



# Biographies

2025

*Exra Youth Seminary, Inc., is a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Maryland. It is organized exclusively for religious, charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The purpose of Exra is to offer programs in theology and Christian leadership to youth between the ages of 10 and 18; to develop young godly servant-leaders; to develop character of good rapport; to learn about the Lord Jesus Christ and His purpose for their lives; to participate in leadership training; to build lifelong Christian leadership skills; and to support the development of a pipeline of Christian leaders and leaders who are Christian.*

*The primary text is the  
BIBLE.*



## HAROLD DAVID MILES

*Co-Founder*

*Chairman of the Board &*

*Ex-Officio Board Member*

Harold Miles is a native of Washington, D.C. and was educated in the DC Public School system. Harold is a graduate of the University of the District of Columbia with Bachelor of Business Administration, majoring in Computer Information Systems Science. He earned a Master of Science in Administration from Trinity University, Washington, DC with a major in Educational Leadership.

Harold began his professional career in the information systems field working for Fortune 100 companies and consulting on Government projects. Harold then was the Founder and President of THE Coordinator, Inc. (Mitchellville, MD) a small information technology business which supported operations management for a multi-million dollar on-line teleprocessing system that analyzed monthly expenditures, developed forecasts for annual budget activities and assessed technical proposals for the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Ultimately, he pursued his true calling – educator of tomorrow’s future and left the information systems field to become an educator.

Harold is a middle school math teacher in the Prince George’s County Public School system. He has worked with elementary and middle school-aged students for more than twenty years. His professional experiences in education have included serving as a school Principal, Vice-Principal, Dean of Academics, and Instructional Coach in Maryland public schools and the District of Columbia Public Charter schools. He also has coached boys’ basketball and baseball at the middle school level.

Harold Miles accepted Christ as a young adult. He is a former Chairman of the Board of Deacons; a former 10-year member of Board of Trustees; and a former member of the Usher Board.

Harold is married to Tonya Miles and the proud father of their three adult children, Aria, Darius and Kharlin. Harold and Tonya are members of Woodstream Church in Mitchellville, Maryland where their Pastor is Rev. Dr. Robert A. Wingfield.

Harold is a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

One of Harold’s favorite scriptures is Proverbs 3:5-6 NKJV - *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*



## TONYA MILES

*Co-Founder*

*President & Ex-Officio Board Member*

*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)*

Tonya's former pastor, Rev. Charles E. Betts, of Morningside Missionary Baptist Church in Queens, New York gave her this scripture to commit to memory when she was fourteen years old. It remains as her favorite scripture.

Tonya well remembers the Lord speaking to her heart when she was eight years old at her father's funeral and she has tried her best to walk with and trust the Lord ever since through her trials, temptations, falls, rebounds, at all. Tonya knows the Lord has been her strength, protector, provider, and keeper.

A native of Brooklyn and Queens, New York, Tonya is a graduate of New York City public schools. She received her Bachelor of Science in Engineering from Princeton University and her Master of Business Administration (Finance and Strategic Planning) from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. She completed two seminary continuing education classes, Ministry with Young Adults I and II, at Wesley Theological Seminary (Washington, DC). She earned a Youth & Theology program certificate from Princeton Theological Seminary where she is currently earning her Master of Arts in Theology (Justice and Public Life). Tonya is a certified Maxwell Leadership Team speaker, coach, and trainer with additional certifications for Parenting & Family and also Youth Leadership.

Tonya has enjoyed an illustrative leadership and managerial career in the corporate, private, public and non-profit business sectors. She has served on national and state boards focused on public education.

Most importantly, Tonya loves to serve the Lord's people. She has served as a Pastor's executive administrator, church clerk, deaconesses, church trustee, and youth worker.

The same Pastor Betts who assigned her Hebrews 11:6 at age 14 presided over her holy matrimony to the love of her life, Harold David Miles, over 35 years ago. Together, the Lord has blessed them to be the proud parents of three adults, Aria, Darius and Kharlin. Harold and Tonya are members of Woodstream Church in Mitchellville, Maryland where their Pastor is Rev. Dr. Robert A. Wingfield.

Tonya is excited for how the Lord moves in her life and for what He will do through Ezra Youth Seminary. All glory, honor, and praise belong to the LORD God for entrusting her with the vision of Ezra in her heart, mind and soul.



## JESSICA ANDERSON

*Board Member*

Jessica Anderson serves as Youth Leader for the Higher Ground Teen Church at Alfred Street Baptist Church where she feels called to walk alongside young people as they learn, lead, and strive to love themselves and their neighbors.

