

Make Known His Deeds Among His People

HOLINESS UNION

WINTER 2023/24

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE UNITED HOLY CHURCH OF AMERICA

2024

2023



**GENERAL FATHER
BISHOP JESSE JONES**

**NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT
CONVOCATION**

**GENERAL ELECTION
INFORMATION**

SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 29TH - MAY 5TH



BISHOP COHEN
PRESIDING PRELATE

BISHOP WHITE
VICE PRESIDENT

BISHOP HARGRAVE
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

32ND

THE UNITED HOLY CHURCH OF AMERICA, INC.

QUADRENNIAL *Convocation*

KEEPING THE STANDARD OF HOLINESS
WITHOUT COMPROMISE

5104 DUNSTAN ROAD, GREENSBORO, NC 27405



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

THE HOLINESS UNION

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FATHER JESSE JONES
PRESIDENT ROBERT ROLLINS

Published By
The United Holy Church
of America, Inc.

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Vice President
Rt. Rev. Kenneth White

2nd Vice President
Rt. Rev. Gregory Hargrave

Bishop of Publications
Rt. Rev. Clifton Buckrham

Editor-In-Chief
Elder Timothy W. Lewis

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Mr. Ernest C. Turner III



THE EDITOR'S BRIEF

hu.editor@uhcainc.org

Our time here is coming to its conclusion. Still, the call goes out for those who would work in this venue and serve the church. If there any questions about these requirements please feel free to contact me.

The Spirit reminded me that the blessings we often receive don't come when we expect them. We don't often see what God has in store for us when certain doors close. Sometimes the doors close with tears. He often has to move us from comfortable surroundings to take us to promised land. And sometimes they move is not comfortable. God shows He sees what we don't. He knows the times and seasons that usually blurred to us. Remember that is what faith is for. When we must trust and please Him in that trust. That is not the case for me here, but just a word for whoever needs it. God bless.

Elder Timothy W. Lewis



The Prelate

Greetings to the Beloved of the Lord!

I am grateful to God for giving me the opportunity to glorify our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We have come this far by faith. Our testimony has to give all the glory and honor to the Lord for allowing us this moment in time to encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ. Every day above ground and in our right mind deserves a series of praises to our Great Lord and Savior.

This past year has been both challenging and productive. We experienced great loss in the ranks of leadership as well as in servanthood. This requires the reluctant stepping up of those followers to maintain the continuity of operation in our great Church. We should pause and recall the labor of love and longevity of so many wonderful servants in our vicinity and throughout the Church. When one recalls the labor of love shared by those members and ministers in our area, we should pause and give thanks for their labor and many sacrifices which helped keep the lights on or enriched the faithfulness of so many. We should offer open thanksgiving for helping to keep the flow of the church. Then, you should follow their lead and begin doing all that you can, to do the same things to encourage the membership to be faithful to the work of the Lord. Keep the Lord's work, progressively moving forward in your territory for Him.

I am still giving thanks and other accolades to Pastor James Perkins and the wonderful congregation, at Victory Tabernacle Church, Garner, NC for their most outstanding hospitality and servanthood during our 2023 Mid-Year Conference in October. The Church facility and spiritual atmosphere caused every part of the meeting to move fluidly. If you are ever in the Garner area on US 70 East towards Raleigh, NC, slow down and make a left turn into the parking lot and the rest will be the blessings of the Lord. Again, thank you Pastor James Perkins and all officers and members for expressing the Love of God in your actions and deeds. If you were not there for whatever reason, please ask someone who was able to attend to tell you about their experience.

In May 2024, many of the serving officers, i.e., General President of the Church, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, President of Missionary Department, and other officers will step aside. Other qualified brothers and sisters will be voted upon to carry on the work of the Lord's Church.

On April 29 through May 5, 2024, I will bring my tenure as President to an end. During the May 5th service, I will pass the Mantle of Leadership as General President to Bishop Gregory K. Hargrave. I am praying for a successful transfer of power with a pledge to continuously stand ready to uplift the arms of our General President in the same manner as you have done for Elder Linda Cohen and me. Let us put these dates on necessary calendars to remind us of these special historic events. I am excited about what the Lord is going to do for those who will follow in leadership.

I solicit your prayers and support that our Church will be able to do great exploits for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Lift holy hands with intention. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: looking diligently less



any man fail of the grace of God,
lest any root of bitterness springing up
trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; lest
there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau,
who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.” (Hebrews
12:14-16 KJV)

Make plans to be with us this coming March
for the Bishops Council & Education
Conference and in April/May 2024 for Quadrennial
Convocation. Brother Carlton Morrison has made
accommodations available at several hotels very near
the Headquarters for your convenience.

Elder Linda Cohen and I would love to see
you at the Farewell Gala, May 4th. This
will be a time of reminiscing and fellowship.

It is our prayer that the Lord will bless you and
heal you in your body, soul, and spirit. We pray
that you prosper and be in health as your souls
shall prosper.

I also pray that you will work diligently in the area
of evangelism and win the lost at any cost. Fight
the good fight of faith. Never give up until the
victory is won.

And now, may God be with you until we may
worship together as saints of The Most High
God.

Sincerely,

Bishop Harry L. Cohen

hlcohen@uhcainc.org

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

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN THE



UNITED HOLY CHURCH OF AMERICA INC.
AS WE CELEBRATE THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS OF

THE MOST REVEREND
Harry L.
COHEN

RETIRING PRESIDING PRELATE

S A T U R D A Y
MAY 4TH

2024 | 5:00 PM

\$125

TICKETS

FOR TICKET INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT DONATE@UHCAINC.ORG

THE NC A&T ALUMNI EVENT CENTER
200 N. BENBOW RD. GREENSBORO, NC 27411

ATTIRE: FORMAL | MORE DETAILS FORTHCOMING

2024 General Quadrennial Convocation Hotel Rates

Special hotel rates for the General Convocation convening at the General Headquarters, Greensboro, NC have been secured for the period beginning **Sunday, April 28, 2024 through Sunday May 5, 2024** at the following hotels. To ensure availability of these contracted rates, please confirm your reservations before the cutoff date of **March 18, 2024**. **BE SURE TO ASK FOR THE BLOCK OF ROOMS LISTED UNDER THE NAME OF THE UNITED HOLY CHURCH OF AMERICA.** These rates are in effect two days prior to the Convocation and two days after it closes. **THIS IS ELECTION YEAR, REGISTER EARLY.**

1. **Fairfield Inn & Suites**
3308 Islar Street
(336) 235-4002
All rooms are \$119.00 plus 12.75% taxes per night
All rooms are equipped with refrigerators and microwaves.
Complimentary Hot Breakfast included.
2. **Drury Inn and Suites**
3220 West City Blvd
(336) 856-9696
Double and King rooms are \$119.00 plus 12.75% taxes per night
King Suites are \$139.00 plus 12.75% and each room includes microwave/refrigerator
Complimentary Hot Breakfast included.
3. **Holiday Inn Express**
3111 Cedar Park Road
(336) 697-0101
Doubles and King rooms are \$149.00 plus 12.75% taxes per night.
Complimentary Hot Breakfast included
4. **Sheraton at 4 Seasons Mall**
3121 West Gate City Blvd
(336) 292-9161
All King and Double rooms are \$148.00 plus 12.75% taxes per night.
Restaurant on the premises
5. **Marriott Town Place Suites**
3304 Islar Street
(336) 763-8900
King and Double Rooms are \$119.00 plus 12.75% taxes per night
Complimentary Hot Breakfast Included

If further assistance is needed, please feel free to contact Mr. Carlton Morrison (202) 829-8893 or email: carltonmorrison@hotmail.com or Ms. Tonia King (216)-785-9611 or email: taking418@gmail.com.

