduction – What We Believe

The church Bishop Harry L. Herman pastored was successfully transitioned to the Honorable Suffragan Bishop Tony Thomas after 37 ½ years of pastoring. This model of succession and intergenerational spiritual equity is an example of the wisdom and foresight he possessed in preparing the church for service to future generations. A nonagenarian (90+ years), plus in his own right a beneficiary of longevity, he “redeemed the time” to structure a seamless transition in his God-given pastoral succession. The same can be said about his retirement from the Diocese and the sage decision of the Board of Bishops in choosing his successor for the Northern District Council.

It is my high honor to salute the Honorable Bishop Harry L. Herman and say to him, *“Sleep on, Bishop Herman, we will carry on and will see you in the morning.”*

A Servant of Our Lord Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bishop Ira Combs, Jr. D.D." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bishop Ira Combs, Jr., D.D.  
Diocesan – 5<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District

(10/30/2019)