She is passionate about building power and opportunity for young people and their families. She started her career as a youth developer in shelter, group home, and transitional housing spaces in San Francisco.

She received her Bachelor of Arts in Criminology from the University of Florida and later moved to Atlanta, Georgia to pursue a Master of Public Administration in Nonprofit Management at Georgia State University.

While in Atlanta, Jessica led special projects for hundreds of children and mothers experiencing homelessness in the Atlanta Mission network. Jessica then joined The Young Women's Project in Washington, DC as the Health Justice Director to build the leadership and power of more than 300 teens in 24 DC Public and Public Charter High Schools.

Jessica is a Managing Partner at The Management Center where she has the privilege to train an emerging generation of social justice leaders across the country. While in DC, Jessica received her Master of Divinity at Howard University School of Divinity where she was an Ethical Leadership and Racial Justice Fellow.

Jessica lives in Hyattsville, Maryland but she is a frequent flyer to her hometown of Fort Lauderdale, Florida where she enjoys thrift stores and warm beaches.



## ELIJAH FEREBEE

*Chaplain & Board Member*

Elijah Ferebee is the Frostburg State University Chaplain where he is passionate and committed to the discipleship of young people, through empowering them to practice and embody the "servant leadership" model which places emphasis on integrity, leading through acts of service and making the wellness of community their primary focus. It is here where the United Campus Ministries seeks to be a Sanctuary for the students through living into the "open table" teachings of Jesus, where all are welcome! Elijah also serves as the Program Director at Project Transformation D.C. whose mission is to transform communities by engaging children, college-age young adults, and churches in purposeful relationships. Elijah has served as the Campus Ministry Coordinator for The University of Maryland College Park for The United Methodist Church and the Co-Director of Recruitment for Wesley Theological Seminary.

Elijah is a graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary, where he earned his Master of Divinity in Theology/Theological Studies and hopes to one day be ordained as an Elder in the United Methodist Church. Elijah possesses a love for ministry that manifests itself in all areas of his life.

Alongside his love for ministry, Elijah also has a passion for mental health and pastoral care and counseling. While attending his alma mater Virginia State University he earned his Bachelor of Science in the field of Psychology. It is also at Virginia State University where Elijah heard and felt his call into pastoral ministry. During his time at VSU he heavily participated with the United Campus Ministries team on his school's campus, helping spearhead the "Men of Troy" mentoring program at neighboring school Ettrick Elementary in Petersburg Virginia.

Elijah hails from Brooklyn, NY, is the oldest of four children and was raised by his mother and grandmother. He is dedicated to empowering and uplifting others through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and believes that his life's greatest reward is the ability to glorify God with everything that he is and with all he has been given!

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

*Matthew 11:28-30*



## LAUREN JONES

### *Board Member*

Lauren Jones accepted the call to preach in June of 2003. She is a native of Silver Spring, Md. Her parents are Shirley D. Phelps and Roderick A. Blackstone. Early in life, Lauren demonstrated the gift of writing. As a result, Lauren earned a Bachelor's degree in English with a concentration in African-American Literature from the University of Maryland College Park in 2001. In 2007, she earned a Master of Divinity from Howard University School of Divinity in Washington, D.C.

During her matriculation at Howard University, Lauren served as the editor of "The Weekly Word." She produced over 50 publications for faculty and students. She self-published "I'm Singing This Song to You," a heartfelt letter to her children about her life with her deceased husband. Lauren has written for several ministries.

She designed the newsletter for The Power Lunch Ministry founded by the Rev. Matthew L. Watley and served as its editor for three years. She was a contributing writer for Reid Temple A.M.E. Church's Joshua's Journal magazine for 10 years. Lauren also contributed to Gospel Today magazine for several years where she examined women's issues in her column "The Filling Station." She interviewed First Lady Serita Jakes and BET "Sunday Best" finalists during their "All Star" season. She also served as the senior editor for Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church's newsletter, "The Trinity Tablet," for two years. Her work is featured in the A.M.E. Church's "Christian Recorder," Sojourners magazine, Washington Family, "Modern Loss," "Women in Theology," and "Soli Deo Gloria Sisterhood." Her personal blog, Throw Up and Theology, reached approximately 500 readers each month. She launched a blog with the Rev. Dr. William Brown in 2022 called "Mission Shaped Church." In 2020, Lauren won a gold award from the Parent Media Association for her article on the Black Lives Matter protests in Washington, D.C. Her sermon, "Living with the Unknown," was selected to be published in "Preaching During a Pandemic: The Rhetoric of the Black Preaching Tradition" by Peter Lang Publishing in 2022.