Safe travels,

Mr. Carlton E. Morrison, Chairman
Ms. Tonia King, Convention Planner
Convention Planning and Logistics Group

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR PASTORS & MINISTERS

THEME

REDISCOVERING OUR WESLEYAN HOLINESS HERITAGE



CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

REV. DR. ERIC LEWIS WILLIAMS

Dr. Williams is the Director of the Office of Black Church Studies and the Assistant Professor of Theology and Black Church at Duke Divinity School. A sought after preacher, Dr. Williams is an ordained minister in the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) who closely works with the COGIC Scholars' Fellowship to stimulate academic scholarship among COGIC members.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024 SERVICE AT 7:00 PM

**THE UNITED HOLY CHURCH OF AMERICA HEADQUARTERS,
5104 DUNSTAN ROAD, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27405**



SCAN QR CODE
TO PURCHASE
YOUR TICKET

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT REV. DR. GLORIA AGHOGAH
AGHOGAH2000@HOTMAIL.COM**

A NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR PASTORS & MINISTERS

THEME

REDISCOVERING OUR WESLEYAN HOLINESS HERITAGE



**BISHOP HARRY
COHEN**
Presiding Prelate



**BISHOP KENNETH
WHITE**



**BISHOP GREG
HARGRAVE**



**BISHOP DEVIN
PICKETT**



**BISHOP CLIFTON
BUCKRHAM**



**BISHOP DERRICK
JOHNSON**



**BISHOP GEOFFREY
DUDLEY**



**REV. DR. GLORIA
AGHOGAH**

MARCH 6 - MARCH 8, 2024

CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE FOR MORE INFORMATION

Barbados District
Bermuda District
Central Western District
New England District
South Carolina District
Southeastern District

West Virginia District

Central Pacific District

Western District

Northern District

Northwestern District

Bishop Patricia Holder
Bishop Stephen Jones
Bishop Craig Purchase
Bishop Victor Rush
Bishop Terry McZeke
Bishop Carolyn Horton

Bishop Anthony Tucker
Contact Dr. Gloria Aghogah
aghogah2000@hotmail.com, (919)815-2999

Bishop Emory James

Bishop Dennis Ball
Contact Elder Elizabeth Ball
eball409@yahoo.com, (626)255-8328

Bishop Kenneth White
Contact Rev. Dr. Gail Gilmore
ggilmore912@gmail.com, (301)919-0006

Bishop Derrick Johnson
Contact Rev. Dr. Jelynn Martin
drjas2012@live.com, (330)224-0704

Southern District

Bishop Devin Pickett
Contact Elder Barbaina Black
barbainahb@gmail.com, (252)562-8670

Elder Kenneth Gray, (919)922-5178

Minister Carolyn Watson, (919)819-3382

Rev. Dr. Veronica Wright
dr.veronicawright@gmail.com, (919)801-8849

**Southern District
Henderson**

Bishop George Horton
Contact Dr. Tonya Utley
tjoyfair@gmail.com
(919) 825-9956

Bishop Fred Bridy
Contact Rev. Dr. William Jones
whjones55@gmail.com, (210)475-2607

Virginia District

Rev. Dr. Ethel Gainer
empgainer@aol.com, (412)951-8951

Bishop Greg Hargrave
Contact Dr. Valenica Eggleston Clark
valenica_e@hotmail.com, (276) 252-3080
Minister Sabrena Blake (919)602-7248
Minister Wahome Tate (919) 602-1253
Elder Jefferey McLaughlin (336) 840-5768

Western NC District

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL
OF 200 REGISTRANTS BY
FEBRUARY 1, 2024

REGISTRATION IS \$100.00 AND AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE

BIT.LY/UHCOA2024

THE UNITED HOLY CHURCH OF AMERICA HEADQUARTERS,
5104 DUNSTAN ROAD, GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA 27405



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2024 ELECTION CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE UHCA 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

President	Bishop Gregory K. Hargrave
Vice President	Bishop Kenneth White(<i>Incumbent</i>)
2nd Vice President	Bishop Johnnie B. Felton
	Bishop Emory B. James
	Bishop J. Derrick Johnson
Recording Secretary	[vacant]
Asst. Recording Secretary	Nan Holland
Financial Secretary	Louise L. Bagley (<i>Incumbent</i>)
Asst. Financial Secretary	Irene G. Courts (<i>Incumbent</i>)
Treasurer	Elder Scottie L. Rodgers (<i>Incumbent</i>)

MISSIONARY

President	Josephine Newkirk
Vice President	Gwendolyn K. Johnson (<i>Incumbent</i>)
2nd Vice President	Elder Kenyatta Evans
Recording Secretary	Francine Corbett
Financial Secretary	Sheila Lee (<i>Incumbent</i>)
Treasurer	Sandra Kaye Gravely

BIBLE CHURCH SCHOOL [BCS]

Superintendent	David Grant (<i>Incumbent</i>)
Asst. Superintendent	Elder LaVivian Donielle Graves Faison (<i>Incumbent</i>)
2nd Asst. Superintendent	Sarah Lea (<i>Incumbent</i>)

YOUNG PEOPLES HOLY ASSOCIATION[YPHA]

President	Elder Celeste Nicholson McNeil (<i>Incumbent</i>)
Vice President	Elder Daemarkis Faison Love (<i>Incumbent</i>)
2nd Vice President	Mya Fountain (<i>Incumbent</i>)

2024 ELECTION CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR THE UHCA 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

BCS / YPHA JOINT OFFICERS

Recording Secretary	[vacant]
Financial Secretary	Sharon Pickett (<i>Incumbent</i>)
Asst. Financial Secretary	[vacant]
Treasurer	Shavon Smith

USHERS

President	Starlord Pickett (<i>Incumbent</i>)
Vice President	Deacon Michael J. Stephens, Sr.
2nd Vice President	[vacant]
Recording Secretary	Robin Smith
Financial Secretary	[vacant]
Treasurer	[vacant]

EDUCATION

Chairperson	Gloria Aghogah(<i>Incumbent</i>)
Vice Chairperson	William H. Jones
Recording Secretary	Barbaina Houston Black
Treasurer	[vacant]

EVANGELISM

Chairperson	Elder Kenneth Gray
Vice Chairperson	Elder Jonta Martin
Recording Secretary	[vacant]
Treasurer	[vacant]



2024 ELECTION CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

administration



BISHOP GREGORY HARGRAVE, Candidate for President

The Right Reverend Dr. Greg K. Hargrave is the Senior Pastor of the Gospel Tabernacle United Holy Church of America, Inc. Burlington, NC for 36 years and 40 years in the ministry. He is the President of the Western North Carolina District which he oversees 32 churches. He is also the 2nd Vice President of the United Holy Church of America, International.

He attended the Jones School of Religion, Alamance and Davidson Community Colleges and is a 1994 Honor Graduate of the Winston-Salem State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. He also holds two master's degrees ~ an MA in Biblical Studies, and a M-Div. in Christian Ministry, graduating Magna-Cum Laude with both degrees from Carolina Graduate School of Divinity, Greensboro, NC. He received the Doctor of Ministry Degree in May 2013 with a concentration in Pastoral Leadership. He received the Prestigious Award of Excellence in his class.

Bishop Hargrave has exemplified a visionary leadership style during his pastorate. Numerous ministries and growth has resulted along with the following accomplishments:

- Purchased eight acres of land
- Built a new edifice
- Opened and operates a daycare facility serving up to 85 children daily
- Purchased four houses
- Purchased an additional vacant lot
- Constructed twenty, one-bedroom apartment units for the elderly and disabled in the community
- In March 2007 a 2000 sq. ft. daycare addition was completed along with renovations to the existing fellowship hall
- Presently in a capital campaign for a New Worship Center
- Currently leading an over four-million-dollar housing project on an 11-acre track that will provide affordable housing to many in the community

Bishop Hargrave is married to Minister Kim Hargrave for over 36 years. They are the proud parents of 3 beautiful daughters and 5 grandchildren. He and his family reside in Whitsett, NC.

Bishop Hargrave has received numerous awards, including certification for one of the most outstanding young men in America award, and the Diamond Award plaque for outstanding service toward the betterment of our country. He has served on every level of the church. In July 2004 he was elected to the office of 2nd Vice President of the Western North Carolina District. He was elevated to the First Assistant to the Bishop in October 2005. In May 2008 he was consecrated a Bishop in the United Holy Church of America's Quadrennial Convocation and in July 2008 was elected Vice President of the Western NC District. He was appointed the Bishop of Education in March 2009. He also served as Chairman of the Board of the Triad Christian Academy Greensboro, NC for over five years, and the Burlington Planning and Zoning Commission for seven years. In May 2016 Bishop Hargrave was elected to the position of 2nd Vice President of the United Holy Church of America, Inc and in July 2016, Bishop Hargrave was elected President of the Western North Carolina District.



