

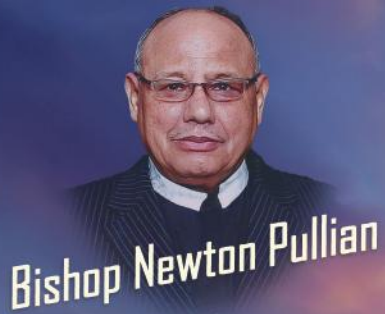
Make Known His Deeds Among His People

VOL.  
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No. III

# HOLINESS UNION

SUMMER 2023

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE UNITED HOLY CHURCH OF AMERICA



Bishop Newton Pullian

**2024  
GENERAL  
ELECTION**

**2023  
GENERAL  
Convocation**

*Pray ye therefore  
the Lord of the harvest,  
that He will send forth  
labourers into His harvest.*





THE UNITED HOLY CHURCH of AMERICA, Inc.

## 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MID-YEAR CONFERENCE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2nd - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5th, 2023

Victory Tabernacle Church | 1329 US 70 | Garner, NC | Host: Pastor James P. Perkins

KEEPING THE STANDARD OF

Theme: **HOLINESS**  
*without compromise*



THE MOST REV.  
HARRY L. COHEN

THE RIGHT REV.  
KENNETH WHITE

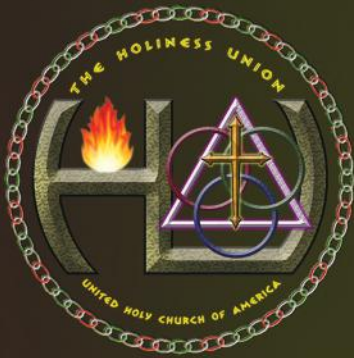
THE RIGHT REV.  
GREG HARGRAVE

*The Most Reverend Harry L. Cohen  
Presiding Prelate & General President*

*Rt. Rev. Kenneth White, General Vice President*

*Rt. Rev. Gregory Hargrave, General 2nd Vice2 President*





PUBLISHED BY  
THE UNITED HOLY CHURCH  
OF AMERICA, INC.

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Most Rev. Harry L. Cohen

VICE PRESIDENT  
Rt. Rev. Kenneth White

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# The HOLINESS UNION

The Official Publication of the United Holy Church of America, Inc.

*The Mission of The United Holy Church of America is to promote Christian doctrine, values and fellowship for the purpose of extending Holiness throughout the World through the teaching and preaching of the Word of God, and the establishing of programs and activities*

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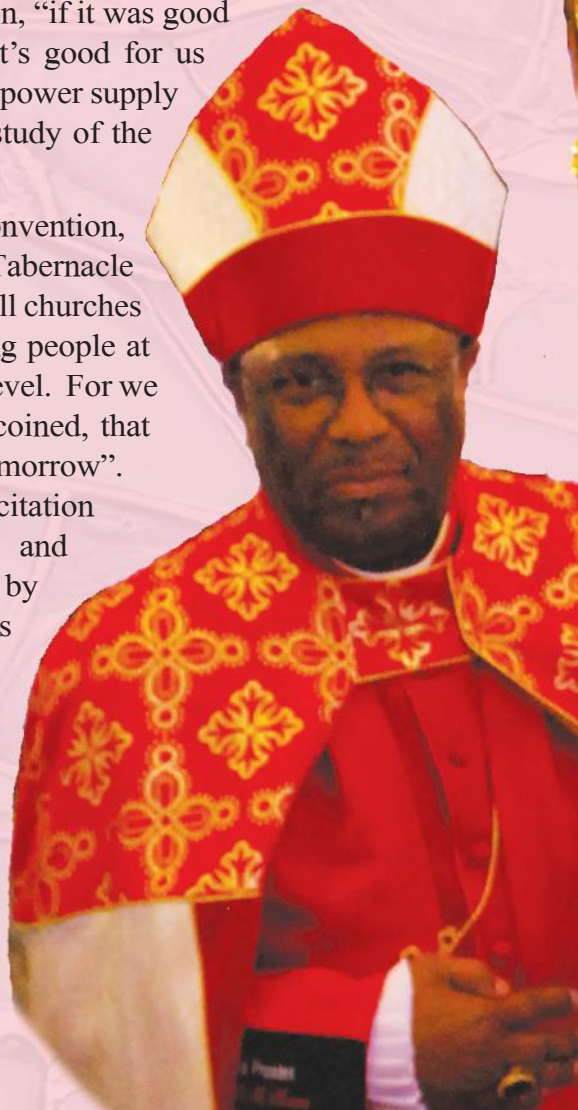


# The Prelat

What a privilege it is to greet the saints of God in times like these. The temperature is high, the storms are passing through, the attendance in our churches seems to be complacent and there is a lack of realization that the enemy is at war all around us. In reality it is producing an urgent need for the Church to greet one another in Prayer and Bible Study and Worship of God.

In the onset of this greeting, I challenge the People of God everywhere to seriously consult the Lord concerning the situations in the world today. There is shooting, violence and crisis all over, which can all be changed when the church goes to prayer. I remember when my Mother would call us from the playground to Noon Day Prayer in the home. From there she called us into Prayer Meeting at our church, and from there into the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at church during the Sunday Worship Service. We used the expression, "if it was good for Mom back then and her children, it's good for us today." So, let's get back to the essential power supply of the church, which is prayer and the study of the Word of God.

We are gearing up for the Youth Convention, August 9-11, 2023, at Linconia Tabernacle in Trevoise, Pennsylvania. I want to ask all churches to offer the greatest support to our young people at the Convention and on the church local level. For we know and the phrase has already been coined, that "the youth are the church of today and tomorrow". With the sale of guns, drugs and the solicitation of sexual pleasures being advertised and promoted, we need to offset all of this by offering a better lifestyle pushing Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World. I am reminded of one of my Mother's favorite songs, "All that I need is in Jesus, He satisfies, joy He supplies. Life would be worthless without Him; all things in Jesus I've found."





# ic Missions

I have some good news and yet I have a prayer for responses from you. The City of Greensboro Engineering Department has released the permit to repair the sewage issue at the General Headquarters. With their oversight, we are assured that all work being done will meet full municipal standards. We are glad to note that one of our own, Brother Lamont Williams, is a member of their engineering staff and has been heavily involved in the process. We are now receiving bids for the work which will close out by the end of August. I am soliciting your thoughtfulness in fulfilling the request that was made for financial support. Thank you to those who have already given your donations, and I pray that others will do likewise. It is our trust that all things will be repaired well before our next meeting in May 2024.

SEND YOUR DONATIONS TODAY TO:

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**PAYPAL – [WWW.PAYPAL.ME/UHCAINC](http://WWW.PAYPAL.ME/UHCAINC) AS WELL AS GIVING THROUGH OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.UHCAINC.ORG](http://WWW.UHCAINC.ORG).**

October 2-6, 2023, the UHCA Mid-Year Conference will convene at the Victory Tabernacle Church, 1329 US-70 W, Garner, NC 27529 where Pastor James Perkins will be our most gracious host. During this meeting we will make decisions on our voting procedures and move towards final plans for the 2024 Quadrennial Convocation. I do encourage all Pastors and District Officials to join the UHCA Bishops Council, General Officers all UHCA members in attending this important meeting. Until then, Elder Linda B. Cohen and I pray for the success of all remaining District Convocations and that the Lord will grant you all a time of peace and refreshment until we meet again.

Yours in His Service,

*Bishop Harry L. Cohen*

hlcohen@uhcainc.org



**PRESIDING PRELATE & GENERAL PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED HOLY CHURCH OF AMERICA**





# THE EDITOR'S BRIEF

## !!HELP WANTED!!

If you pay attention to this article space, you see I am repeating myself. That is because the redundant focus has high importance. This is nearing the finish line as far as my efforts with the PRODUCTION of Holiness Union. Nearly twenty years for what has sometimes been a thankless task in our reformation. The change to digital media has lessened the importance of print to many. So, we have decisions to make in this regard. Whatever format the HU takes in the future there will still be the need of people to shepherd it through whatever processes may be required. Someone will have to have that willing spirit to the benefit of the church and for the glory of God. In the service of the King every talent I will bring. A volunteer for Jesus a soldier true. Others have enlisted, why not you? In my youth I will recall the many hymns and songs directing us to work for the church and for the Lord.

I take some pride in what we transformed the Holiness Union twenty plus years ago. Current times will require it to transform again. I know there are talented people able to lift our publication to the next level. No one is interested in work unless they receive a healthy stipend. We must remember the heart of service is the heart Christ. The lack of interest in church work by the "saints" is a real phenomenon. Every pastor experiences it and subdistricts and convocations. We must pray to the Lord of the harvest for workers to get these jobs done. Think about your church and let the same spirit that is in Christ Jesus be in you.

*Elder Timothy W. Lewis*

UNITED HOLY CHURCH OF AMERICA

**VOTE**  
**BISHOP EMORY B. JAMES**  
**FOR 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT**

### REASONS TO VOTE FOR ME

- Experienced Leadership ✓
- Commitment to Serve ✓
- Faithful to the cause of Christ ✓

*about me*

SCAN ME!



**CENTRAL PACIFIC DISTRICT**  
**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**2024**



# GENERAL ELECTION NEWS

The General Election Committee of the United Holy Church of America, Inc. (UHCA) is tasked with conducting the General Election on May 2, 2024 during the Quadrennial Convocation. During the recent General Convocation, May 2023, the house overwhelmingly voted to suspend our normal method of voting for the ratification of our Standard Manual - from paper ballots to electronic voting, utilizing Election Buddy (a web-based system). The voting experience for those participating at the General Headquarters was successful. It provided the UHCA an opportunity to understand and actively engage in electronic voting. Overall, the process was a ground-breaking experience for the UHCA and highlighted our ability to embrace electronic voting.

Election Buddy allowed members to vote from any location at the headquarters site. Once each voter received a unique voter ID (which could only be used one time), they were able to cast their vote. Many were excited to vote from their device of choice (laptops, tablets, etc.) and were offered technical assistance, as needed. Votes were automatically tabulated.

During our mid-year conference, October 2-6, 2023, to be held at Victory Tabernacle, 1329 US 70 West Garner, NC (a suburb of Raleigh) the General Election Committee will be prepared to submit a motion to the house to suspend the traditional method of voting via paper ballot and to use Election Buddy (the same electronic voting system utilized for the ratification of the Standard Manual).

The voting process is simple. Members of the UHCA who will be voting on-site May 2, 2024, will receive notification by email and via a text message thirty- days before the date of voting, with detailed instructions. They will receive a second message with a reminder, 15 days before the election.