Lauren's professional experience includes producing for the nationally syndicated radio show "Interfaith Voices" and interning at Faith in Public Life. She served as the program manager at Southeast D.C. Partners (now the D.C. Dream Center). She launched their annual Hip Hop Summit which attracted over 150 teens in its second year. Lauren served for five years as the executive assistant to the pastor at Mt. Ennon Baptist Church in Clinton, Md. where the Rev. Delman L. Coates, Ph.D. is pastor. She also worked with faculty and students for two years as the executive assistant to the dean at Wesley Theological Seminary. Presently, she works with the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church on congregational development.

Lauren served at Reid Temple A.M.E. Church in Glenn Dale, Md. for over 10 years under the esteemed leadership of the Rev. Dr. Lee P. Washington. From 2015 to 2017, Lauren served at Reid Chapel A.M.E. Church in Columbia, S.C. where the Rev. Carey A. Grady is senior pastor. Lauren is an itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

In honor of her late husband, Gabriel Jones, Lauren volunteered as a speaker for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and was a finalist in MADD's search for a national president in 2018. She is the proud mother of Kent (13) and Lacey (11).

Lauren acknowledges her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as the one who makes all things possible. Her favorite scripture is John 15:16, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."



## DAVID STEPHEN HOPE, Esq.

*General Counsel & Board Member*

David Stephen Hope is an Assistant Miami-Dade County Attorney, and represents Miami-Dade in a litany of legislative, transactional, administrative, and litigation matters. David handles litigation at the trial and appellate levels, in both federal and state court. Since joining the Office of the County Attorney in 1996, David's practice areas encompass litigation and appeals, finance and municipal bonds, land use and zoning, aviation, telecommunications, housing, code enforcement, small business development, solid waste, torts, and personnel.

David was the lead trial attorney for the County in such matters as a facial constitutional challenge of a regulatory ordinance imposing civil and criminal penalties for certain activities, by fourteen (14) adult entertainment establishments; declaratory and injunctive relief sought to invalidate actions of the County, City of Miami, and two Community Redevelopment Agencies pertaining to the redevelopment plan for downtown Miami, which included a new publicly owned baseball stadium for the Florida Marlins; and allegations that the County's provision of telecommunications services at Miami International Airport violated Florida law, Florida Public Service Commission rules, and County Home Rule Charter. David is admitted to practice in Florida, New York, Southern District of Florida, Eastern and Southern Districts of New York, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and United States Supreme Court.

Prior to his legal career, David had over eight years' experience encompassing key aspects of finance related management consulting and commercial banking, with expertise developed in strategic business planning, micro-based financial systems implementation, and marketing. David obtained a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Electrical Engineering & Computer Science from Princeton University, received a Master of Business Administration in Finance & Entrepreneurial Management from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, and graduated *Cum Laude* from the University of Miami School of Law.

David is currently an adjunct faculty member in the Litigation Skills Program at the University of Miami School of Law teaching Trial Skills; President of the Neo Lofts Condominium Association; and an Orange Bowl Committee member.

*I was raised in the Episcopal Church by God-fearing parents.  
I fall short every day, but try to treat others as I would like to be treated,  
and walk along the path that the Lord has laid for me.*





## BRIAN KEITH MCCOLLUM

*Board Member*

Brian Keith McCollum, a Forestville, Maryland native, holds a B.A. in Business Administration (Morehouse College), M.Div. (Princeton Theological Seminary) and a M.S. in Strategic Communications (Columbia University) and is currently completing his Ph.D. from Hampton University. Brian has his ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament (Teaching Elder) in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Brian is a high-performing, strategic-thinking professional with more than 15 years of executive level experience. As an innovator, self-motivated problem solver with experience working with a diverse population, Brian has a proven expertise in executing fundraising initiatives yielding a 25 percent increase within a single calendar year. He is a highly effective communicator with excellent verbal and written skills. He is a determined, dedicated, and motivated individual with a results-driven mindset.

Brian is currently the Director of Development as Seeds of Peace, former Vice President of Development at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, where he led the fundraising efforts for a \$35M capital campaign; and the former Director of Alumni Relations and Director of Recruitment at Princeton Theological Seminary. Before working in higher education administration, Brian served in a dual role as the Director of Arts and Education and performer for Step Afrika dance company where he traveled to over 50 countries around the world teaching and performing the art form of step dance.

Brian's life is rooted in Phil. 1:6. "He who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." Brian says that is enough for him to be thankful every day.