BISHOP KENNETH WHITE, Candidate for Vice President

Kenneth White is a native of Trenton, NJ. Bishop White was nurtured and groomed in the United Holy Church and received his initial training at Greater Faith Tabernacle UHC in Bordentown, NJ. In 1975, Reverend White was united in matrimony to Margarita L. Borden. They have been blessed with three children, Kenneth Jason, LaTisha Marie, and Ashley Nicole. White was called to preach the gospel in 1972 and was ordained in 1983. Bishop White earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Delaware State University, and a Master's degree in Counseling from American University in Washington, D.C.

Bishop White worked in the public school system in Harrisburg, PA as a guidance counselor. He also worked as a Juvenile Probation Officer. Bishop White increased his knowledge of the Word of God at the Harrisburg School of the Bible and the Harrisburg Youth for Christ Bible Institute. In 1987, he was sent to Linconia Tabernacle UHC in Trevoze, PA. Under his leadership membership at Linconia flourished, souls have been saved, and countless lives have been refurbished through the power of Jesus Christ.

In 1996, Reverend White was elected 2nd Vice President of the Northern District of the UHCA. In 2014 he succeeded Bishop Kenneth Robinson as President of the Northern District and has continued with his own term with election in 2016. In May 2016 Bishop White was elected Vice President of the United Holy Church of America, Inc and in June 2016, Bishop White was re-elected President of the Northern District.

2024 ELECTION CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

administration



BISHOP JOHNNIE .B. FELTON, Candidate for 2nd Vice President

Bishop Johnnie B. Felton is a native of Norfolk, Virginia. He has served as the Senior Pastor of Morning Star United Holy Church for the past 31 years. Bishop Felton is a graduate of Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA. He has a B.S. degree in Counseling with a double minor in Criminal Justice and Psychology. He also has a M.Div. and a D. Min. from Norfolk Theological Seminary, Norfolk, VA. and a M. Div from The School of Theology of Virginia Union University in Richmond, VA.

Bishop Felton served on the Board of Presbytery for the Virginia District Convocation for 16 years. He served as a District Elder for 18 years and Board of Elders for one year. Also, he served as the Chair and Vice Chair of the General Department of Evangelism and Extension. Currently he is the Vice President of the Virginia District Convocation. In 40 years of ministry Bishop Felton has ministered across the U.S. and traveled to Panama, Philippines, Haiti, Trinidad, and Barbados. Also, Bishop Felton has taken and sent several mission teams to Mexico. In May 2018, he was consecrated a bishop. Bishop Felton has been married to his very supportive wife, Tammy, for 30 years.



BISHOP EMORY B. JAMES, Candidate for 2nd Vice President

Bishop Emory B. James was born in Delaware, Ohio. He moved to Los Angeles in his teenage years and graduated from Dorsey HS in 1970. He attended California State University, Northridge and earned his BS Degree in Home Economics. He attended Fuller Theological Seminary and Southern California School of Ministry. He attended Rhemalife Theological School of Ministry and received his Masters and D. Min. James is a published author. His most recent work is entitled, "The Small Church in The Mind of God".

James entered ministry in 1975 and served as assistant to the Bishop Ralph Houston for 10 years. Later he organized Ephesians New Testament Church in Fontana, CA, where he continues to serve as Pastor. There he started the Praise Kitchen, that serves 400 meals per month. He was 1st Assistant to Bishop Rafael Fortier of the Central Pacific District San Francisco; Organizer and current President of the Central Pacific District Fontana and organizer of the UHCA National Memorial Service. He was consecrated Bishop in The United Holy Church in 2015. He serves as President of The United Christian College, Fontana, CA.

Bishop James has received many awards for community service including the 2023 "Man of Valor Award" from the City of Fontana. His community involvement comprises the following: President, Fontana Ministerial Association; Chairperson, MLK Celebration (1987-present); Chairperson, North Fontana Infrastructure Committee; City of Fontana Police Council; Fontana Unified School District; Organized the Ephesus Learning Center; Board Member of International Churches of Praise; Chairperson-Prayer Committee of the Inland Empire Concerned African American Churches. He also organized the Ephesus Community Center. He also served as the President of the Fontana Ministerial Association and organized a feeding program, Fontana We Care and the Olive Branch Transitional Housing Project, Fontana.

He is married to Lady Venice James for 47 years. They have a daughter Enice/Michael, and a son Emory Jr/Christa, and (4) grandchildren.



BISHOP J. DERRICK JOHNSON, Candidate for 2nd Vice President

Bishop J. Derrick Johnson is the senior pastor of Gospel Tabernacle UHC, which is a growing ministry in Columbus, Ohio. He is also a proud life-long member of the United Holy Church. With over 30 years of ministry experience, Bishop Johnson was consecrated to the office of Bishop in 2014. In 2016, he was elected by his peers to serve on the General Board of Bishops, which is the executive governing board of the denomination. In 2016, he was also elected president of the Northwestern District Convocation.

As president, Bishop Johnson has led the district with creative, innovative, and committed leadership. As a result, the district has experienced new heights, added new churches, and utilized relevant technology to carry out its mission effectively and efficiently.

Bishop Johnson, who is a published author, holds a B.S. degree in Journalism from the University of Maryland, College Park; a Master of Divinity degree from the Howard University School of Divinity; and a Doctor of Ministry degree from the United Theological Seminary. He shares his life and ministry with his wife of 32 years, Elect Lady Sabrina Johnson, and they are the proud parents of two adult children, Brianna Elaine, and James Derrick, II.



2024 ELECTION CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

administration



LOUISE BAGLEY, Candidate for General Financial Secretary

Ms. Louise L. Bagley is a member of the Gospel Tabernacle United Holy Church, Burlington, NC ~Western NC District where her Pastor and District President is the Rt. Rev. Greg K. Hargrave. She currently serves as the General Financial Secretary of the United Holy Church of America and is seeking re-election of this position. She served as the General Treasurer for twelve years as well as the General Assistant Financial Secretary. On the district level, she serves as the Executive Secretary to the Western NC District Administration and on the local level, she serves as the Church Administrator.



IRENE G. COURTS, Candidate for Assistant Financial Secretary

Irene G. Courts serves as a Deaconess, Treasurer and Trustee for Jerusalem United Holy Church in Reidsville, NC where Bishop Mary E. Jackson is the Pastor. She has worked in Customer Accounting and assisted with the Teller Line for FNB. Her primary job was in Accounting for the American Tobacco Company until they closed. She then began teaching at Reidsville High School, teaching Business courses and Microsoft Office.

On the District level, she has served as Treasurer and currently, she is the Financial Secretary. On the General Level, she serves as the Assistant Financial Secretary.



NAN HOLLAND, Candidate for Assistant Recording Secretary

Nan Holand has been in the educational sector for over 36 years in New Jersey and North Carolina in various roles after acquiring her bachelor's and master's degrees. She devoted her attention to the education of children and young adults while providing effective organizational leadership in both public and religious sectors.

As a high school teacher and administrator, she was proficient at interfacing with employers, as well as executing professional and developmental programs; she was well organized and decisive with excellent planning and time management skills, and harbored excellent interpersonal skills which afforded her the ability to evaluate personnel, practices, and programs, while interacting effectively with team members.

Her employment as the Secretary of the Southern District Convocation for 6 years has given her the opportunity to show her communication skills in delivering presentations to small and large groups of people. She has had extensive experience in coordinating and facilitating special programs, data, and publications. She engenders excellent community relations expertise and effectiveness at team building. She also displays excellent problem-solving and conflict-resolution skills, facilitates group consensus and can negotiate agreements between competing factions to achieve organizational goals. In addition, she is competent in the utilization of a multitude of computer software programs related to Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, Publisher, and PowerPoint.



Elder Scottie Rodgers, Candidate for Treasurer

Elder Rodger is the incumbent General Treasurer having served since elected in 2016. He is a lifelong member of the Southern District Goldsboro and Pastor of Holy Temple UHC in Calypso, NC

Studied at North Carolina A&T and United Christian College. Married to Tonya Bryant Rodgers

2024 ELECTION CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

missionary department



ELDER JOSEPHINE NEWKIRK, Candidate for President

Elder Newkirk has previously served as 2nd Missionary Pastor and Founder of New Jerusalem UHC, Kenansville, NC (1995)

Member of Southern District Goldsboro Spouse: Dec. Jimmy Newkirk

Studied at North Carolina A&T and United Christian College



ELDER Dr. GWENDOLYN JOHNSON, Candidate for Vice President

Elder Johnson is the incumbent General Missionary Vice President serving since 2020. Dr. Johnson is a lifelong member of Mt. Zion UHC (Phila.) of the Northern District. She has served in the local church in the Sunday School, YPHA, Ushers and Missionary Departments. On the sub district and district levels, she has served in the YPHA, Ushers, and Missionary Departments. I have been involved in prison ministry for over 10 years and ministered in Rescue Ministry from a teenager until present. I have served in Liberia on the Salala Mission for 17 years. My desire is "That Others May Know Him."