The General Election Committee (GEC) will make certain that no registered voter is disenfranchised due to: a lack of/ limited access to the internet, limited or no wi-fi connectivity, no cellphone, no tablet, no computer, or not being able to attend the Quadrennial Convocation in May 2024. Registered voters in these instances will request an absentee ballot when their membership registration list is submitted to their District President by December 15, 2023. Once submitted, they will receive an absentee ballot.

The Election Buddy voting system will manage paper ballots being mailed to members requesting an absentee paper ballot. Ballots must be postmarked by March 15, 2024, and should be returned to the GEC, postmarked by April 15, 2024, for their paper ballots to be valid.

In addition, the GEC will have a contingency plan in place should a natural disaster or health crisis such as COVID, cause an unforeseen disruption leading up to or during the election with the approval of the General Board of Elders and the General President.



Please contact Min. Vera Perkins-Hughes, Chairlady, General Election Committee with questions/concerns at (216) 408-9824 or email: [vphughes24@gmail.com](mailto:vphughes24@gmail.com)

Finally, using the Election Buddy electronic voting system is SECURE, reliable, and the cost is very reasonable. Additionally, it is used by several national organizations such as NAACP, COGIC and others. The quote for 1,000 voters is only \$90. Using this system would eliminate the need to print thousands of ballots and it would allow a cost savings which would eliminate the need for renting voting machines and purchasing supplies.

The General Election Committee is pleased to introduce electronic voting as a new method of voting in the UHCA for the Quadrennial Convocation General Election in May 2024. If approved by majority vote, the UHCA would realize great cost savings and most importantly, all members who wish to participate in the voting process for the general church will be able to do so!

## GENERAL ELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Elder Derek King, Vice Chair (WNC),	Elder Carolyn Dildy (NOR),
Elder Reggie Smalls (NED),	Elder Larry McLean (SDG),
Elder Judy Lewis, Secretary (NOR),	Elder Barney Wiggins (VIR),
Elder W. Terry Cobb (SDG),	Deaconess Carrie Caines (SDH),
Minister Alfreda Dabney, Budget (CW),	Elder Joseph King (BER)





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### BERMUDA DISTRICT

**Sandra Spanswick**

5 East Short Lane  
Sandy's MA01, Bermuda  
Phone: 441-799-2289

### BARBADOS DISTRICT

**Elder Donald Padmore**

371 Ruby Park  
St. Philip, Barbados  
Phone: 246-423-7672

### CENTRAL WESTERN DISTRICT

**Sister Ora Lee Akins**

6993 Edison Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63121  
Phone: 314-382-9342

### KENTUCKY DISTRICT

**Bishop Anthony M. Tucker**

109 Wagner Drive  
Princeton, WV 24740  
Phone: 304-425-4381

### NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT

**Elder Pymie Fitzgerald**

179 Houston Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

### WNCD

**Bishop Greg Hargrave**

5331 Roshni Terrace  
McLeansville, NC 27301  
Phone: 336-697-8592

### NORTHERN DISTRICT

**Mrs. Hannah Wortham**

5849 Anderson Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19138  
Phone: 267-808-8744 (cell)

### NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT

**Elder Clarence Tucker**

414 Sylvania Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15210  
Phone: 412-381-5620

### SOUTH CAROLINA DISTRICT

**Elder Maceo Reaves**

P.O. Box 1024  
Lakeview, SC 29563  
Phone: 843-759-9840

### SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT

**Bishop Carolyn Horton**

6862 W. Fayetteville Road  
Riverdale, GA 30292  
Phone: 770-907-7891

### SOUTHERN DISTRICT

**GOLDSBORO**

**Bishop Devin Pickett**  
6509 Greenville Loop, Lot 109  
Wilmington, NC 28409

### SOUTHERN DISTRICT HENDERSON

**Sister Pomela Gamble**

723 Rose Street  
Rocky Mount, NC 27801  
Phone: 252-446-0737

### VIRGINIA DISTRICT

**Elder Charles D. Allen**

532 Wilkerson Road  
Clarkville, VA 23927  
Phone: 434-374-8943

### WEST VIRGINIA DISTRICT

**Howard Nappier**

1003 Circle Drive  
Dunbar, WV 25064  
Phone: 304-768-2470



# ELECT

BISHOP  
**GREGORY K.**  
**HARGRAVE**



Candidate for  
**PRESIDING PRELATE**  
of the  
United Holy Church  
of America, Inc.

**Leadership**  
*for the*  
**NEXT GENERATION**  
*of the United Holy Church of America*

BISHOP  
**GREGORY K.**  
**HARGRAVE**

.....  
Candidate for  
**PRESIDING PRELATE**  
of the United Holy Church of America, Inc.

**ABOUT GREGORY**  
Married for over 35 years



## EDUCATION

- BSN, MA Biblical Studies, M-Div. D-Min
- Pastoral Leadership

## MINISTRY

- 42 years in the Ministry
- 38 years pastoring
- 8 years as General Assistant Superintendent of BCS Department
- 7 years as District President of the Western NC District, UHCA
- Consecrated Bishop Since 2008
- 7 years serving as General 2nd Vice President, UHCA
- Serving on General Board of Bishops, UHCA

## VISION

- Plan, implement and evaluate General Church Programming
- Finances and creating additional revenue streams
- Evangelism and Church Growth
- Education, Triad Christian Academy and The United Christian Bible College
- Youth and young adult Ministry
- Headquarters site feasibility study and implementation of continued upfitting, marketing and onsite manager
- Dunstan Road Project and the creation of affordable housing
- Other areas to be announced

**"TOGETHER,**  
let's build a **STRONGER,** more **VIBRANT**  
United Holy Church of America  
for generations to come."

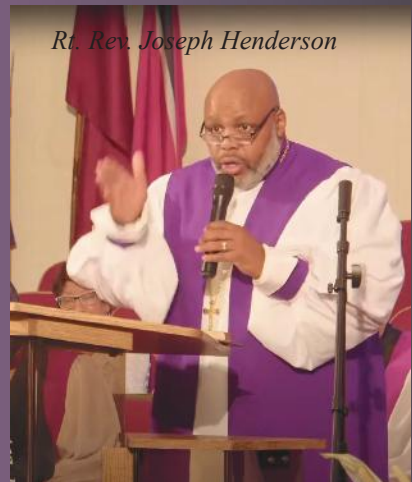


# THE 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVOCATION

**"KEEP IT MOVING"**  
(Exodus 14:13-16)



The 47th Annual Convocation of The United Holy Church of America, Inc. opened on May 1, 2023, with the ultimate display of unity. We assembled as a family for a week of fellowship with saints gathering from near and far. Many who had not attended since the onset of the pandemic. Delegations from Bermuda, Panama and a large delegation from the Barbados District joined in with those from the United States to glorify the Name of the Lord and to lift high the banner of our Great Church. The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist at the UHCA General Headquarters, in Greensboro, North Carolina led by our Presiding Prelate, The Most Reverend Harry L. Cohen marked the Opening Ceremonies. Our Homilist, the Rt. Rev. Joseph Henderson of the Virginia District, reminded us of the unique purpose of the Passover Supper Jesus celebrated with his disciples. In his message, "Until He Comes" (Matthew 26:26-29), he detailed the historical outline given to the disciples by Christ and shared our responsibility as believers. We are to walk before the Lord in holy living and commemorate Jesus' sacrifice for our salvation, "Until He Comes."



*Rt. Rev. Joseph Henderson*

The Spirit of the Lord reigned over every service as the UHCA Music Department, under the direction of Dr. Ron Bigelow, led us into Worship. General Convocation Highlights included Men's and Women's Day, an exciting time of fundraising for our Church. Under the leadership of Co-Chairs, International First Lady, Elder Linda B. Cohen and Lady Barbara Sherman for the Women, and Bishop Wayne Bullock for the Men, for the third year in a row the challenge was made. Although the Men of the Church made a gallant attempt with Bishop Kenneth White filling in for Bishop Bullock,



*Rt. Rev. Ernestine McGee*





*Elder Dorothy Kelly, Elder Hattie Fairfax  
Lady Barbara Sherman*

the Women of the United Holy Church were again victorious. After the fundraising, we were blessed by the Word of the Lord from Bishop Ernestine McGee – “Using Praise as Your Weapon” – (Psalm 150:6, II Corinthians 10:4).

Under a prophetic anointing, our 2nd General Vice President, Bishop Gregory K. Hargrave spoke from the subject, “Lord, Heal Us as We Go and We Will Say Thank You” (Exodus 14:15; Luke 17:11-18). Speaking of the condition, leprosy, he detailed the impact, both physically and emotionally, and the symptom of “white spots.” He related this disease to issues we all carry. “Underneath our fine clothes, we have white patches under our skin.” As he was the leper, Jesus is available at the point of our needs. Some are healed instantly, while others will be healed “as we go.” Like the Samaritan leper, once healed, we need to come back and say, “Thank You!!!”

Our Vice President, Bishop Kenneth White spoke from the subject: – “Make A Move” (John 5:1-8). He shared God’s plan to move us to Christian Maturity. Although we have struggles, God is calling us to a time of fasting and praying. God will respond when we turn our plates down. This is the hour to make a move. “We can’t sit and wait for all the finances to come in, we’ve got to act like it’s already ours.” We must pray a “do it a right now” prayer and keep it moving! “Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

We worshipped in unity but as in every convocation, the business of the Church must be handled. We received the STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS from our Presiding Prelate, The Most Reverend Harry L. Cohen. He introduced the newly appointed General Mother, Sister Mamie Williams, and although illness prevented him from physically being present, using technology, our General Father and Senior Advisor, Bishop Jesse Jones was able to greet and encourage the General Convocation. This year’s State of the Church Address (contained in this issue) covered activity in every District/Fellowship/Mission and Territory of The United Holy Church of America, Inc.



*Rt. Rev.  
Gregory  
Hargrave*

We also paused to remember those who labored among us who transitioned to “A Place Called There.” Heaven’s Roll Call shared the members of each district who have transitioned with special recognition given to those who served the United Holy Church on the General Level – Former General Mother Valeria Alston (Southern District Henderson), Bishop James Koonce (Former President of the Northwestern District), Bishop Hildred Perry (Former President of the Virginia District) and Former General Trustee Chair, Deacon David Mahone (New England District). The Memorial Homily was received from Dr. James R. Cohen Pastor of Judah House of Worship, Danville, Virginia - It’s Time to Crossover to The Other Side (Joshua 3:17).