## ARIA MILES

*Secretary & Board Member*

Aria Miles is interested in improving education, career, and leadership development opportunities for young people of color in the United States. Through her professional and volunteer work, she applies her skills to promote and strengthen initiatives and organizations that focus on the advancement of people and communities. She is looking to continue a career of driving positive social change through strategic planning, partnerships, and policy.

She is a Senior Consultant with UPD Consulting (Baltimore, MD) and previously worked as the Director of Research and Public Policy at Momentum Nonprofit Partners (Memphis, TN) and Operations Coordinator at Center City Public Charter Schools (Washington, DC).

Aria has served on the Board of the Youth Activism Project and has previously volunteered as a member of the Memphis Urban League Young Professionals, Black Policy Conference planning committee at Harvard Kennedy School, and the Princeton Club of Washington. She was selected and participated in the inaugural cohort of Princeton University's Bridge Year Program where she volunteered for a Nongovernmental Agency in Ghana, West Africa for nine months. For over fifteen years, Aria served at her childhood church in various roles and ministries including Director of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

Aria holds a Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Operations Research and Financial Engineering from Princeton University and a Master in Public Policy with a focus on Social and Urban Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Aria was raised in Mitchellville, Maryland and is the daughter of Harold and Tonya Miles and oldest sibling to Darius and Kharlin. Aria has enjoyed travel to England, Ireland, Wales, Australia, Ghana, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, India, Turkey, and South Africa. Aria loves to explore new cities, is learning to dance salsa, and learn about the stories of people and places.



## H. DARIUS MILES

*Board Member &*

*Multimedia/Communications Coordinator*

Throughout his professional work, Darius has strived to utilize his knowledge of different multimedia platforms to effectively convey the mission and ideals of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development. He currently serves as a Human Resources Specialist, with a focus on federal classification.

Darius holds a substantial background in design, as he is well-versed in multiple Adobe platforms, including Photoshop, Illustrator, Premiere, and InDesign as he looks to continue and enhance his public relations personal and career goals.

Darius earned a Bachelor of Arts in Multimedia Journalism from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VirginiaTech) in Blacksburg, Virginia. He served as a field videographer for Virginia Tech Athletics' HokieVision, contributing to multiple ESPN streams and broadcasts throughout his undergraduate career.

For over fifteen years, Darius served at his childhood church in various roles and ministries including Director of the Media Ministry.

Sports and traveling are two of Darius' most fond hobbies. He enjoys venturing to different cities and countries whenever the opportunities arise to appreciate sceneries and cultures, as he hopes to one day visit countries on each continent.



## KENESHIA MILES

*Treasurer & Board Member*

Keneshia Miles is passionate about building her relationship with Christ and fostering connections with others. Since a young age, she has committed herself to her Christian faith and actively growing in her walk with God.

Keneshia discovered her interest in accounting during high school, which led her to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Towson University, graduating in 2018. Over the past six years, she has established herself in the accounting industry and currently serves as a Portfolio Accountant for a Senior Living Company.

As the Treasurer for Ezra Youth Seminary, Keneshia is excited to bring her skills in financial stewardship along with her natural talent for empathetic relationship-building and creating harmony. Her passion for ministry was nurtured during her three years of attending and volunteering with Merge, a youth ministry that fostered her desire to create spaces where people feel seen, loved, and encouraged. These experiences have shaped her dedication to helping others grow spiritually and find their identity in Christ.

In addition to her professional and ministry roles, Keneshia enjoys planning and hosting events, exploring her creativity through arts and crafts, and trying new foods and activities. She is happily married to Kharlin Miles, and they began their life together in July 2024.

Keneshia is thrilled to be part of the Ezra Youth Leadership Group and looks forward to using her gifts to serve, support, and inspire others as they deepen their faith and live out God's purpose for their lives.



## KHARLIN MILES

*Board Member &  
Health & Wellness Coordinator*

Kharlin enjoys and lives a healthy, active, and adventurous lifestyle. From an early age, he participated in sports and fitness. He also has a passion for working with youth and those who want to improve and live a healthier life.

Kharlin earned his Bachelor of Science in Applied Exercise Science from Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts. As an undergraduate student, Kharlin held numerous leadership roles including health and wellness intern at the Springfield YMCA; Vice President and Treasurer of the Applied Exercise Science Club, and Supervisor for Intramural Sports.

Kharlin taught two years of elementary Physical Education in Prince George's County Public Schools and has his certification from the American Heart Association in CPR/AED and First Aid. He is the former Program Coordinator and manager of the sports performance facility called Parisi Speed School and has also served as its Program Associate and Sports Performance Coach (Baltimore County, MD). He currently is the Fitness & Wellness Coordinator at Coppin State University (Baltimore, MD).