ELDER KENYATTA G. EVANS, Candidate for 2nd Vice President

Elder Kenyatta Evans is member of the Virginia District Convocation of the UHCA. He serves as Pastor of Jerusalem Temple UHC, Boydton, Va.

Johnson was educated in Boydton graduating from Bluestone Sr. High School. He has continued his studies at St. Paul College, Longwood University, and pursuing his Master of Divinity at Anderson Theological Seminary.



FRANCINE CORBETT, Candidate for Missionary Recording Secretary

Francine is member of the Southern District Goldsboro Convocation. She is a member of All Saints UHC in Dudley, NC.

She studies for her Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Biblical Studies at Mt. Calvary University School of Divinity.

She has served as secretary in SDG for several years.



SHEILA LEE

**Candidate for Missionary
Financial Secretary**



SANDRA KAYE GRAVELY,

**Candidate for Missionary
Treasurer**

2024 ELECTION CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

bc
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ELDER DAVID GRANT, Candidate for General BCS Superintendent

Elder David Grant represents a life dedicated to faith, family, and service. His commitment to God were instilled in him by his parents, the late Pastor Roosevelt Grant and Elder Josie Grant. These foundational values have guided him as a devoted and faithful husband to Stacie Grant and their four children.

His Christian journey began at Christ Holiness Temple, UHCA. Elder Grant served in the Sunday School, Usher Board, and Music ministry. Presently, Elder Grant serves as the Assistant Pastor at St. John Temple UHCA. He focuses on addressing the spiritual and natural needs of the congregation and community. He has served as the BCS Superintendent of the Central Western District, General BCS 2nd Assistant Superintendent, and currently holds the position of General BCS Superintendent. Elder Grant has an Associate's degree in Graphic Communications and a Bachelor's degree in Corporate Communications from Lindenwood University.



ELDER DONIELLE FAISON-LOVE, Candidate for General BCS Assistant

Donielle Graves-Faison-Love is an author and speaker. Donielle received a B.S. Degree from UNC-Greensboro in Human Development & Family Studies and obtained a M.A. from Liberty University in Human Services Counseling.

She finds fulfillment in teaching the Word in a way that all will understand. She desires all to accept and apply God's Truth to their lives. She published "Love Notes", a 40-Day Devotional for a more intimate relationship with Christ and wrote a 31 Day Devotional for Women to explore their Identity, Purpose, Worth, Wifehood, and Motherhood and she has created a complimenting Bible Study. Her first book and Bible Study, "Journey to Free" challenges readers to be who God created them to be. Danielle is married to Pastor Daemarkis Faison-Love



MIN. SARAH LEA, Candidate for General BCS 2nd Assistant Superintendent

Minister Sarah Lea is a member of the Western North Carolina District and an associate minister at Glenn Grove United Holy Church in Mebane, NC. At Glenn Grove, she serves as BCS Superintendent and YPHA President. She is Jr. Missionary Vice President of the Western North Carolina District and currently serves as 2nd Assistant Superintendent of the General BCS Department.

She holds an associate degree in early childhood education and a bachelor's degree in religious education. She works for the Alamance-Burlington School System. She has four sons, Mike, Tim, Jon, and Josh. Her favorite scripture is Galatians 2:20; "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."



CELESTE NICHOLSON MCNEIL, Candidate for YPHA Department President

Elder McNeil has been a member of the UHCA for 26 years. She is an ordained Elder in the Greater Northern District. She serves faithfully at Bible Union Fellowship Church under the pastorate of Elder Rebecca DeLoach. She works in the church on all levels: Adjutancy Corp, Music department, and the YPHA Department. She currently serves as General YPHA President and President of the Northern District YPHA.

I continue to serve the youth of the UHCA, help lead them to Christ and further their relationship with Him. I plan to embrace the future and build on what has been started, unifying the young and old, as we work together to build the Kingdom of God. "In the last days," God says, "I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams." Acts 2:17 NLT



DAEMARKIS FAISON-LOVE, Candidate for YPHA Department Vice President

"Charismatic; Visionary; Trailblazer; Dedicated; Anointed; Appointed; Preacher and Teacher" are just a few things that would come to mind when you ponder on the ministry of Daemarkis Faison. At a young age, it was evident that Pastor Faison-Love recognized the mantle that had been richly placed upon his life. He believes that the Lord has empowered and equipped him with a life transforming message which to meet spiritual needs of every generation. He strives to fulfill the calling from God with vigor and integrity. Elder Faison is the proud Pastor of Macedonia UHC, Beulaville N.C. He also serves as the Youth Pastor of Holy Trinity UHC, Greenville, N.C. The driving force behind Pastor Faisons' ministry and existence is clear and transparent. His assignment is to "Transform a Generation; one life at a time." He is married to Elder LaVivian Donielle Graves Faison-Love.

2024 ELECTION CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

bcsc/ypna

education



MYA FOUNTAIN, Candidate for YPHA Department 2nd Vice President

Mya is a faithful member of St. Mariah UHC, Reidsville, NC. She is a part of the Southern District Goldsboro and serves as Worship leader, Youth Leader and participates in the Dance Ministry at St. Mariah. She is also involved in the Music Department of the General Church and has a passion for souls and youth. She desires to live a life that pleases God and is a testament to those who look up to her. Mya is a fashionable and creative individual and uses her gifts on various platforms. She is an Entrepreneur in the secular world and uses that as a tool to minister to the unchurched. She is a graduate of NC A&T State University and Dudley Beauty College.



ELDER SHAVON SMITH, Candidate for BCS/YPHA Treasurer

Elder Smith was educated in the Norfolk Public Schools, graduating with an Advance Diploma with Honors, He matriculated at Norfolk State and graduated from Norfolk Theological Seminary with a B. A. in Biblical Studies. He attends Morning Star UHC, where he is an associate minister and assists the finance team. Shavon currently serves as Tidewater sub-district President of the YPHA. He is the VACON Vice President of the YPHA and is currently running for President of said department. Shavon serves in the district as Chair of the Media Department and an Adjutant. Shavon serves in his local Civic League as President where he oversees multiple committees and a 5.4-million-dollar project. Shavon is also a business owner of graphics/marketing company "Graphvonx", He works at a law-firm for the last 5 years, serving in management with 7 years of financial background.



ELDER SHARON PICKETT, Candidate for BCS/YPHA Financial Secretary

Elder Pickett is the incumbent officer having served in this position since election in 2016.

She is a member of the Southern District Goldsboro Convocation

Elder Pickett is married to Bishop Devin C. Pickett.



DR. GLORIA AGHOGAH, Candidate for Chairperson of Education Department

Dr. Aghogah is the Dean of Elementary School at Mt. Zion Christian Academy and a Spiritual Formation Facilitator at Duke Divinity School. She has preached, conducted workshops, and led retreats in numerous churches. Her interests in missions, preaching, and pastoral care have been shared in Barbados, Bermuda, Haiti, and Mexico. Gloria received her undergraduate degree in Theater Administration at North Carolina Central University. She received the MDiv. from Duke University Divinity School in 1998. She completed a residence studying Clinical Pastoral Education at Durham VA Medical Center specializing in Substance Abuse, Mental Illness, and the Women's Clinic. She received her Doctor of Ministry at the Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University in 2013. She has published, From Maintenance to Mission: Changing the Paradigm of a Small Church.

Dr. Aghogah is the Chairperson of the Education Department and she serves the Western NC District Board of Presbytery. She has served as the Pastor of St. John UHC in Greensboro and Bethlehem UHC in Durham. She has served on the Board of NCC University Campus Ministry, and on the Board for One World Missionary Market. a Clinical Chaplain at PruittHealth Hospice, UNC Hospital and at the NC Correctional Institution for Women.



DR. WILLIAM H. JONES, Candidate for Vice Chairperson of Education Depart.