In this Convocation, we also made history. After nine years of continuous work, the Ratification Vote for the acceptance of the Standard Manual of The United Holy Church of America, Inc. took place. Not only did we vote to receive the Manual, but for the first time, electronic voting was approved as the method to tally ratification of



# THE 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVOCATION

the articles. This first phase of the Ratification was received by 90% of the eligible voters. The final phase is the individual district ratification voting which is to be completed before our 2023 Mid-Year Conference. Special recognition was given to the current Chair, Sister Angela Knight-Davis, the former Chair, Bishop Newton A. Pullian, and all past and present members of the Manual Revision Committee for their commitment to the fulfilment of this mammoth undertaking, creating a product that will be used for years to come. We also received vital information on the next phase of the Dunstan Road Project. A Project Develop Committee has been set, chaired by Bishop Victor Rush (members, Bishop Joseph Henderson (Vice Chair), Bishop Gregory Hargrave, Bishop Wayne Bullock, and Bishop Emory James). This next phase moves the Church to necessary legal alignment to receive public/outside funding for construction of the project. Prayers and financial donations are still requested from our church membership as funders will want to know that we, the members of the United Holy Church, are vested in the project with “good faith” funding. Preparation is also underway for the 2024 UHCA General Election. The nominations are now closed, the Slate of Officers has been presented and voting on the method used for tabulating our election will be finalized in the upcoming Mid-Year Conference.



*Rt. Rev.  
Clifton Buckram*

were all the most improvable characters, from Elijah, Josiah, David, to the lad who willingly gave his lunch for the miracle at Galilee “God chooses those who seem unlikely to be chosen by the gate keepers of society and the church. God chooses the elect, not the elite.” We congratulate and pray for the newest Bishops in The United Holy Church of America, Inc.

Other facets of the programming included the General Education Hour, featuring Dr. Jonathan Augustine, of Duke Divinity School, who shared with us the importance of Theology Education. He walked through American history and “The Role of the Black Church in Society.” The Education Department also presented their latest publication, “BURSTING FORTH, THE POWER WITHIN,” an inspirational compilation by Women of the United Holy Church.



*Rt. Rev.  
Ken White*

Under the guidance of our UHCA Adjutancy Corp, (led by Chief Adjutant, Elder Latelia Fountain) all the regal pageantry of The United Holy Church of America, Inc. was on full display, Wednesday, May 3rd, as we witnessed the Service of Episcopal Consecration. Three elders were elevated to the bishopric – The Right Reverend Anthony Gilmore (Northern District), the Right Reverend Fitz Herbert Kirten (Barbados District), and the Right Reverend Horace Strand (Northern District). Amidst the formality of the occasion, the Spirit of the Lord moved in a unique manner. In his message, “A Lad Will Do” (John 6:5-13) the Homilist for the occasion, the Right Reverend Clifton Buckram (Southern District-Goldsboro) gave vivid scriptural illustrations of lads being called and used by God because of their obedience to the call. They



*Dr. J. Augustine*



For information on acquiring a copy, contact [uhceducationdepartment@gmail.com](mailto:uhceducationdepartment@gmail.com). Evangelism Department Staff, Elder Kenneth Gray and Elder Tonya Ham presented an informative workshop on Effective Evangelism – Tools for Moving Forward. Additionally, the Department conducted “Latter Rain” Services after the Thursday Evening Worship with Pastor Johnny Brown.

The Missionary Department hosted a Special Guest to our Convocation as the speaker for their session. Bishop H. Eugene Bellinger, Pastor of The Cathedral of the Covenant Church, Columbus, Ohio, whose subject was, “Legacy: The Peaceful Transfer of Power” (Exodus 14:13-16/ Psalm 68:31). In his message, he gave steps to prepare us for the shifting in the atmosphere coming with the change to the next General Administration. He reminded us to renew our commitment to God and stay focused. In the Ushers Session, we heard a gospel message from Elder Lisa Franklin-Pettiford, President of the Western North Carolina District Ushers Department. Her subject, “Ain’t No Stopping Us Now” (Exodus 14:13-16/ Romans 8:31). The Department also honored the faithful service of Sister Sharon Gilbert, Bermuda District Ushers President, and Sis. Evenel Worth (93 years of age) who has ushered for over 50 years. She is the former District Vice President of the Northwestern District Ushers Department. The Youth Department (BCS & YPHA) held the final departmental service of the Convocation and heard a fiery message from Elder Jonta Martin, Pastor of Full Gospel UHC, Bassett, Virginia – “When God Gives a Greenlight” (Exodus 14:10-15).



*B i s h o p  
Bellinger*

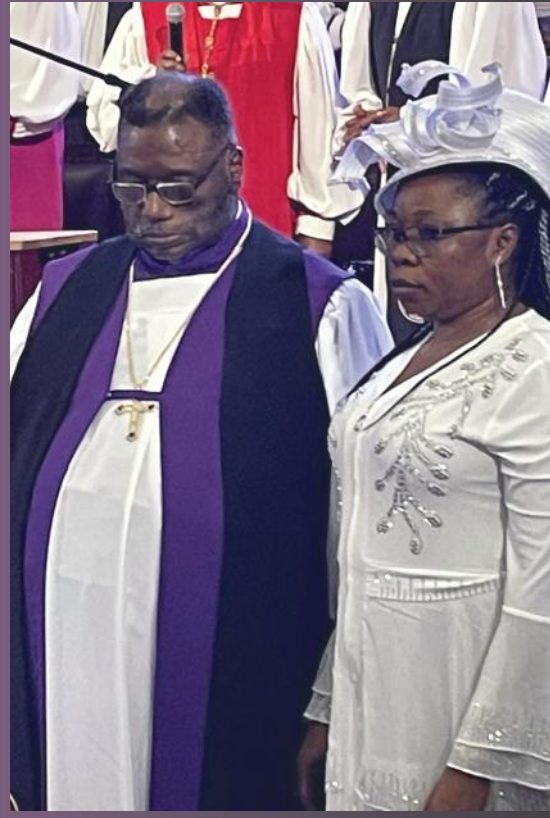
Friday, May 5th, “The Official Night”, marked the end of a glorious Convocation, where we despite challenges met to Praise the Lord one more time in unity; and to hear the closing message from our Presiding Prelate, The Most Reverend Harry L. Cohen. His subject, “Determined, Keep Moving” (Exodus 14:13-15). Our Presiding Prelate reminded us of the sacrifice of our Savior and challenged us to decide to be real and live for God. It’s Holiness or Hell. The world has mesmerized the youth of today. You are not strong enough for a tug-of-war; resolve to drop the line and decide that it is “for God, I’ll live and for God I’ll die.” While we were yet



*Presiding Prelate  
The Most Rev. Harry L. Cohen*



# THE 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVOCATION



New Bishops and First Ladies -The Right Reverend Anthony Gilmore (Northern District), the Right Reverend Fitz Herbert Kirten (Barbados District), and the Right Reverend Horace Strand (Northern District).



Bishop-Elect Michael Clemmons (Northwestern District), Bishop-Elect Brian McKnight (South Carolina District), Bishop-Elect Marvin Lockett (West Virginia District), and Bishop-Elect Thomas Williams (New England District).



sinners, Christ committed himself to us, to die for our salvation. We must decide and determine who is bigger than our enemies. If we must live holy, we must be committed to the Lord, and He will see us through. Jesus' mission was to secure our salvation. He knew it was his time to die, to bring salvation to mankind. The time had come. He set his face towards Jerusalem, there he was to die and ascend into heaven. Do not mix Christianity with the foolishness of the world. Come out and stay out!!! Lift up the standard and let somebody know that I've been born again.

In this closing session, the next UHCA Bishop Designates were presented; those who are scheduled to be consecrated in the 2024 Quadrennial Convocation are Bishop-Elect Michael Clemmons (Northwestern District), Bishop-Elect Brian McKnight (South Carolina District), Bishop-Elect Marvin Lockett (West Virginia District), and Bishop-Elect Thomas Williams (New England District).

Additionally, our Church Historian, Dr. Clarence Toomer presented us with the publication of UHCA History, "UNITED AND HOLY: A CONCISE REVISIONIST HISTORY OF AN ORGANIZATION AT THE CROSSROADS IN 21ST CENTURY MINISTRY." For more information on obtaining this publication please contact Dr. Toomer at [clarencetoomer@nc.rr.com](mailto:clarencetoomer@nc.rr.com).

If you missed any portion of the 47th Annual Convocation of The United Holy Church of America, Inc., sessions are available for viewing on YouTube ("United Holy Church Live") and on The United Holy Church of America Facebook pages. We look forward to the remaining General Church gatherings for 2023, the Youth Convention (August 9-11) in Trevoze, Pennsylvania and the Mid-Year Conference (October 2-6) in Garner, North Carolina. In the meantime, let us continue to live the General Convocation Theme and "Keep It Moving!!!"

Submitted by Minister Esther Walker

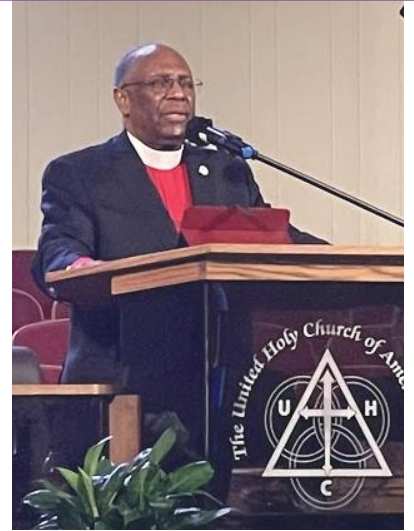




### *The United Holy Church of America, Inc.*

## THE STATE OF THE CHURCH

The Most Reverend Harry L. Cohen, Presiding Prelate



May 2, 2023

I give honor and praise to God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior, and to the Holy Spirit our Comforter. I honor the Vice President, Bishop Kenneth White; the 2nd Vice President, Bishop Gregory K. Hargrave; the Former General President, Bishop Elijah Williams; Senior Advisor to the President, Bishop Elroy Lewis; the General Board of Bishops, the Council of Bishops; the General Board of Elders; the General Board of Trustees; the Bishops and Ministers Wives and Spouses; all Department Heads and General Officers; to our General Mother, Sister Mamie Williams and our General Father & Senior Advisor to the President, Bishop Jesse Jones and to all the Saints of God present; lastly, but certainly not least, to the Elect Lady of The United Holy Church of America, Inc., Elder Linda B. Cohen. Good afternoon.

Today is the day that the Lord has made, and we shall rejoice and be glad in it. If it had not been for the Lord who was on our side, our story would not be that of victory and deliverance from the hands of the enemy. I need you to help me lift the name of Jesus until you feel Heaven come down to rejoice with us over our Champion Redeemer. Praise God for our victory in Jesus!