Kharlin is a National Academy of Sports Medicine Certified Personal Trainer and is the founder of his own personal, group, and sports skills training business called *Let's Get Right Fitness*.

He is a child of God and has served in many roles at his childhood church including as a member of the Music Ministry, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and the Usher Board.

Kharlin has two older siblings, Aria and Darius Miles, and his parents are the magnificent, dedicated, and high-achieving, Harold and Tonya Miles. Kharlin is married to the lovely Keneshia.

Kharlin enjoys to travel, go on adventures, and experience different places, cultures, and food. He has traveled to Italy, Sicily, Greece, and Jamaica and enjoys having a great time with people.



## FLORIANE E.B. MULDOON

*Board Member*

Floriane Epeti Beyegue Muldoon is a creative problem-solver with a natural ability for bringing people together to achieve common goals. She has had the privilege of serving with Ezra Youth Seminary since its inception, witnessing many young people enriched through its programming.

She received a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and a minor in Law and Society from The George Washington University. During her time there, she discovered her passion for real estate finance. One course, in particular, changed her perspective on housing by illuminating its significant impact on family and community stability. Since then, Floriane has applied her education and analytical skill set in the commercial real estate finance industry. She is currently a Senior Associate in Freddie Mac's Multifamily Loan Servicing Division. There she works to ensure affordable housing opportunities through investors for millions of renters across the country.

In addition to her full-time role, Floriane enjoys volunteering with financial literacy and academic achievement organizations such as Junior Achievement of Greater Washington and the D.C. Mutual Aid/Serve Your City. Originally from Cameroon in Central Africa, Floriane was raised in Greenbelt, Maryland. There her home parish was St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church where she was an altar server for 10 years and a religious education volunteer for 2 years. Currently she is a parishioner at St. Veronica Catholic Church in Chantilly, Virginia.

Floriane currently lives in Northern Virginia with her husband, Kevin. Each year they happily tend to a diverse flower and vegetable garden—often specializing in habanero and other peppers. In her free time, Floriane enjoys photography, indoor and outdoor cycling, and spending time with her family and friends.



## STEVEN A. NASH, NHA

### *Board Member*

Steven A. Nash has been the President and CEO of the Stoddard Baptist Home Foundation since 2007. He has served elders since 1983 in a variety of roles and has been a Nursing Home Administrator since 1994. Stoddard Baptist Home, Inc. has a legacy of caring for the elders in the District of Columbia since 1902 and operates Stoddard Baptist Nursing Home, a 164-bed nursing facility. Steve is currently leading the development of Presidential Estates at Sycamore Hill, an assisted living facility in Mitchellville, Maryland. Additionally, under Stoddard's management is Stoddard Baptist Global Care, a 259-bed facility and Stoddard Adult Day Care Center, a 55 participant Adult Medical Day Treatment Program.

Steve has served on several local and national associations and boards. He has held leadership roles in long-term organizations, which include: President of the District of Columbia Health Care Association; Chairperson of the District's Nursing Home Administrator Licensing Board; Chair of the National Association of Boards and Examiners of Long-Term Care Administrators (NAB) Continuing Education Committee; Vice Chair of the Examination Committee; Leading Age Finance Committee; and Chair of Leading Age, D.C. The American Health Care Association selected him as a member of "Future Leaders of Long-Term Care in America" and he was a recipient of a national grant for training nursing home administrators by the National Caucus on Black Aged. He also led a demonstration project for the D.C. Office on Aging to examine innovative ways to provide care for those with Alzheimer's disease. He is a board member of Leading Age D.C., an appointed member of the District of Columbia State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) and recipient of the 2016 Dr. Herbert Shore Outstanding Mentor Award. Currently, Steve is the host of "Stoddard Lives" Radio One broadcast and coach for the Leading Age Academy and winner of the Nation Leading Age Mentorship Award.

A graduate of Princeton University, Steven completed almost five years of theological study and prayer in preparation for his ordination to a ministry that reflects three aspects: the Word, the altar and charity; and one that lends assistance to pastors throughout the archdiocese in preaching the Gospel, distributing the Eucharist, blessing marriages, baptizing, presiding at funerals, and being engaged in ministries of charity and social justice, assisting those in need. On June 28, 2015, Steven was ordained by the Archbishop of Washington as a Permanent Deacon for the Archdiocese of Washington at a Mass of Ordination at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in the District of Columbia.