William is member of the Western NC District. Dr. Jones is Pastor of Holy Trinity United Holy Church in Siler City NC and Carolina Christian College alumni is now a doctoral candidate.



BARBAINA H. BLACK, Candidate for Secretary of Education Department

Barbaina is member of the Southern District Goldsboro Convocation. Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Retired at Elizabeth City State University. Studied at NCC University, and at Elizabeth City State University

2024 ELECTION CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

ushers

evangelism



DEACON STARLORD PICKETT, Candidate for Usher President

Deacon Pickett is the incumbent General President of the Ushers Department. He is a member of Linconia Tabernacle Christian Center in Trevoze, PA. After graduating from High School Deacon Pickett joined the US ARMY and served in the GULF WAR (Desert Storm/ Desert Shield). After his service for his country he returned home and started serving in his home church. He worked for Pennsylvania Department of Corrections for 23 years before retiring in 2019.

In 2001 he joined Linconia's Usher's Ministry and was appointed as President in 2007 by his Pastor, Bishop Kenneth White. In 2008, he was elected Vice President of his sub district (EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA). After a year of serving in that position the District Elders appointed him as President. In 2016, he was elected as President of the Northern District Ushers. He is married to Tamar Pickett for nearly 30 years.



DEACON MICHAEL STEPHENS, JR., Candidate for Usher Vice President

Deacon Michael Stephens, Sr., is a native of Tabor City, NC, the son of the late Henry and Rosa Stephens and married to Almaria Bellamy Stephens. Deacon Stephens began his Christian journey at a young age while attending Holy Light Holiness. His mentor, the late Deacon John Stephens, played a major role in his leadership development. Some of his roles included serving as an usher and on the choir, and participating in the annual youth revival. Ushering was his first love. In 1998, he felt God calling him to a greater place in Him, so he accepted the position as President of Holy Light Ushers Department, serving for 16 years. While there he was ordained as a Deacon and served as a Trustee. He served as Vice President of the Carolina District Ushers from 2000 to 2002. From 2002 to the present time, he has served as President of the Carolina District Ushers Department. Deacon Stephens would later go on to serve as Vice President of the Southern District Ushers

Department in 2010 for 10 years. He serves as President of the Southern District Ushers Department from 2020 to the present time. He is continuing to grow in grace, wisdom, and knowledge, as he allows God to lead him and order his steps. Deacon Stephens knows that God is faithful and will allow His voice to guide him on this journey.



ELDER KENNETH D. GRAY, Candidate for Chairperson, Evangelism

Elder Kenneth Gray previously served in the Evangelism department serving since May 2020. He is a member of the Southern District Goldsboro UHCA Convocation.

Pastor of Saint Tabernacle UHC, Willard, NC

President of Southern District Goldsboro Evangelism Department



ELDER JONTA MARTIN. GRAY, Candidate for Vice Chairperson, Evangelism

Elder Martin is a member of the Southern District Goldsboro UHCA Convocation.

Pastor of Full Gospel Tabernacle UHC, Bassett, VA

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 recent mid-year conference, October 2-6, 2023, held near Raleigh the General Election Committee submitted a motion to the house to suspend the traditional method of voting via paper ballot and to use Election Buddy. The motion was approved and Election Buddy will be utilized for the upcoming General Election.

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

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. 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 Reggie Smalls (NED),
Elder Judy Lewis, Secretary (NOR),
Elder W. Terry Cobb (SDG),
Minister Alfreda Dabney, Budget (CW),

Elder Carolyn Dildy (NOR),
Elder Larry McLean (SDG),
Elder Barney Wiggins (VIR),
Deaconess Carrie Caines (SDH),
Elder Joseph King (BER)

KEEPING THE STANDARD OF HOLINESS WITHOUT COMPROMISE



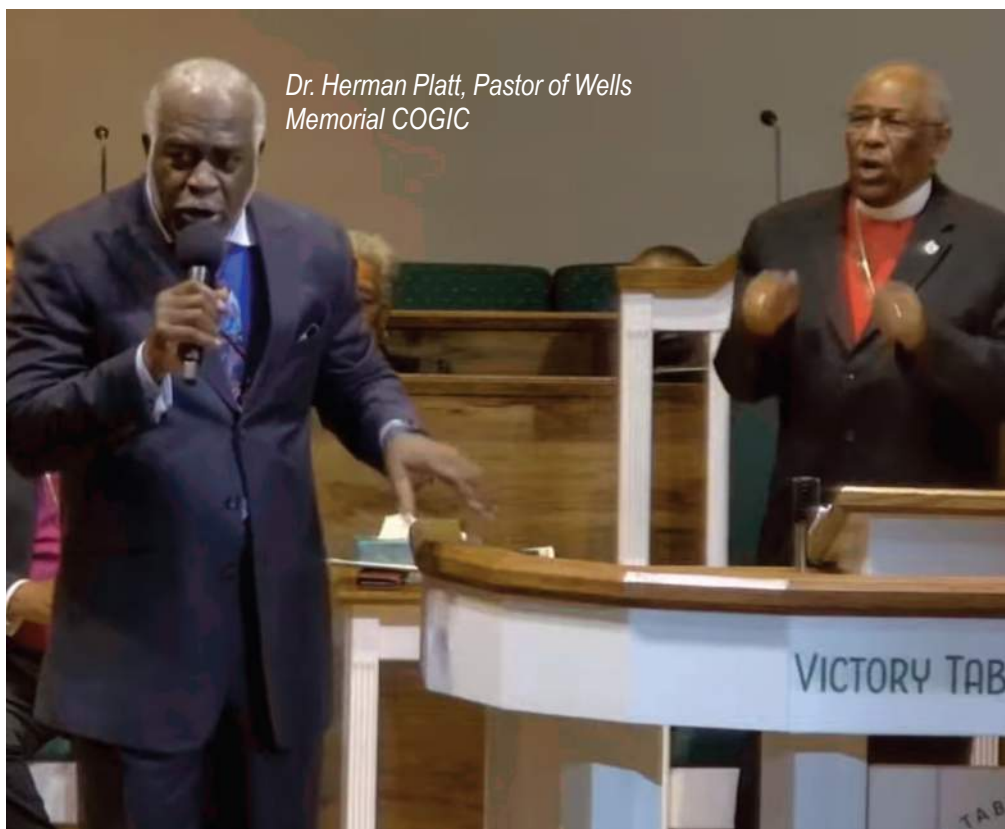
Events during the 2023 General Convocation left the United Holy Church with a challenge. Unforeseen issues led us to question the plans for the 2023 October Mid-Year Conference. But the favor of the Lord rested upon our Church not only in the successful completion of the necessary repairs, but also in the relocation of the Mid-Year Conference. God came to our rescue in the blessing that Victory Tabernacle Church in Gardner, North Carolina, located in the suburbs of Raleigh, would be to us in our time of need. Dr. James P. Perkins, a product of the United Holy Church, freely opened the doors of their beautiful facility and committed his membership in hospitality to ensure a most comfortable stay.

With a sanctuary bathed in prayer before our arrival, the Spirit of the Lord surrounded and encompassed the entire meeting. The Mid-Year Conference opened on October 2, 2023, with the God-given theme: Keeping the Standard of Holiness – Without Compromise (Hebrews 12:14). The Conference consisted of seminars, workshops and soul stirring messages redirecting us to the principles from the Word of God and founding principles of The United Holy Church of America, Inc. The General Education Department presented “What Are You Doing In Your Local Church?” With Education Chair, Dr. Gloria Aghogah as facilitator, the seminar challenged us in the role of members, current practices, and the move to church growth as we face the future. She also gave upcoming highlights for the March Session of the General Education Conference to be held in Greensboro, March 6-8, 2024. This was followed by the General Evangelism Department Facilitators, Dr. Tonya Ham and Elder Kenneth Gray, who presented “Evangelism Builds the Kingdom.” They, along with Elder Timothy Tucker, talked about creative means of evangelism and the commitment needed to service those who we win. They reminded us of the need to walk potential Christians to a place of maturity where they can stand and in turn win others.

Our Special Guest for the Monday Evening Worship was Dr. Herman Platt, Pastor of Wells Memorial COGIC in Greensboro, North Carolina. Accompanied by his choir, he shared the Spoken Word – “Tell The Lord” – Mark 8:34-38. He reminded us of our heritage in holiness, and the United Holy Church being his first exposure to holiness. He challenged us not to wane, but to continue to teach the doctrine. He admonished us not to compromise to fill the pew. “Preach the Gospel

or get out of the pulpit; you must live holy”.