The Standard Manual, Constitution and By-laws of The United Holy Church of America, Inc., require the Presiding Prelate deliver an annual “State of the Church Address” to the church body. As well, the Bible says, “Let all things be done decently and in order.” In obedience to that scripture and our operating by-laws, I, as your servant, submit the following report:

I offer thanks to Vice President White, 2nd Vice President Hargrave, the General Board of Bishops, the Council of Bishops, the Senior Advisors to the President, to the General Secretary Sister Esther Walker and the General Financial Secretary, Sister Louise Bagley and to all persons who have worked tirelessly over the past year to keep the business of The United Holy Church of America, Inc. moving forward, in the right direction. I honor and appreciate all presiders, musicians, worship and praise leaders, those recording pertinent information for the record; those providing necessary accommodations for various meetings; arranging transportation for travel when necessary; securing the places of worship and meetings; and those assisting the Administration when called upon. I appreciate all ushers, adjutants, committees, secretaries, editors, chairpersons, grounds keepers, custodian, webmaster, security persons, drivers, and you, the People of God who help create the atmosphere for Kingdom building. To every general officer and appointee who has sacrificed, faithfully carried out the responsibilities of your positions, I say thank you from the bottom of my heart. It has taken all of us pushing and pulling together to get where we are today. Applaud yourselves for a job well done.

Let me share with you two recent appointees made to join those serving the General Church. In October, I appointed Bishop Anthony Tucker as Bishop of Finance. He has stepped right in overseeing the Finance Department and the Budget Committee. Last summer, our dear Mother Valeria Alston was called from labor to reward. I am delighted to present, in this first General Meeting since her appointment, our new General Mother, Sister Mamie Williams. Let us applaud both Bishop Tucker and General Mother Mamie Williams, for their willingness to serve.



## **MANUAL REVISION**

At long last, we have reached the final processes of ratification of the Standard Manual of The United Holy Church of America, Inc. I want to thank the Chair, Sis. Angela Knight-Davis, and the members of Manual Revision Committee for their diligence, in completing this arduous task.

Sis. Angela Knight-Davis, Chair  
Rt. Rev. Clifton Buckrham, Special Advisor  
Rt. Rev. Newton Pullian, Former Chairman/Advisor  
Rt. Rev. Jesse Jones, Advisor  
Elder Myra Rouse, Secretary  
Attorney Robert Bush, Parliamentarian

Rt. Rev. Carolyn Horton	Rt. Rev. J. Derrick Johnson
Attorney Rhonda Kelley	Rt. Rev. James Brooks
Rt. Rev. Johnnie Felton	Rt. Rev. St. Clair Howell
Elder Joseph King	Rt. Rev. Devin C. Pickett, Sr.
Rt. Rev. Craig Purchase, Sr.	Elder Beverly Talley
Bro. Waris Rogers	Minister Esther Walker
Rt. Rev. Quincy Gardner (who served until his death, January 2019)	

Thank you for the production of a document that will continue to serve the Church for many years to come.

## **DUNSTAN ROAD PROJECT**

The past three years were very critical for most of us. Many of our churches had to completely close their doors due to Covid-19. Ministering “outside the box” became the new norm for most of us. We have been preaching on the “Front Porch to people in their cars;” or “Broadcasting from the Church Office or at Home, using Facebook or YouTube.” Some of our ministries used radio broadcasts or television time to minister to our people. Yet our testimony has been, “The Lord saw us through it all, and many are yet going through.” But to God be all the glory for maintenance during those times, and thank God for physical, financial, and Spiritual uplift as the Lord Himself led us to where we are right now.

## **THE UNITED HOLY CHURCH OF AMERICA, INC. AT LARGE**

We are blessed to have 15 Convocational Districts which make up The United Holy Church of America, Inc. From the East to the West, from the North to the South, the work of the Lord is going forth. Each district has been visited by either my Representatives or me over the past year.

The Barbados District graciously receive my designee, Bishop Victor J. Rush in their Convocation. He reported favorably the manner in which the eight pastors rallied around the vision of their President, Bishop Patricia Holder. He was able to see all the local church sites. The District Choir and Praise Team greatly contributed to the spirit-filled sessions. The Barbados District is proud to celebrate the Consecration of Bishop-Elect Fitz Herbert Kirton during this General Convocation. We welcome the delegation here to support Bishop Kirton.

Delayed by the pandemic, the Bermuda District celebrated their 100th Anniversary in their November 2022 Convocation. The district graciously received Bishop Victor J. Rush as the General Representative. In this convocation the God-given vision of their President, Bishop Stephen Jones was fulfilled with the reunion of former members, culminating with the Friday Night Reunion Concert. Although they had not ministered together in over 30 years the power of the Lord reigned in that service and many souls were touched. Bishop Jones and former President, Bishop Calvin Armstrong agreed to work together in Kingdom Building on the Isle of Bermuda. To God Be The Glory!

Accompanied by a delegation from the Southern District Goldsboro, Bishop Christopher Brown served as my emissary to the Central Pacific District in February for their Annual Convocation. The group was graciously received by the District President, Bishop Emory James and the members of the District. Sessions were held both in-person and online. Bishop Brown found the District doing well despite the challenges of the past few years and shared the information from the General Church. The messages were inspirational and focused on the Theme: “Making the Gospel Come Alive”.



Bishop J. Derrick Johnson, served as General Representative to the Central Western District, which held its Convocation in St. Louis, MO. His presentation from the General Church was received with enthusiasm and brought many questions regarding the final Manual Revision ratification process. He commended the District Administration and membership for their continued commitment to The United Holy Church of America, Inc. and helped them celebrate the elevation of their President, Bishop Craig Purchase to the General Board of Bishops.

Bishop Wayne Bullock served as representative to the New England District which was in the process of post-covid readjustment. Their programming format for 2022 was hybrid (online & partial in-person sessions). On July 7, 2022, Bishop Bullock represented the General Church by making a virtual official visit to their 97th Annual Convocation. Even in this hybrid format, the members of the District are faithfully supporting the vision of their President, Bishop Victor J. Rush, and that of the General Church.

Bishop Fred Bridy expressed appreciation for the opportunity of representing the General Church at the 2022 Northern District Convocation in Hanover, Maryland last June. He was graciously received by its President, Bishop Kenneth White. He was able to attend several of their sessions, from the Early Morning Prayer to the Evening Sessions. They were all well attended, and the speakers brought forth the Word of Lord with the anointing of Holy Spirit. In a Luncheon, the Convocation honored three retired faithful servants, Elder Linda Hindsman, Bishop Newton Pullian, and Trustee Fred King. Congratulations to the Northern District who will receive 2 new Bishops with their Consecration during this Convocation – Bishop-Elect Anthony Gilmore and Bishop-Elect Horace Strand.

During the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Northwestern District, Bishop Clifton Buckrham was able to make a brief visit. The sessions were held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Cleveland, OH. He, along with the small delegation that accompanied him from the Southern District-Goldsboro, could feel the spirit of celebration. Bishop Buckrham was able to share the information from the General Church and to speak from the subject, “Build An Altar” – Genesis 35:1-7. The Celebration continued with many former members joining in, participating in a reunion district choir concert and a celebration banquet. Although their stay was brief, the group was blessed by the fellowship of District President, Bishop J. Derrick Johnson, and the members of the District.

Due to covid concerns, the Western District held their Annual Convocation via Zoom this past July. Representatives from the 8 churches were in attendance as they discussed the theme, “The Word of the Lord” based on I Kings 17:1-16. Because of scheduling conflicts, no General Representative attended, but the membership from Arizona, Nevada and California, were inspired by the sound messages received. Under the leadership of their President, Bishop Dennis Ball, they continue to work together spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The time spent with in fellowship and worship with the South Carolina District in their 2022 Annual Convocation was a time of blessing for Bishop Ernestine McGee. As General Representative, Bishop McGee shared the information from the General Church which was well received by the District. She was accompanied by a large delegation from the Southern District-Goldsboro. The delegation was graciously received by District President, Bishop Terry McZeke and the membership who were most hospitable. The services were anointed and well attended.

Bishop Emory James was assigned as my emissary to the September 2022 Southern District-Goldsboro Convocation. He found the district hard at work, working smoothly under the leadership of its President, Bishop Devin C. Pickett. They have made some effective financial strides with the goal of early retirement of the Headquarters Mortgage. The district is developing an aggressive outreach program and there is great potential for new church growth in the near future.

Bishop Johnnie Felton represented the General Church at the Annual Convocation of the Southern District Henderson. The theme was “Reshaping the Vision”. It’s President, Bishop George Horton, enacted his plan to be a blessing to the churches in his district. Rather than receiving finances for himself, the funds were reinvested into working churches of the district. On Friday night, the District Annual Banquet was dedicated to being a blessing to a former District President, Bishop Jessie Jones.

Bishop Carolyn Horton was my emissary to the Virginia District (VACON) Convocation held in Roanoke, VA. She noted the outstanding services and the excellent fellowship. The theme was “Sowing Spiritual Seeds”. The Virginia District has made all its assessments to the General Church and has reported to the Partnership Program. During their Convocation, they specifically honored the life and service of their former President, the Late Bishop Hildred L. Perry who passed just a few days before the beginning of their Convocation.

General Vice President, Bishop Kenneth White served as the General Representative to the Western North Carolina District Convocation where the theme was “Keeping the Faith Through Challenging Times”. He reported that the Convocation was well attended and noted their unwavering support of the vision of their President, Bishop Gregory K. Hargrave. The work of the District in the area of Scholarship is to be commended. They were blessed to received one new church, New Life UHC, Bunnlevel, NC, into the District: to God Be The Glory.



I was personally able to visit the Annual Convocation of the Southeastern District, held in Eustis, FL. I found a well-attended Convocation; the local churches were well connected to the district, serving with great enthusiasm. The theme for their Convocation was “Reaching Forth” based on Philippians 3:13-14. After presenting the General Church information, we entered an “Ask the General President” session, where the members asked many challenging questions. Their chief concern was the leadership of their district once their current president ends her present tour of duty. At such time, the Presiding Prelate will assign a bishop to serve until such time as a qualified candidate is found within the District. An exciting Youth Night Service was held where the Holy Spirit drew 25 young people to the altar; many souls were saved and rededicated to the Lord. I am grateful for the kind hospitality of their President, Bishop Carolyn Horton, and the members of the District.

I was also blessed to visit the West Virginia District Convocation last August. Under the leadership of its President, Bishop Anthony Tucker, I found the district harmoniously working together. Each day the auxiliaries were responsible for the programming. Programming included a day in the park and a fellowship banquet to close out the Convocation. The members continue to celebrate the acquisition of their new Headquarters Building in Bluefield, WV, and are continually working on improvements to the property.