Assigned to serve under Bishop Roy E. Campbell, Deacon Nash has been actively involved in his assigned ministries at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Largo Maryland. Some of his duties include Assistant Chaplain Knights of Columbus, leadership in the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation), youth Ministry Group and Prison Ministry. He appears regularly on the televised Sick and Shut-in Mass, is a highly requested retreat master and Master of Ceremonies for the Bishops of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Before ordination, he served as an Acolyte and Extraordinary Minister at Holy Redeemer Church. He also was the President of the Legion of Mary Washington Comitium.

Deacon Nash lives in the District of Columbia and is married to Stephanie; they have three young adult children.



## JAMES TIMOTHY WINGFIELD

*Board Member*

James Timothy Wingfield is a passionate preacher and motivational speaker who desires to see men, women, boys, and girls live a life of joy and freedom found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

James is the son of Mrs. Yolande' and Reverend Robert A. Wingfield, who birthed and raised him in Prince George's County, Maryland. James graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School in 2003 then went on to complete his studies at Wilmington School of the Bible & J. Alfred Cage Bible Institute with a primary focus in Biblical Studies.

During his young adult years James served under Bishop S.Y. Younger of The Ramp Church International in both prison ministry and Christian education. During this time James found his passion for acting and playwriting when Pastor Marvin St. Macary casted him in the production *The Witness*, based upon the life of William Seymour, the founding father of the Pentecostal movement started in 1906 on Azusa Street Los Angeles, California.

James is a firm believer in the power of classical education. Understanding the influence of narrative stories, teaching both illiterates and scholars that morality is in everything we watch, listen to, and read. His favorite quote comes from the 2016 film *Doctor Strange*, "*Arrogance and fear still keep you from learning the simplest and most significant lesson of all. It's not about you.*"

James is also a children's book author, a board member of Ezra Youth Seminary, and an advocate for the Epilepsy Foundation.

James currently teaches Logic and Rhetoric students at Woodstream Christian Academy. His hobbies include, hiking, writing, acting, watching sports with his father, and creating visual art. James is a proud member of Woodstream Church under the leadership of Senior Pastor Robert A. Wingfield and a grateful soldier in the army of the LORD. One of James's favorite Bible verses comes from Proverbs 3:5-6, "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*"



## BOARD *of* ADVISORS



**Pastor Kip Bernard Banks, Sr.** is the Senior Pastor of the East Washington Heights Baptist Church of Washington, DC where he is working to build up an intergenerational family of disciples who love God, love neighbors and work to transform the community with the Gospel of Christ.

He also has recently served as the General Secretary of the Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc. (PNBC) the church convention of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In his role as PNBC General Secretary Rev. Banks oversaw the operation of the nation's second-largest Black Baptist denomination.

A native of Los Angeles, CA and a graduate of that city's public school system, Banks received a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics from the University of California at Santa Cruz.

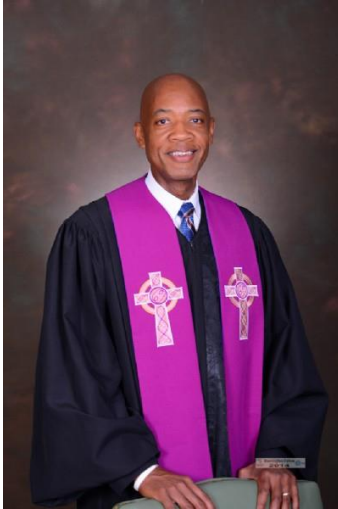
Selected as an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow, Rev. Banks also completed master of public policy and urban planning degrees from the University of Michigan. In addition, he holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Howard University School of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary in NW Washington, DC.

Before being called to East Washington's pulpit, Rev. Banks served as Director of Theological Education with the Congress of National Black Churches and where he oversaw efforts to empower Black ministerial alliances on a nationwide basis. In their June 1, 1998 issue, Newsweek magazine recognized Banks as one of the "Lord's Foot Soldiers" in the battle to reach at-risk-youth.

Among his many public and civic involvements, Rev. Banks has served as a senior aide to the U.S. Senate Budget Committee under Sen. Jim Sasser (D-TN) and Director of Government Relations with the American Public Transit Association. He also serves on the Board of the Baptist World Alliance, the Baptist Joint Committee, Creation Justice and Washington Interfaith Power and Life. He is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Pastor Banks and his wife Dollie are the parents of three children, Carolyne Marie, Margaret Katherine and Kip Bernard, Jr.