Tuesday Morning started with a stirring Hour of Power Message from Elder Kim Hargrave, of Gospel Tabernacle, Burlington, North Carolina. Following the Conference Theme, she encouraged us to seek “The Presence of the Lord”, reminding us of the sacrifice to maintain a life of holiness. We must put God first and live a life devoted to Him. In His presence there is power! A Panel Discussion on the Theme was led by Dr. Sandra Bridy, Dr. Gail Gilmore and Bishop-Elect Michael Clemmons. Questions before the Panel were, 1) How Close are we to the Original Standard of Holiness; 2) How do we maintain the Standard of Holiness; 3) What does it profit to gain members without following the Standard of Holiness; 4) Are we compromising the Standard of Holiness; and 5) Is Holiness Still Right? Discussion brought forth points that we must distinguish between Christ’s standards, or our self-righteousness. We must strive for sinless perfection, living a sanctified life; our definition of holiness should be scripture based as holiness is a life fully committed to God. The Evening Speaker was Elder Derek King, Pastor of Robinson Memorial UHC in Eden, North Carolina. In his message entitled “When I See Him” (Isaiah 6:1), he encouraged all to seek the power of the Holy Ghost that “dwells in the believer and keeps the believer from the power of sin.” We must stop turning the altars into a place of performance. It is the holy place where we seek the Lord. Wednesday morning brought a powerful Hour of Power message from Elder Brenda McZeke from Monument of Faith in Marion, South Carolina. She encouraged us (Deuteronomy 14:2; I Peter 2:9) in the pursuit of Holiness. After sharing her testimony, she admonished us to “Be the Message”. A most powerful anointing service and a period of praise ensued, and the blessings of God showered down on us all.



Dr. Herman Platt, Pastor of Wells Memorial COGIC



Elder Derek King

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At the close of the Wednesday Business Session, the Administration gave the General Ushers Department an opportunity for programming. Their session included a Seminar, facilitated by Deacon George King III, (Southern District-Goldsboro) - Keeping the Standard of the Ushers’ Ministry Without Compromise.



Ushers President Pickett honors officers Baskin and Danily



Bishop Patricia Holder

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Deacon King illustrated the importance and the need for ushering and how we are to maintain the standard within God's Word. In her Annual Address, the Usher General Vice President, Elder Flordia Baskin shared how she has been working with youth in her district, encouraging them to come up and help support in ministry even at the general level. She encouraged the Ushers Ministry to continue to do the work of God. The Afternoon Session closed with The Annual Address from Usher General President, Deacon Starlord Pickett. In his message "Walk In Your Gift", (I Corinthians 12), he encourages the General Ushers to consistently walk in the gift that God gave them and keep a standard of consistency in your walk. The Spoken Word for the Evening Session was given by Bishop Patricia Holder, President of the Barbados District. She spoke from the conference theme "Keeping The Standard of Holiness Without Compromise" (Ephesians 4:2). Shared from Ephesians, she relayed how the Apostle Paul detailing of the sacrifice and grace of God through the redemption process, and what our response should be to Him. We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy acceptable to God; it's our reasonable service. We must build on the spiritual heritage of holiness and leave it for the next generation so that they will fulfill the outpouring as foretold in Joel 2. God is birthing new things on those who have labored faithfully in the background. He is going to do a new thing!

Thursday morning yet another powerful Hour of Power Message came from Elder Brian Jordan, Pastor of Ebenezer UHC, Atlanta, Georgia. He reminded us from 2 Timothy 4:3-4 that spiritual temperature of our churches cannot be set for comfort but on the truth of holy living. God demands holiness, we must stand on the Word of God. We are to strive

to live perfect, we are to press towards the mark in Christ Jesus. The Missionary Hour led by General Missions President, Elder Donna Jackson followed with a message from Dr. James Blake, Pastor of Fisher Memorial UHC in Durham, North Carolina. His subject, A Church in Distress (Isaiah 57:15) He shared that it is time for the church to take a stand. We've made it through Covid so we know that "No weapon formed against us shall prosper. Because of this we should trust in the triune God and continue to stand in Holiness. In the Afternoon Session The General Music Department, led by UHCA Chief Minister of Music, Dr. Ron Bigelow presented an excellent Music Workshop with several presenters. UHCA Worship Leader, Minister Saiji Elder shared on Praise and Worship, saying that it is a form of prayer, communication of our faith, a calling, a ministry. The Worship Leader must be a person of prayer and of the Word and should be using scripture during praise and worship. Elder, Danny Lewis spoke the importance of a relationship between the pastor and minister of music. It is one of the most important ones in the church and must be in cadence. Minister, Rhonda Kelly. spoke on Creative Arts noting that it is scriptural, not just a filler but it's a time of worship. Both Brothers Dejuan Gardner and Milton Waters spoke on the preventive and correct maintenance of musical instruments and sound equipment and the need for musicians to be dedicated to the ministry. Minister of Music, Sis. Cheryl Woodard's topic was song selection. Music Directors are to seek God and ask for his guidance hear his voice in selecting appropriate music; know your audience and keep a balanced repertoire. Minister of Music, Bro. Maurice McIntyre spoke on Leading Youth and Young Adults. He noted the struggle of the youth and changing times, adding all songs should portray the Word

of God. He stated that you should not forget the foundation of our church, with is Hymns.

As per usual, the Business of the Church was conducted during the Mid-Year Conference. Decisions pertaining to the 2024 UHCA General Election were made, and the use of Electronic Voting was approved for this Election. Further instructions have been circulated to the District Presidents for implementation. The Election will take place during the 32nd UHCA Quadrennial Convocation on May 2, 2024. We also met the candidates; information about the Slate of Officers will be included in this Holiness Union. The release of the newly ratified UHCA Standard Manual will begin in 2024 with the electronic version. A hardback edition will be available once a publisher is secured. Information on the Retirement Celebration Gala for our outgoing Presiding Prelate was announced during this Session. The event will take place on May 4, 2024. Further details are also included in this issue.

The Concluding Session brought a spoken word from Bishop Jeffrey Gravely of the Western North Carolina District (Chestnut Ridge Progressive Primitive Baptist Church). His subject: A Strong Savior In The Midst of a Sick Society and Weak Saints/The Perfect Foundation (Luke 9:37-40). The father met the disciples, seeking deliverance for his son's issues. But the disciples lacked the power to help them. Today the world has brought their problems to the church looking for help but instead they have found weak saints. Before we can speak of holding up the standard of holiness without compromise, we have to make sure that we have not been compromised. He encouraged the growth of faith, noting that the



Bishop Cohen awards Pastor Perkins a UHC Partnership Pin in appreciation

doctrinal foundation of the church is strong; the gates of hell cannot prevail against it.

The last session was also a time of recognition and appreciation. During this Mid-Year Conference the First Session of the UHCA Episcopal Academy, specialized training for Newly Consecrated Bishops and Bishop-Designates took place. Instructors included Dr. William Turner, Bishop

Elijah Williams, Bishop Johnnie Felton, Bishop Clifton Buckhram and Elder Latelia Fountain. Certificates of Completion were presented to the first recipients: Bishop-Designate Marvin Lockett (West Virginia District), Bishop-Designate Brian McKnight (South Carolina District), Bishop Fitzpatrick Kirten (Barbados District), Bishop-Designate Michael Clemmons (Northwestern District) and Bishop-Designate Thomas Williams (New England District). The session concluded with Special Thanks and Presentations to our most gracious hosts, Dr. James P. Perkins and the wonderful members of Victory Tabernacle Church. We

will not forget the outstanding hospitality, the excellent food service, the spirit of kindness and the open-door policy that permeated our time at Victory Tabernacle. We are forever in their debt.

Stay tuned for plans concerning the upcoming events for 2024 beginning with the Bishops Council (March 4-6), the General Education Conference (March 6-8) and the 32nd Quadrennial Convocation of The United Holy Church of America, Inc. (April 29-May 5), all to be held at the General Headquarter in Greensboro, North Carolina.