### **UHCA MISSIONS SUPPORT AROUND THE WORLD**

The United Holy Church of America, Inc. has been blessed to minister in several foreign fields, Trinidad, Tobago, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, the Philippines, Haiti, Ghana, Kenya, Panama; in Liberia, Zuo, Hayes and Salala Stations. We are happy to report that progressing and promoting Christianity when possible. We support them with funding for food and basic necessities. We have provided malaria nets, rice money and are currently supporting the Water Project at the Salala Mission Station. I want to thank all that make the sacrifice, dedicating their lives and those who make financial sacrifices in support of Missions.

We are grateful that Bishop Kenneth White has served as General Representative to the 6 churches in St. Lucia for many years. However, due to illness, he was unable to visit their annual meeting this year. Nevertheless, we are happy to report that the churches are continuing the work of the Lord under the leadership of Bishop Merlin Reece and are looking forward to Bishop White’s next scheduled visit in January 2024. He encourages all that are interested to join him to see your mission support in action.

A delegation of 10 persons accompanied me to Trinidad and Tobago in November. We were graciously received by Superintendent Terence Warner and Pastor Nathaniel Bowen who showed us great hospitality by providing transportation and showing us the beauty of the island. We were joined by Bishop St. Clair Howell, our General Representative for this annual meeting. We were able to view Nazareth UHC which suffered significant damage in the recent earthquake. We held services there and at Cunupia UHC. In the spirit of hospitality, the saints at Cunupia UHC set a table before us that was fit for a king. The services were a time of spiritual blessing, preaching, and anointing. Our visit was an encouragement to the membership, especially the youth who responded in a great way. We were able to leave a significant financial donation for the furtherance of the ministry.

Former President, Bishop Elijah Williams took time from his vacation schedule in February to visit St. Kitts. Accompanied by General Mother Williams, Bishop John Wright, and Lady Wright, they were met by Elder James Rollins, Pastor of Norwich UHC. Elder Rollins shared the beauty of the island with the group, sharing important historical information. Elder Rollins reported that both churches, Norwich and Zion Holiness UHC are doing well and periodically fellowship together. Expressing concerns as he grows older, Elder Rollins is asking for a possible replacement. Bishop Williams recommends biennial visits from UHC Representatives.

I want to thank our Bishop of Missions, Bishop Dennis Ball for his sacrifice of time, traveling extensively representing the United Holy Church in international areas. I am excited to report on some of his many journeys. As General Representative for Panama Fellowship, he is aided by Elder Nilka De Quinn, who serves as Assistant to the Bishop. Elder Quinn provides day to day oversight for the three churches comprising the Fellowship; two located in Panama and one in Honduras. Bishop Ball reports that 70-80 persons attended the Annual Conference this past October. The services were filled with joyous praise, and they were able to ordain a new deaconess in support of the continued work of the Lord.

We are happy to report that the work in the Ghana District continues as a legacy of the Late Bishop Robert Blount. Comprised of 85 local churches, The United Holy Church of Ghana, is legally recognized by the Ghanaian Government as an affiliation of The United Holy Church of America, Inc. Crowds of 300-400 delegates met in Accra, Ghana for their Convocation in September. The District operates as we do, with “Regional/District Elders” under the leadership of Elder Wisdom Akrofi Ocansey. The people are excited about Jesus and are carrying the message into Nigeria where several congregations are interested in coming under the flag of the United Holy Church. They are also linked in fellowship to



churches in Australia, Cameroon, and Ireland where interest in the United Holy Church is also expressed. Bishop Ball plans to visit Nigeria on his next visit.

Bishop Ball visited the United Holy Church of Kenya for their Annual Convocation in November in Kissi, Kenya. Again, crowds of 300 delegates came together in joyful praise, singing and dancing before the Lord. The Assistant to the Bishop, Elder Joash Morgire Orwochi is committed to the cause of Christ. He is willing to make the dangerous move of taking the Gospel into the Muslim region of Malindi. They are grateful for donations sent from the General Missionary Department for mosquito nets protecting and saving many lives.

Bishop Ball was accompanied to the Philippine Convocation by Bishop Johnnie and Lady Felton earlier this month. Bishop Felton gave the opening message in Pozorrubio, Pangasinan, 5 hours from Manila. The church was filled to capacity every night with 60 people sitting outside on Sunday. The District is thriving with Elder Joseph Bumallai serving as Assistant to the Bishop. With the ordination of 4 new young Elders, the work of the Lord is assured to continue reaching souls for Christ.

The work of the Lord continues in Haiti coordinated by Superintendent, Elder Wilson Bertrand, a native and our ambassador to the island nation. Working with our 5 local pastors, the General Missionary Department provides funding to meet the humanitarian needs on the island ravaged by internal unrest. Please keep the people of Haiti in your prayers.

I want to thank God for the sacrificial gift of our full-time Missionaries, Bishop Raymond Johnson and Mother Lois Hayes who serve in Liberia, to our retired Missionaries, and all those who have given their time for short term mission visits. As you can see, the flag of The United Holy Church of America, Inc. is flying high, beneath the banner of the Cross, not just in America, but around the World. Your continued support of Missions is urgent!!!

### **“KEEP IT MOVING” in 2023**

There are many issues facing us as we minister in this trying age. Recovery from the effects of the pandemic has left multiple scars on our efforts. People are slow in returning to public assembly; some out of fear, while some have changed their mode of worship and enjoy the comfort of home worship, the pajama ministry. We must use common sense in our assembling and be aware of the needs of our fellow worshippers. Protect your brothers and sisters from you. We must be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. Although the way we minister has changed, the message is still the same – We Preach The Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I encourage you to “Keep it Moving”; grow closer to God. Keep it moving in the study of the Word and in your prayer life. Keep It Moving in outreach. Rebuild your fellowship with the membership. Be prayerful for and uphold the arms of your ministry gifts. Pray for all your leaders, your bishops, and the General Church. Appreciate and invest in the present generation/the youth among us who are essential for the survival of our congregations.

With so much unrest on the world stage such as in Russia, Ukraine, North Korea, Sudan and China, we must shore up our solid faith foundation and seek the guidance of the Almighty God. We must find a way to get guns off the streets and out of the hands of people who are irrational or have mental illnesses. We must be safe in schools, churches, religious buildings, movie theatres, shopping centers, grocery stores, and other public and private spaces. We’ve got to bridge the gaps in the racial divide by joining hands with people of all races. We can’t be separated by red and blue states. We can’t let those with far-flung notions and ideas from the left or the right control our actions. We can’t allow lies and untruths to replace truth and common sense. We must all be willing to stand and support those things that are right and just and true and make us better. There are no them and us, for there is only one heaven and one hell. And if we’re not careful, we’ll go to hell harboring ill feelings toward our brethren. We’ve got work to do; we have souls to reach. We must be like Jesus. The song says, “To be like Jesus, to be like Jesus, how I long to be like Him. So meek and lowly, so high and holy; how I long to be like Him.” Jesus was so willing to make things better, that he obeyed the will of the Father and gave his life. We must unite and stand tall together in every area of the Church in order for us to move forward with the speed of “a single bound” and do the work assigned to our hands.

Faithfully Submitted,



The Most Reverend Harry L. Cohen





# **ELECT**

**BISHOP J. DERRICK**

# JOHNSON

**CANDIDATE FOR GENERAL 2ND VICE PRESIDENT  
UNITED HOLY CHURCH OF AMERICA, INC.**

## **PERSONAL**

**Married 32 years  
Father of two**

## **MINISTRY**

**33 years of ministry  
4th generation pastor  
19 years as a pastor  
15 years in the Northwestern District Administration  
7 years as president of the Northwestern District  
Consecrated as Bishop in 2014  
Elected to the General Board of Bishops in 2016**

## **EDUCATION**

**B.S. Journalism/Public Relations,  
Maryland University, College Park, MD - 1990**

**M.Div., Howard University School of Divinity,  
Washington, D.C. - 1994**

**D.Min., United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH - 2010**

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**INNOVATIVE | CREATIVE | COMMITTED**





The United Holy Church of America

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FALL 2023**  
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**ELECT**

BISHOP JB

**FELTON**

Candidate for 2nd Vice President

**"I'VE LEARNED TO SERVE BY SERVING"**

**SUB-DISTRICT LEVEL**

Treasurer Tidewater YPHA

Vice President Tidewater Sub-District

Pastor of Morning Star UHC for 30 years

**VIRGINIA DISTRICT**

Chairman of Department of Evangelism

Board of Presbytery for 18 years

District Elder for 16 years

Board of Elders 1 year

Chairman of Board of District Elders for 4 years

2nd Vice President of VACON

Vice President of VACON

**GENERAL LEVEL**

Vice Chair of Department of Evangelism

Chairman of Department of Evangelism

Assisting with the Bishop of Missions

Worked for 10 years serving/sending short term missions to Mexico with Spanish American Missions Inc.

**EDUCATION**

Bachelor of Science Old Dominion University  
in Counseling, double minor in Sociology and Criminal Justice

M.Div Norfolk Theological Seminary and College

D. Min Norfolk Theological Seminary and College

M. Div Virginia Union University

**PERSONAL/OTHER ENDEAVORS**

Married for 30 years

Successful business owner for 14 years

Successful national karate tournament promoter for 11 years

Member of JCOB

Received episcopacy training with/under Ecclesiastical Institute

**PLEASE ALLOW ME TO KEEP SERVING YOU!**





*District President  
Rt. Rev. Kenneth White*

**REBOOT**  
**104th Annual**  
**CONVOVATION**

For some this was a Convocation and to others a Con-vacation but whatever one's position, it was a service of contemplation and motivation. The 104th Northern District Convocation began Wednesday, June 21 and culminated Sunday, June 25, 2023, at the Live Hotel in the heart of beautiful Arundel Mills Shopping Mall in Hanover, Maryland.

These five days were packed with fellowship, food, fun, and non-stop word from the Lord Jesus Christ through various speakers. The theme, "Reboot," taken from Isaiah 43:18-19 fueled the fire for the anointed ministry of our dynamic Northern District Administration – Vice President Bishop Wayne Bullock and recently installed Bishop and Administrative Assistant Anthony Gilmore III. Further fireball frenzy came from pastors Rev. Dr. L. Frazier White of Faith Tabernacle in Washington, D.C. and Elder Albert Holden of New Pentecostal in Wilmington, Delaware.