## BOARD *of* ADVISORS



**The Reverend Paul Timothy Roberts Sr.** is President of Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary in Atlanta, GA, a position he has held since the spring of 2010. Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary is one of the ten theological schools of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the only one that is historically African American. Under Paul's leadership, JCSTS is reinventing itself and has gained prominence in the national conversation about new models of theological education.

Paul is a native of Stamford, CT. However, he grew up in Bradenton, FL, which he considers his home. Paul graduated from Princeton University in 1985 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Architecture and African American Studies. Prior to his career in ministry, Paul worked for eight years in advertising in New York City. He later received the Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in New Testament Studies from Johnson C. Smith Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA. He also is an Academic Fellow of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey in Celigny, Switzerland. From 1997 through 2010, Paul was the pastor of Church of the Master (PCUSA), a church founded in 1965 in Atlanta, GA, as an intentionally interracial congregation.

Paul preaches and teaches nationally. He is a contributing writer to *Pastoral Care: A Case Study Approach* by Orbis Books in 1996, *Feasting on the Gospels* by Westminster/John Knox Press released in 2013, and he writes consistently for the *Presbyterian Outlook Magazine*. Paul is a consultant with the Louisville Institute. He serves on the boards of the Presbyterian Foundation (PCUSA) and the Macedonian Ministry Inc. of Atlanta. He is the recipient of the 2016 Devoted Service Award from Louisville Theological Seminary. Recreationally, Paul enjoys tennis and yard work.

Paul and his wife, Nina, have three beautiful children—one adult daughter and two teenage sons.

## BOARD *of* ADVISORS



**Bishop Regretta Ruffin** is a native of northwest Washington, D.C. She is the daughter of Deacon Julia M. Burruss and the late Reverend Dr. William R. Burruss, Sr.

She received her Master of Science from the University of Maryland (1986), Master of Theology from Richmond Virginia Seminary (1996), Master of Divinity from Virginia Union University (1999), Doctorate of Theology from Eastern Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa. (2001), Doctor of Ministry from Richmond Virginia Seminary (2007), and several other educational certifications too numerous to name.

Bishop Ruffin has been the Senior Pastor of the Greater New St Paul Baptist Church for over 34 years. She is the Founder and Facilitator of the Metropolitan Area Lenten Journey and Fellowship, a journey of like-minded Pastors and Churches that come together during the Lenten Season for more than 26 years for prayer, fasting, and deliverance. She is A Founding Partner of the John C. Maxwell Team of Certified Coaches, Teachers, Mentors, and Speakers, training Pastors and Leaders worldwide. Dr. Ruffin has received several Governor Citations and Awards, including the Volunteer Service Award from former President Barack Obama. She has served as President of the Baptist Ministers Conference of Alexandria, Virginia, and Vicinity for three terms, President of The Washington Metropolitan Ministerium for three terms, First Vice Present of the Baptist Minister's Conference of Baltimore and Vicinity, Recording Secretary of the Baptist Convention of D.C.; Vicinity, and President of the Mt. Bethel Educational Congress.

Bishop Ruffin was nominated to participate in the Strategic Pastoral Excellency Program with Lott Carey Foreign Missions and was a founding member of the Lott Carey Pilgrimages for Women Pastors, traveling and ministering overseas and worldwide. Being the documented trailblazer for many firsts, on September 29, 2023, she was consecrated as the first female Bishop of Washington, DC in the Baptist denomination to the office of Primate Bishop in the Lord's Church.

Dr. Ruffin presently serves as a transitional pastor for several churches in the Washington Metropolitan Area, helping to assist through traumatic moments in the life of the church by comforting, building, and or rebuilding ministries. She also serves as 1st Vice President of the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Northern VA, she serves on the Board of Regents for Wayland Baptist Theological Seminary, Inc., Wilmington, DE, and is an Assistant Professor in Practical Theology at Regent University, Virginia Beach, Va.

On March 20, 2004, God blessed her with the one whom her soul loves, and she became the wife of Dr. Rodney E. Ruffin, the Senior Pastor of the Elim Baptist Church in Temple Hills, Maryland. And the half has not been told nor revealed what God has in store for His servant!

## BOARD *of* ADVISORS



**Reverend, Dr. Robert A. Wingfield** (Pastor Bob) is the Founder and Senior Pastor of Woodstream Church (formerly Landover Memorial Baptist Church (LMBC)) and the Founder and Chancellor of Woodstream Christian Academy. Pastor Bob came to know Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior in March 1979 at the age of 19 as a result of his mother's influence and listening to Christian radio. The Lord called him to His service in June 1981. Pastor Bob and his wife, the former Yolande' Hinkle, were married on June 30, 1979. Prompted by God's calling on his life, Pastor Bob, along with his wife, Yolande', and baby girl, Rachel, moved to Lynchburg, Virginia, to attend Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in August 1981. Pastor Bob holds a

Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland (UMD), as well as a Master of Arts degree and a Doctor of Divinity degree both from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary.