By Minister Esther Walker,
General Secretary



Bishop Jeffrey Gravely of the Western North Carolina District





“When All God’s Children Get together, on one accord, in one place trust and believe God is going to meet us there. We had a time experiencing the awesome power of God, that essentially changed the lives of those who were there. As the churches of the Northwestern District converged on Columbus, Ohio at Gospel Tabernacle UHC, where our Presiding Prelate, Bishop J Derrick Johnson is the pastor. Praise penetrated the atmosphere, and God was welcomed in the place.

We came with expectation, knowing that God had greater in store for us all. He responded to the cry of His people. We were reminded throughout this meeting through every workshop leader, every speaker and preacher, that “Greater is Coming.” “Greater is Coming” was the theme for the Northwestern District’s 101st Holy Convocation, with our primary scripture being found in Haggai 2:9, “‘The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,’ says the Lord of hosts. ‘And in this place, I will give peace,’ says the Lord of hosts.” (NKJV). During our Holy Convocation, we were inspired and energized to offer unto our God a sacrifice of praise. God used these mighty men of valor to encourage and inspire us to seek God while He may be found and to call upon Him while He is near. We take this time to recognize and honor those who labor among us, our Presiding Prelate Bishop J Derrick Johnson – President, Bishop Lafayette Carthon – Vice President and Elder Walter Roberts Jr. - 2nd Vice President.

Some highlights of our Convocation were our annual community volunteer event at the Columbus Food Bank. We found this to be a very rewarding event. We had the opportunity to serve others by preparing boxed meals to families in need. There were many volunteers from throughout our district that joined our host church, Gospel Tabernacle at the Columbus Food Bank. While we were there, we put together and handed out over three hundred boxes of food.

During our afternoon session We had two very informative and thought-provoking workshops. Our first workshop was entitled “Partnering with God for Great Things, Ephesians 3:20, Elder Dana Brantley-Hambrick, and our second workshop entitled “Preparing for God’s Next Move,” 1 Peter 1:13, Elder Joan Foy.

We encountered an awesome praise and worship experience throughout the week. The praise team invoked the presence of the Lord, welcoming Him to dine with us, and us with Him. From beginning to end, God was present. Thursday evening’s service was both dynamic and energetic. Dr. Jelynn Martin, Pastor of Mt. Sinai, Akron, Ohio, was our evening preacher. She encouraged us by letting us know that our greater was already here. She preached a soul stirring word to our Convocation delegation that challenged our hearts. Her subject was “Don’t Abandon the Assignment!” taking from our primary scripture

Haggai 2:9. "The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former," says the Lord of hosts. 'And in this place, I will give peace,' says the Lord of hosts." (NKJV)

Friday morning, we had our Holy Communion Service, and our own Elder Steven Perry, pastor of Word Encounter, Detroit, MI was our speaker. What an awesome time, remembering what Christ has done for us on the cross. During our afternoon session, our 2nd Vice President, Elder Walter Roberts Jr., gave his annual address. He spoke from our theme scripture Haggai 2:5-9; Hebrews 10:34-36, subject, "Hold on Greater is Coming." He said "God sent His Son to redeem us from our lost state." Thursday evening, our Vice-President, Bishop Lafayette Carthon gave His annual address. He spoke from our theme Scripture Haggai 2:9, with the subject "Greater is Coming." He said "God need a place where He can meet folk."

Friday morning was our general church hour. Our general representative was Bishop Devin C. Pickett. He provided our delegation with general church information, as well as sharing an encouraging word to the people. During the afternoon session our Presiding Prelate gave His annual state of the district address and gave an awesome word from God to our Convocation. His subject was "Look Beyond What You See!" Also, during this service, we remembered those who served before us, and who are now with the Lord. Friday night was ladies' night, our first Lady Elder Sabrina Johnson was the host of women's day. We had a high time lifting up the name of Jesus. The speaker for that evening was Pastor Timiney Figueroa, New Life Tabernacle, Brooklyn, NY. Her subject was "Its going to End better than it Started!" Haggai 2:1-9. She preached under the power of the Holy Ghost. She said our excitement comes in the

'how' the great ending will come about. She further reminded us that our Convocation was a special time for high, holy worship. A time where the believers come together to strengthen one another with our presence and our praise.

We had a late-night surge youth and young



*Vice-President,
Bishop Lafayette
Carthon*

adult service presented by the NWD BCS/YPHA Department. Elder Terrence J. Dooley, President. Our speaker for that service was Elder Daemarkis Faison, Greenville, NC. His subject was "Shout until it Shakes!" Acts 16:23-26. Elder Faison reminded us of the importance of salvation.

Saturday of our Convocation was absolutely refreshing. We had our first picnic. There were games, food and fun. Early Saturday evening we had our annual ordination service. There were two candidates that were ordained. Congratulations to Elder Sabrina Johnson and Elder Percy Summerfield. As, we transitioned into our evening service, our

wonderful worship team led us to the mountain in worship. We forgot about ourselves, concentrated on God and worshipped Him, in spirit and in truth. Bishop-Elect Brian E. McKnight brought an awesome word, his Subject was "The Power of Process and the Pursuit of Promise," Haggai 2:3-8. He also reminded us that we are closer to what God is doing in us and through us than we think!"

Sunday morning was the conclusion of the whole matter. Our Presiding Prelate Bishop J Derrick Johnson delivered his soul, as he always does. His subject was "Greater is Coming" Scripture text was Haggai 2:1-9. "God wanted us to understand this text from every possible direction and angle." God's word is ever living and ever speaking. After Bishop Johnson preached, he further encouraged the local pastors by laying hands on all of them, and praying for them. What a way to end a spectacular week of praise and worship to our King of Kings, and Lord of Lord's. See you next year!

Elder Dana Brantley-Hambrick



*Pastor
Jelynn
Martin*



*Pastor
Timiney
Figueroa*



Remembering the Life & Legacy of our General Father Bishop Jesse Jones

On November 14, 2023, Bishop Jesse Jones entered eternal rest peacefully in his home surrounded by his loved ones. Bishop Jones, a great “Man of God” was born to the late Mack Swinton and Rosa Jones Scott, on December 28, 1932, in Nesmith, South Carolina. He took his commitment to family and to the Lord very seriously and the church became an essential part of his life.

Bishop Jones was educated in the Williamsburg County School System in Nesmith, South Carolina. If you knew Bishop Jones, then you know he loved education and learning.

After high school, he planned to travel and settle in California to pursue his dream of becoming a physician. Unbeknownst to him he would stumble across the graceful Irene James who captivated his heart. Rather than boarding the train, he decided to remain on the tracks of love. The two married on April 8, 1950, and settled in Durham, North Carolina.

From this union, four beautiful daughters were born: Rosa, Arlene, Pamela, and Shirrell.

Bishop Jones continued his education at Durham Technical College, majoring in Electronics. He later graduated from Shaw University’s Minister’s Continuing Education and furthered his studies at Shaw University Seminary Without Walls. He also attended Duke University Divinity School and Virginia Union University School of Theology. He later began a career at Carolina Supply Company as a Biomedical Equipment Technician where he retired after 48 years of service.

Called to ministry at the age of 19, Bishop Jones dedicated his life to serving God’s Church,



his community, and mentoring youth. He pastored at White Rock United Holy Church in Chapel Hill, North Carolina for 21 years. On May 5, 1978, he was consecrated to the Episcopacy in Hamilton, Bermuda. He also pastored at St. John United Holy Church in Zebulon, North Carolina where he was a faithful servant for 52 years before retiring. Bishop Jones maintained membership at Fisher Memorial United Holy Church in Durham, North Carolina for 50 + years.

Bishop Jones was very active in many civic and religious organizations. He served as a past President of the Western North Carolina District Convocation, and he is past

President of the Southern District Convocation-Henderson, North Carolina. He received an Apostolic Appointment with the United Holy Church of America Incorporated. In 1984, he was recognized by North Carolina Governor James “Jim” B. Hunt for the highest award for community service — “The Order of The Long Leaf Pine”. In April 1985, he became a Life Member of Sertoma International. On May 7, 2002, he received a commendation for his Dedication and Sacrificial service to the Affairs of the United Holy Church of America, Inc. and for Outstanding Achievement and Leadership demonstrated by Exceptional Progress and Development in the United Holy Church Christian Academy. In 2008 and 2014, he was given the “Key to the City” in Durham, North Carolina for community service by Mayor William “Bill” Bell. Because of his exemplary service to the United Holy Church of America, Incorporated, on February 24, 2016, Bishop Jones was awarded the degree of Honorary Doctorate by United Christian College of The Southern District Convocation of the United Holy Church of America, Incorporated.