Some of our United Holy Church of America honored guests were General Representative and 2nd Vice President, and Western North Carolina President, Bishop Greg K. Hargrave, and Bishop Anthony M. Tucker, Sr., West Virginia District President.

Archbishop Alfred Owens of Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church, Washington, D.C., preached the word of God on our Interfaith Fellowship Night on Friday; and (the son of our dearly beloved, the late Elder Harold B. Hayes, Sr.) Pastor of Real Power A.M.E. Church, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Rev. Dr. Harold B. Hayes, Jr., preached the word during our Ordination Service held for the first time on a Saturday evening.

Distinguished ladies of the Northern District, headed by Elect Lady Margarita L. White, Elder Sheila Bowens-Kelsey, and Lady Cynthia Jackson hosted an elegant Tea and Fashion Show on Saturday afternoon. While we love hearing the word of God and fellowshiping with spiritual veterans and newcomers, the core of the Northern District Administration is prayer and evangelism. Elder Dorothy Kelley of Holy Tabernacle in Elisabeth, New Jersey, and her team laid the foundation and seeded the ground every



*District Vice President  
Bishop Wayne Bullock*



morning with prayer. In the stillness of the auditorium there were pockets of prayer ascending from various groups, miraculous healing, and deliverance.

Elder Darnell Harper, Evangelism Department Chairman and Pastor of New Covenant Temple in Harlem USA, took the Convocation message outside the walls of The Live Hotel. He and his team composed of men, women and their children, brought ministry to the unchurched on Saturday afternoon during our respite between services. Inclement weather caused an initial cancelation of Elder Harper's Street Team ministry. However, he was undaunted and relentless, packing several cars with teams of prayer warriors despite the torrential downpour. They parked and prayed at several Baltimore area intersections. Once the rain let up, the team hit the streets, laying hands, and praying for men, women, and families who were distressed and discontented.

We were further blessed by our District President, Bishop Kenneth White, who functions in several offices as pastor/executive, preacher, teacher, exhorter, and occasional comic. He shared his ministry gifts throughout Convocation, but on Official Day his most prolific gift of prophecy was in full operation. He prophesied to us from Isaiah 43:18-19 that if we engaged in what he called a "Reboot," we would see an awesome move of God.

In everyday vernacular Reboot means to reload the operating system of a computer: to start it up again. Booting is starting a computer's operating system, so rebooting is to start it for a second or third time. Rebooting is usually necessary after a computer crashes, meaning it stops working because of a malfunction. This term relates primarily to electronic and electrical subject matter, but Bishop White likened it to the spiritual. He addressed how during the Pandemic we had to shut down, but God did not say to remain shut down. Instead, this was a time to reboot and power up again. A few of Bishop White's in-depth talking points were:

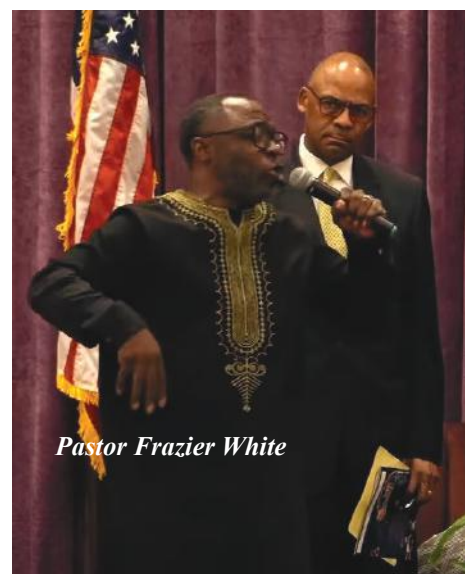
*(1) Before you reboot you must lose weight. For many of us here in America, this is a physical admonishment, but he was primarily speaking about spiritual weight loss. When Paul tells us in Hebrews 12:1, to "...lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth easily beset us, ..." he was calling for a reboot. He was calling the people to disconnect to reconnect. Paul asserted that a deliberate decision would yield a permanent change. There's a difference between weights and sins. Weights might not specifically be named in the Bible, but they can like incessant gossiping, be as detrimental as any sin.*

*(2) Follow God and not tradition. This does not mean we should throw away our history or teachings, but it also does not mean we should become legalistic either. Know what to hold onto and what to jettison – indeed let go of the religiosity. Bishop White said, "God put in His word a map for us to follow. Yet, every generation has tested the boundaries, putting their foot out to see how far they can go." But success lies in our steps being ordered by the Lord.*

*(3) If we are going to get a reboot, we need to confess our sins and our weights. We need a restart which is more than a jump and a shout. If we are going to serve God, some things need to change. The Church needs to change with a reboot across the board. Sometimes a soft reboot (pressing the power button) is needed, and other times a hard reboot is needed where you completely shut off everything by pulling the plug.*



Rev. Dr. Harold Hayes Jr.



Pastor Frazier White



Pastor Albert Holden



## NORTHERN DISTRICT



*Bishop Anthony Gilmore*

Bishop White's further admonition was for us to "stop walking around acting like everything is alright." Sometimes we need help by going right to the main power source – God. During a power outage if you shut off the main circuit breakers and attempt to turn them back on without a healthy respect for electricity, you could find yourself in a horizontal position permanently. Connect to God the right way through prayer and supplication. Reboot, unplug, and make necessary changes even if some have a problem with it. "When you get back home, tell members there is a fresh move of God on its way," Bishop stated. "Let it go – It's a new season coming your way. It's a new day," he emphasized.

Bishop White said, God told Isaiah in Chapter 43 to hang in there. I'm about to turn the tide. "I'm telling my pastors the tide is turning in your favor," Bishop White reminded

leaders. God said tell the people, "Do not be afraid! I have called you by name." Like any decent mother of twins who knows her children distinctively no matter how identical they are, God will not mix up any two persons' blessings. "I know who mine are," saith the Lord. What God has prepared for your ministry does not necessitate your tearing down another's to be successful. Be grounded in the things of God and stop treating each other poorly. "Hold on until God moves," Bishop White continued to admonish.

In conclusion Bishop White underscored the existence of a prong called the grounding switch. It is common knowledge that one should not be near a water source without some type of ground. Yet, God promised when you pass through the water, He will ground in Him – you will not be alone; and through the rivers, you won't drown because He will be your lifeguard: when you walk through the fire, you will not get burned or singed for He will make you fireproof. Bishop White ended, "When you get back to your church, ask God to give you a plan." Somebody is waiting for news and getting discouraged. Somebody left a moment too soon. Granted there are minds you will never change, but God said, "I'll make a way in the wilderness."

Bishop White encouraged us to "Redeem the time – walk inside and outside of your churches and declare rivers. Go back and declare rivers through your deserts, your wilderness, and watch those dry places become fertile." "You are pregnant with purpose, and your water is about to break so do not panic! God is coming through that dry place and will restore power once you Reboot!"

*By Elder Kim Jenkins*



*Archbishop  
Alfred Owens*



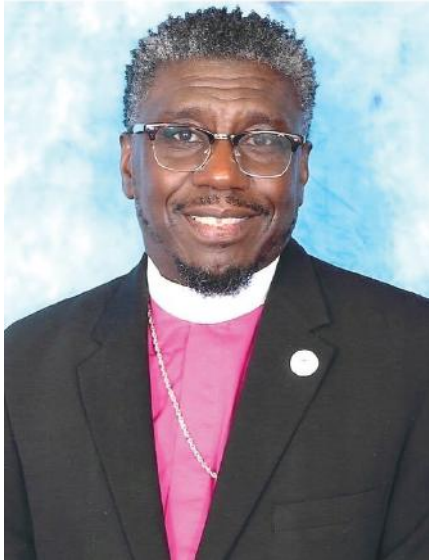
*Pastor  
Glover  
gets his  
dance on*





## AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDING PRELATE OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT GOLDSBORO

By Elder Barbaina Houston-Black



I had the distinct honor and pleasure to interview the Presiding Prelate of the Southern District Goldsboro. He has the wisdom of Solomon, the determination of Nehemiah, and he loves people like Christ. He has the strength of Samson and the tenacity of

King David. Some may have written him off, but God has always written him in. As I examine his life and how he rose up in the ranks, you will see how God has always written of him in every script and chapter of his life.

Whom much is given, much is required, so it is with Bishop Devin C. Pickett. He became the Presiding Prelate of The Southern District Goldsboro after the death of Bishop Ralph E. Love in 2021. Prior to him holding that position, he inherited the position of Vice President after the death of Bishop Garner in 2019. He ran for Second Vice President in 2016 and won. What a world wind of events.

Bishop Pickett began his ministry at the early age of nine years old. Some may have considered him as being too young, but God did not think he was too young. Just like he called Jeremiah, he called Bishop Pickett.

Bishop Pickett was always in the presence of elder ministers, whom he credited for teaching him wisdom. Wisdom, knowledge and understanding were the things Bishop Pickett always prayed and asked God for. God has always guided him to great mentors who influenced him to preach, reach, and teach.

He pursued his elder licensure from the United Holy Church of America Southern District and was rejected three times. The Board of Presbytery thought he was too young. His aunt convinced him to try one more time, because God did not think he was too young. The Presbytery Board finally licensed him. That same board that thought he was too young, is the same board where he later became chairman.

He held his first pastoral position at the ripe age of twenty-two. Bishop Pickett worked his way up through the ranks. He served the Carolina District faithfully. He pastored in the Carolina District and worked diligently in the YPHA Department. He served as the Vice President and moved up to President. He was a field worker for the Southern District

and was the last vice president of the General YPHA before the reunification of the United Holy Church of America. He served as a District Elder for the Carolina District, and served on the Board of Presbytery and was chair until he became Second Vice President of the Southern District Goldsboro.

Bishop Pickett is committed. He attends all meetings, conventions and even convocations. Yes, during convocations his parents would get him out of school to attend when he was school age.

I asked Bishop Pickett what his vision was for the Southern District Goldsboro. He stated that his top priority is Evangelism. He believes if we win souls to Christ, then Christ will take care of us which includes providing financially. He wants to plant more churches which includes winning more souls. He also wants to complete the vision of the late Bishop Love and get rid of the debt to include paying off Love Temple. Bishop Pickett would like to see all pastors, elders, and ministers trained properly. Bishop Pickett said, "The Southern District Goldsboro must be transparent and accountable."

Bishop Pickett revitalized the General Education Department and the Evangelism Department. This will ensure that his vision for the Southern District comes to fruition.

Bishop Pickett is a family man. He married elect lady Sharon McAllister Pickett and she is the love of his life. They are the parents of three wonderful children Devin Jr, Daviva and Daveon and proud grandparents as well.

God has blessed us with a visionary, a true leader, and a transparent bishop to lead the Southern Goldsboro.