After graduating with his Masters in May 1983, Pastor Bob and his family returned to Landover and reinstated their membership at Riverdale Baptist Church, where he was eventually licensed to the ministry and ordained.

During his sophomore year at the University of Maryland, God gave Pastor Bob the vision of one day building and pastoring a Baptist church. While participating in an evangelistic outreach ministry at Riverdale Baptist and knocking on doors in the Landover area, Pastor Bob was again burdened with the desire to start a church. Being an obedient servant, he founded the Landover Memorial Baptist Church and conducted its first worship service at Kenmoor Middle School on Sunday, June 26, 1983. Pastor Bob was installed as the pastor on August 28, 1983 at the church's organization service.

Pastor Bob continued the evangelistic outreach of knocking on doors in the surrounding community with the goal of sharing the good news of the gospel. This outreach resulted in the church experiencing amazing growth. Many current members were saved and joined this church as a result of the working of the Holy Spirit through Pastor Bob's obedience to the calling of God on his life. On Easter Sunday, May 29, 1989, LMBC conducted its first service in the newly constructed sanctuary on Manson Street.

In the spring of 1992, construction began on the church's two-story educational wing. In September 2003, construction on the new 82,000 square foot facility in Mitchellville, Maryland was completed and the name of the church was changed to Woodstream Church. The growth of the church has been nothing short of miraculous and is a testament to God's sovereignty and the sacrifice and dedication of its founder, Pastor Bob.

Pastor Bob enjoys sports, particularly major league baseball and professional football. He is a diehard fan of the Washington Nationals and the Washington Redskins. He also enjoys keeping up on current events, bicycling, and caring for his dogs. Pastor Bob and Yolande' reside in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. They are blessed with five adult children and eight grandchildren.

## SPECIAL ADVISOR TO BOARD CHAIR & PRESIDENT



**David A. Thomas**

*12<sup>th</sup> President of Morehouse College*

**Dr. David A. Thomas** took office as the 12th President of Morehouse College on Jan. 1, 2018, ushering in a new era of leadership for Morehouse College, the nation's largest and most prestigious liberal arts college for men.

His appointment in October 2017 ended a six-month period of leadership transition at the College, which began in April when the Board announced its national search for a new Morehouse President. Members of the Morehouse College Board of Trustees selected

President Thomas for many reasons, including his visionary leadership as a business school administrator and his proven track record in fund-raising, which includes a capital campaign that raised more than \$130 million in five years for Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business.

President Thomas has 30 years of higher education experience. He holds a doctorate in Organizational Behavior Studies and a Master of Philosophy degree in Organizational Behavior, both from Yale University. He also has a master's degree in Organizational Psychology from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Administrative Sciences degree from Yale College.

President Thomas is the former H. Naylor Fitzhugh Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School, and the former Dean of Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business.

As Dean of Georgetown McDonough, Thomas led 250 employees and more than 2,000 students through a period of growth, which included a redesign of the MBA curriculum, the launch of the school's first online degree program, and a \$130-million capital campaign. He enhanced academic and professional opportunities for the school's undergraduate and graduate students, including adding the Global Business Experience and an Office of Professional Development for undergraduates. He also increased the diversity of faculty and staff, launched new research initiatives, and boosted the school's research funding.

Prior to Georgetown, Thomas served for two decades as a professor and administrator at Harvard University. He returned in 2017 as the H. Naylor Fitzhugh Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School. He is also a former assistant professor of management at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

In addition to his work as an educator, Thomas serves as a member of the Board of Directors of DTE Energy, the American Red Cross, and The Posse Foundation. He was the recipient of the Washington Business Journal's 2014 "Minority Business Leader of the Year" award and the National Executive Forum's "Breaking Through: 2020, Beacon Award," among other honors. He has also worked as a consultant on issues relating to organizational change, diversity, and inclusion for 100 of the Fortune 500 companies, as well as major governmental and nonprofit organizations.

Thomas is nationally renowned for his research on managing diversity in the workplace. He has written numerous case studies and academic articles on the subject. He is also the co-author of two related books: "Breaking Through: The Making of Minority Executives in Corporate America," one of the first in-depth studies to focus on minorities who have made it to the top; and "Leading for Equity: The Pursuit of Excellence in Montgomery County Public Schools."