I present to you Bishop Devin C. Pickett.





# ***Celebrating 108 Years***

## **St. John's United Holy Church Richmond, VA**

*Submitted  
by Viola Williams*

**“Building an Expected Future, While Celebrating the Past”  
Psalms 100:5 & Hebrews 13:7**

On Sunday, July 9, 2023, St. John's United Holy Church of America celebrated 108 years of providing sanctuary in the Kingdom of God. It was a beautiful day with blue skies and fluffy white clouds. They seemed to celebrate right along with us. And celebrate we did! Saints and friends came from far and near to share the joy. The anniversary choir, under the direction of Sister Rochelle Turnage and Minister of Music, Elder Charlene Watkins, sang the beautiful songs of Zion and lifted us to heights of praises. Our guest worship leader, Minister Wanda Martin, from Ashland Christian Family Life Center, exalted God throughout the service.

The featured preacher for this event was Elder Antonio Gardner, pastor of Rose of Sharon UHC, Suffolk, VA. He has attended the United Christian Institute, University of Maryland, Big Ben Community College (Maryland), Studied Electronics and graduated from the United States Army Chaplain School/Medical Ministry Team. He is a 27yr Retiree from the United States Army Active/Reserve (April 2014), and a 29yr Retiree as the Maintenance Manager for the United States Postal Service (July 2022).

Mother Patricia Lilly and Dr. Lena H. Thompson, both lifelong members of St. John's, collaborated to create an extraordinary historical presentation. Mother Lilly created the theme banner and the posters (see the pictures), and Dr. Thompson penned the timely verbal accompaniment below:

*Church Anniversary 108 years, July, 2023  
Decade by Decade Historical Presentation*

*1st Decade – 1915-1925: 29th and “M” street, and Franklin place of worship; Street Corner Ministry 17th and Franklin; 27th and “U”; Pastors William Fountain, Joseph Silver- from corner to new church building on 28th Street; Sign, ‘No women preachers allowed’. It was during the roaring twenties and so one woman in St. John's was roaring and soaring; led to begin a new church and others followed.*

*2nd Decade – 1925-1935: Bishop William Clements' years – from homes to building, church growth, first deacons ordained, Sunday School, YPHA, Missionary Circle. Members worked toward a new church building, “Brick by Brick”, selling paper bricks.*

*3rd Decade – 1935-1945: Many auxiliaries came into existence; Senior Choir, Usher Boards, Pastor's Aide*

*4th Decade and 5th Decade: St. John's goes to greater heights with statewide and National Officers from our local church*

*6th Decade - 1955-1965: Elder James P. Jackson – Youth Department flourished (green robes), Gospel Choir (gold robes); first organ purchased. Pastor, great cook and musician.*

*7th Decade – 1965-1975: Dr. James A. Forbes – music ministry thrived under the leadership of his wife, Bettye, trained and gifted. Introduced our yearly concerts and choir studio recordings. city-wide and community presence, fellowship ecumenically, opened a daycare.*

*8th Decade – 1975-1985: Pastor Tyler Millner/Bishop Albert Augson – Church administration organized, especially finances; extension of community presence and involvement in social issues; liquidation of church mortgage, purchasing of abandoned surrounding property.*

*9th Decade – 1985-1995: St. John's moving forward in expansion and growth – church parking lot, security, installation of wheelchair ramp, fellowship with other churches (Central Sub- District Fellowship)*

*10th Decade – 1995-2005: Church van*

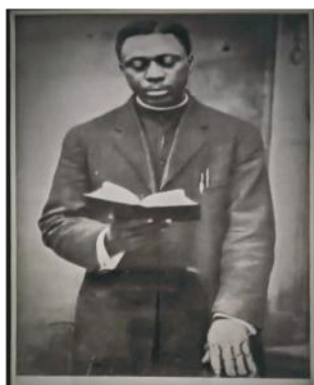
*11th Decade 2005: Requested and rejected {no women deacons}; conference call 6a.m. prayer line.*

*12th Decade – 2015-present: 2015 celebrating 100 years, first woman pastor (Dr. Mary Young) and first women deacons, (a woman is now chair of the board); COVID changed the way we worship, hybrid, Tech Team; Zoom and in-person; daily prayer via conference call; 2nd woman pastor (Elder Viola Williams)*

Our anchor holds as we celebrate our glorious and rich past while expecting a future, remembering those before who have spoken the Word of God! Thank you, Dr. Thompson.



## St. John's Pastors - - - Down Through the Years



Rev. William Fountain  
1915-1919



Elder Joseph Silver  
1919-1921



Bishop William Clements  
1921 - 1959



Elder J.P. Jackson  
1960 - 1965



Rev. Dr. James Forbes  
1965 - 1973



Rev. Tyler Millner  
1974 - 1979



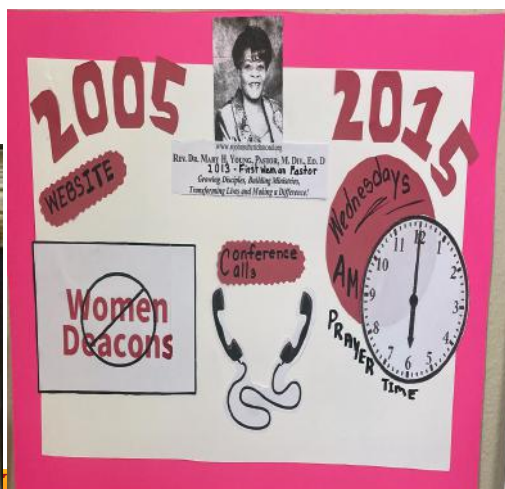
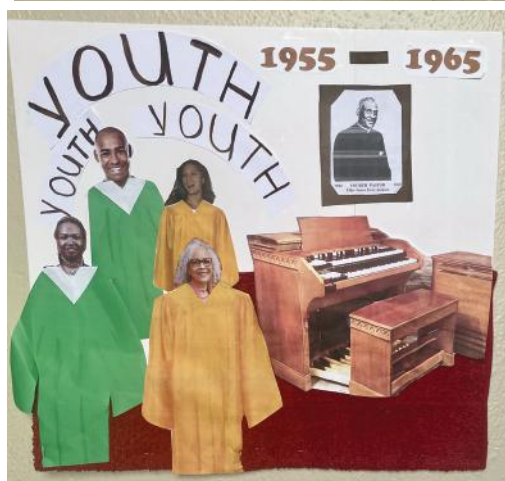
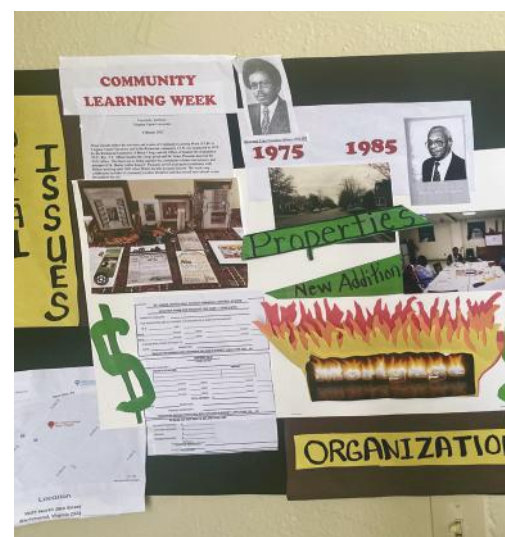
Bishop Albert Augson  
1983 - 2010



Rev. Dr. Mary Young  
2013 - 2017



Elder Viola Williams  
2020 - Present





# VACON IN THE MOUNTAINS!

The majestic mountains of Roanoke, Virginia served as backdrop for the 55th Virginia District Convocation, June 28 – July 1, 2023. Traveling westward and viewing the grandeur of the handiwork of God served to set the tone even before we arrived at the Holiday Inn Tanglewood.

Our outstanding Program Committee chose “The Great Escape” as this year’s theme, with Psalms 124:1-7 and II Peter 2:9 as reference scriptures. Throughout the Convocation, this theme was preached, and taught, and received, and enjoyed by all. This Convocation proved to be a wonderful experience of fellowship and reunion with saints from all over the state and beyond.

VACON 2023 ushered in another first. Under the watchful eye of Naval Intelligence Officer Charles Talley, U.S. Navy (Ret) who also serves as VACON Trustee, Head of Security, and Chair of the Veterans’ Ministry, the Virginia District Convocation participated in the Presenting of the Colors – the placing of the Christian flag and the American Flag. He was assisted by SFC Gwendolyn Lawrence, U.S. Army (Ret) and GySgt. John T. Williams, U.S. Marines (Ret).

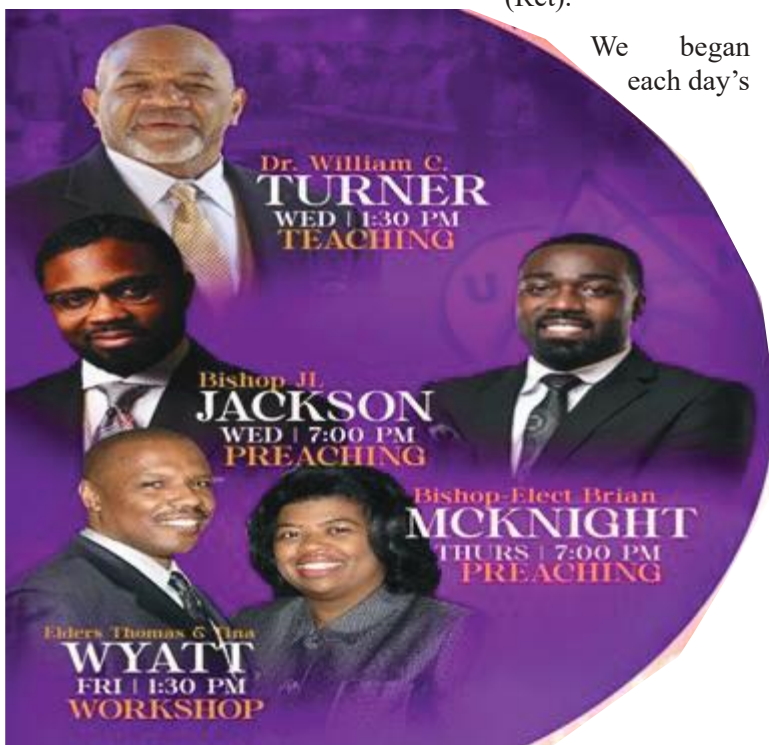


session with early morning prayer under the leadership of Elder Darlene Banks. On Wednesday morning we were blessed with a prayer of dedication, consecration, and healing led by the Evangelism Department Chair, Elder Michael Jackson. A dynamic doctrinal hour facilitated by our Vice President, Bishop Johnnie B. Felton, encouraged and stimulated the congregation. His topic was, “The Doctrine of Holiness Packaged for the 21st Century”. With

ministers in full regalia, we celebrated the Holy Eucharist. The homily, powerfully delivered by our Second Vice President, Dr. Donald Williams, was simply titled, “Remember” as he used I Corinthians 11:23-34 as text reference. In the afternoon, our esteemed guest, Dr. William C. Turner, Jr., presented a powerful lecture entitled, “The Great Escape: From Temptation to Resistance”. He shared many thought-provoking points, some of which were nostalgic, some motivated, in all we rejoiced! Then there was the Wednesday night session. Our guest preacher was Bishop J.L. Jackson, pastor of ReFreshing Church, Roanoke VA. He preached, “A Public Praise for a Private Deliverance”. Oh my, oh my! What a Word from the Lord!

Elder Charles Allen started Thursday, the second day of VACON, with a powerful and exciting Morning Meditation. Later, the Mothers’ Board chose the First Lady of the Virginia District, Dr. Sandra Bridy, as speaker for their hour. The theme was “Iron Sharpens Iron”. Then, preaching during the Missionary Department time, Elder Angela Dones, Supply Pastor of St. Paul’s UHC, Roxboro, North Carolina, spoke from Ruth 1:1-6 using the subject, “From Bitterness to Better”. In the afternoon the president of the Virginia District Convocation shared the State of the Virginia District Address. As is President Bridy’s forté, the address was all-encompassing, complimentary, and in it he voiced appreciation to everyone who continues to work to make VACON excellent. Our General Church Representative for this year was Bishop Anthony Tucker of the West Virginia District. After sharing pertinent information from the General Church, he shared the Word with the title, “Surviving Lack” from I Kings 17:1. Following the sermon, Dr. Willie Lewis, from United Christian College, shared that UCC, now in reconstruction stage, is offering virtual classes internationally; and Dr. Clarence Toomer

We began each day’s





gave very timely remarks. He also presented his new book to Bishop Fred Bridy. The book is titled, "United and Holy: A Concise Revisionist History of an Organization at the Crossroads in 21st Century Ministry. Thursday night was YOUTH NIGHT!! The Lord used Bishop-Elect Brian McKnight, pastor of Transformation Community Church, Latta, South Carolina, to preach "Misrepresentation" from John 10:7-10. The atmosphere was charged, and the people were stirred. There was shouting and running and dancing and praising God.

On Friday morning, Pastor Janie Mitchell, of Rock of Ages UHC in Tappahannock, VA brought morning meditation titled, "Are You Really Free?" from II Corinthians 3:12-18. The people were challenged by the Word. Following the business session, Elders Thomas and Tina Wyatt ministered to the congregation with information on how to stay mentally healthy. The Wyatts are owners of T&T Counseling & Consultation Services, PLLC. Their mission is simple, "To see, support and solve like Christ".

Friday night, with its pomp and circumstance, was official night. The Right Reverend Fred L. Bridy, Sr., president of the Virginia District Convocation, spoke to the Convocation from the Word of God. The Lord used him mightily as he preached, "From Bondage to Freedom" from Genesis 50:50:15-20. The congregation was richly blessed and uplifted as they remembered their Christian journey.

Finally, it was Ordination Day! The Board of Presbytery, with Pastor Patricia Fordham as chair, presented candidates for ecclesiastical offices. The preacher for the morning was



Elder Clinton Banks, pastor of New Mount Carmel UHC in Sedley, VA. He was very energetic as he encouraged the candidates with the subject, "Don't Play into the Hands of Others: Be an Individual for Christ". The other highlight of this grand day was the awarding of the certificates to the new elders, the new deacons, and to those who exchanged licenses. We pray for them as they venture into new challenges and new victories for the Kingdom.

This has been a wonderful Virginia District Convocation. We offer kind thanks to visitors who came to spend time with us: Rt. Rev. Gregory Hargrave, Rt. Rev. Anthony Tucker, Bishop Jones, Bishop Davis, Dr. Ron Bigelow, Dr. Melvin Jones, Dr. Clarence Toomer, Dr. Robert Lewis, Sister Louise Bagley, the Sheriff of Roanoke County, and others.

To the VACON Administration, Board of Elders, Board of Presbytery, Finance Department, Board of District Elders, Trustees, Program Committee, Secretaries, Elect Ladies, Department Heads, and to all others, thank you for all you do. We are excellent as we work together for the good of the Kingdom of God.

It was great to be in Roanoke, Virginia to enjoy the Virginia District Convocation and to learn more about how to make a great escape from temptation to resistance, from lack to abundance, and from bondage to freedom. Join us June 26 - 29, 2024 in Richmond, Virginia and we experience VACON all over again!





## *The Right Reverend Newton Alexander Pullian*

*The Right Reverend Newton Alexander Pullian, Sr. began his earthly journey on November 15, 1932, in Gisville, Georgia. His parents were Anna Davis and Tom Lipscomb. They had to struggle with the economic reality of the Great Depression but also with the inhumanity of segregation in the South.*

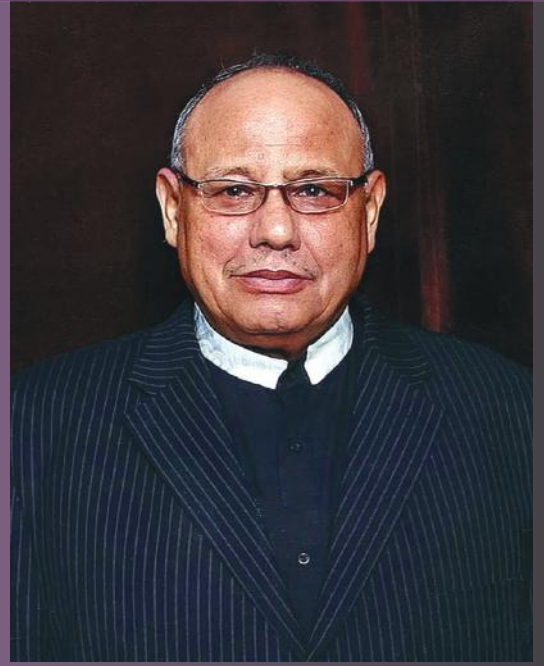
*The family was forced to move to Philadelphia after a tornado ripped through Gisville. After the family settled in Philadelphia, Newton's mother died when he was just five years old. Despite this unpromising beginning, Newton's life was proof that our past does not have the last word. Newton and his three younger siblings, Samuel, Oliver, and Bertha had the good fortune of a loving grandmother, Bertha Davis, and an aunt, Willie Mae Scott, who provided love and care. Home was the 2200 block of North 19th Street where neighbors helping each other was a way of life. On the block, the Nicholson family became a very special part of Newton's life. Deacon John Henry Nicholson was like a father to Newton, teaching him about good character and the value of hard work. The Nicholson boys were Newton's best friends. However, it would be Naomi Nicholson, who would capture Newton's heart.*

*Newton and his childhood friends spent much of their time at Mt. Pisgah UHC just a few blocks from home. As a young boy, Newton had already developed a passion for the things of God. When he and his friends were in the church sanctuary with no adults around, Newton would pretend he was a preacher delivering a rousing sermon.*

*Newton was educated in the Philadelphia public schools, and following graduation from high school, was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Newton was quickly promoted to sergeant, and it was apparent that he had a promising military career ahead of him. While home on furlough, Newton went to a church at Mt. Pisgah and Naomi was there and that day was the beginning of a 65-year romance. They married on August 6, 1955. Newton's military career was taking off. The new couple's first assignment was in Arkansas. Newton and Naomi did not have first-hand experience with segregation. When*

*the train taking them to Arkansas hit the Mason-Dixon line the Black passengers had to move to the "colored only" section in the back of the train. And when the train was several miles from the Arkansas destination, the Black passengers had to walk the final miles to the station. Undeterred, Naomi told Newton, "As long as I'm with you, I can make it."*

*While the time in Arkansas was difficult, it also was a blessed time the couple celebrated the birth of their first child, Yvette. In 1958, the couple excitedly welcomed their second daughter; and they named her Denise. In the summer of 1961, Naomi gave birth to their third child, a son they named Newton as he was the spitting image of his father. Their fourth child was born in 1965 and they named*







him Erick, And while stationed in Honolulu, their baby girl, Nicholle, was born.

*The family moved more than a dozen times and it had been Naomi's task to pack and move them to the next place they would call home. With Naomi's steadfast love and support, Newton's military life would take him from a segregated train in Arkansas to a leadership role at the Pentagon.*

*In 1956, Newton received orders to relocate from Arkansas to Germany. After completion of the tour in Germany, the family moved to Fort Riley, Kansas and then to Fort Carson, Colorado. Newton was subsequently ordered to Korea, and then had a short tour of duty in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. In 1962, Newton received orders to report back to Germany. After completion of this tour, the family moved back to Fort Sill. Newton's military career proceeded along a fast trajectory. In 1967, Newton received the dreaded order to report for combat duty in Vietnam. He was a Battalion Command Sergeant Major during the Tet Offensive, and later served on General William Westmoreland's staff. He traveled the world with Westmoreland and received numerous commendations and awards, including the Bronze Star for bravery and exceptional achievement.*

*After a year of combat duty, the family received the good news that their next stop was Hawaii where Newton would carry out his duties as a Brigade Command*

*Sergeant Major. Newton's final assignment took him and Naomi to the Pentagon where he served in leadership roles, helped author new regulations for volunteer service, and was awarded the Army Legion of Merit. While dutifully serving his country, he earned a doctorate in military science. Newton retired from the military after 22 years.*

*After his retirement, Newton returned to Philadelphia and embarked on a second career in banking. As Assistant VP of Operations, Newton is credited with hiring the institution's first Black bank teller and increasing the representation of Black employees throughout the organization.*

*The stability that came with Newton's retirement from military service also allowed him to fulfill the call to full-time ministry. As Pastor and First Lady, Newton and Naomi ministered at First Pentecostal Church in Philadelphia, New Hope Church in Delaware, and Littles Memorial Temple in Philadelphia. In 2010 he was consecrated as Bishop in the United Holy Church of America. Newton's life experience that included tremendous loss and suffering, as well as great blessings, made him a powerful and courageous preacher and a warm and compassionate pastor.*

*Bishop Pullian brought his knowledge and acumen in finance to the United Holy Church of America, first in the Northern District and then to General Church. He overhauled the*





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Its rising is from one  
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Psalm 19:6