Bishop Jones’ love for the community was evident in the many projects he led. In 2012, Bishop Jones inspired and





led his district to purchase 25 acres at a cost of \$100,000 (now mortgage-free) to build a headquarters building for the Southern District Convocation – Henderson, North Carolina. He also guided leadership to acquire the funds and served as one of the primary negotiators for the acquisition of the United Holy Church of America's Headquarters building in Greensboro, North Carolina. He was appointed Bishop over the United Holy Church of America Christian Academy and served as Chairman of the Board of Directors. The school was later named, Triad Christian Academy.

An advocate of education and the progress of young people, Bishop Jones was a great supporter of programs and projects that enhanced the Church, the Community, and the lives of others. He supported the ministry of others who had been called to Kingdom building. Bishop Jones was a godly man worthy of honor and his service to the United Holy Church continued as he accepted the appointment as a Senior Advisor to the General President in October 2016. In October 2018 at the Mid-Year Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina, he graciously received his highest honor with the acceptance of the position of General Father of The United Holy Church of America, Inc., which he held until his passing.

Bishop Jones was an outstanding man of God, chosen by God, and was committed to his calling. He served the body of Christ under the umbrella of The United Holy Church of America, Incorporated as a preacher, evangelist, pastor, leader, servant of the church, visionary, and trailblazer for many years. He continued to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ under the anointing of the Holy Spirit with zeal, compassion, and love even in his last days, sharing a word and his life-learnings with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His favorite Bible verse is John 3:16, which reads, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Bishop Jones had a very special bond with his family. Preceding his death were his parents, Mack Swinton and Rosa Jones Scott, wife, the late Reverend Irene James Jones, sister, Bertha Scott Rush, daughters, Arlene "Frances" Wiggins, and Shirrell Lynette Jones. He leaves a legacy of love, strength, and precious memories to: his two daughters: Rosa J. Nolen and Pamela L. Grafton; ten grandchildren: Dana Hopkins (Curtis), Charmaine Grafton, Cyrena Grafton, Shameya Grafton, Jennifer Wiggins, Donald Nolen, Jr., Algernon Monroe, Jr., Jesse Monroe, Canaan Dale, and Caleb Dale and twelve great-grandchildren: Jonathan Partlow, II, Airmen 1st Class Makaylah Mbofana, Sydney Kennedy, Makayah Mbofana, Kaitlyn Hopkins, Ena Kennedy, Prentice Long, Jumuah Long, Courtney Crudup, Kyrie Hawley-Monroe, Keilian Hawley-Monroe, and Jayla Monroe; sister's-n-law: Margarie James, Patricia Blanks and Mary Evans; brother-n-law: Frederick James; and a host of extended family, friends, and the United Holy Church of America, Inc. Family



Brother Robert L. Rollins

Robert Lawrence Rollins was born to the late Betty Tisdale in Syracuse, New York on June 14, 1933. He was raised by the late Reverend Anna and Theodore Rollins of Toledo, Ohio. On September 21, 2023, Robert received his call to glory as a good and faithful servant of the Lord.

After graduating from Waite High School in Toledo, Robert and joined the United States Army and later attended The Moody Bible Institute while working for the Erie Army Depot and the United States Postal Service for 35 years.

Robert Rollins, “Uncle Bob” to many, became a member of Mays Chapel United Holy Church, Toledo, OH, currently Faith Community, shortly after its founding in 1946 by Reverend Mrs. Anna M. Rollins. His story is one of hardship, hurdles, and hope. “This too shall pass”, was a phrase near and dear to his heart and readily imparts a message of hope to all. His testimony is the basis for his love of faith, family, and children.

On November 24, 1956, he and the love of his life, Shirley J. Hill, were united in holy matrimony. To this union were born four wonderful children: Jeffery, Shelvia, Muriel, and James. Robert loved his family and enjoyed taking family vacations with his children. He and Shirley lived and raised their children in Toledo, Ohio.

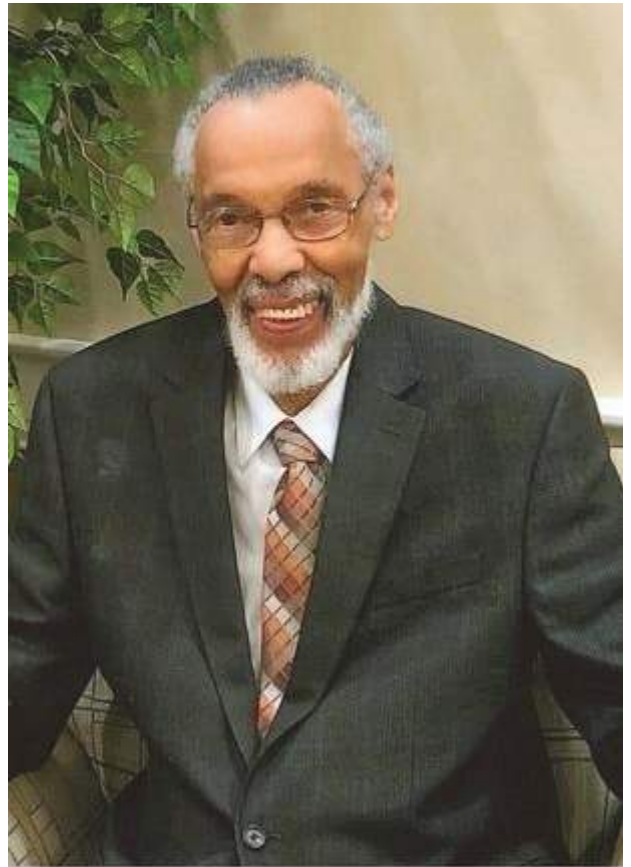
Robert and his family were faithful members of the church. He served in his early years as a Sunday School teacher, bus driver, gardener, janitor, and was the first choir director and pianist. Bob organized the first VBS at the church that expanded to include surrounding churches. He later served as YPHA President and BCS Superintendent. Whatever his hands found to do, Bob would do it to the glory of God.

Robert began working at the district level of The United Holy Church of America, from 1960-1975. In 1976 he rose to the leadership position of YPHA president along with his dear friend C.M Corbett. From 1980-1992 Bob served as the superintendent of the Northwestern District Bible Church School department. During his tenure, and because of the growth of attendance, the conventions moved from local churches to colleges and university campuses and then ultimately to hotels. Bob also served as a Northwestern District Convocation Trustee.

Robert then began working at the general level of the United Holy Church of America and was elected General Superintendent following greats like David Williams and C.M Corbett. While General Superintendent, he conducted the 1st Regional Youth Convention in St. Lucia, under the late Bishop Collymore. In 1998 he hosted the largest General Youth convention since the 1974 convention in Los Angeles, California, in Orlando Florida, where the attendees filled the hotel. His final service to the United Holy church was his appointment in 2004-2017 as the General Statistician where he kept meticulous records.

Bob’s service didn’t stop there. In the city of Toledo, he was a part of the neighborhood block watch, served at the Toledo Rescue Mission, OYAP (Ohio Youth Advocacy Program) board member for ONYX and was also instrumental in getting the first National Bank in the urban community.

Here to celebrate his life and to carry on his legacy is his devoted wife of 66+ years, Shirley Rollins, his son Jeffery (Rochelle) Rollins of Holland Ohio, his daughter Shelvia (Michael Sr.) Hunter of Gahanna Ohio, daughter Muriel (Ronald) Fairrow, of Pickerington Ohio, and son James Rollins of Defiance Ohio.



Mother Mattie Mae Bennett

Mattie Mae (Johnson) Bennett was born on December 13, 1929, in Boston, Massachusetts to the late William Johnson Jr. and Mattie Lee (Wyche).

Mother Bennett attended the David Ellis for primary school, the Henry L. Higginson Elementary School, and the Lewis Jr. High School. She graduated from Girls High School at age 16. She also attended the Hickock School of Business for speed writing.

On April 24, 1947, she married her childhood sweetheart Marcus Garvey Bennett Sr.. They were happily married for 66 years. They produced 6 children through their union, three boys and three girls. They also adopted a daughter and fostered several other children. They had 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. To family and friends, she was affectionately known as “Auntie” Mattie or “Ma” Bennett.

In 1957 Mother Bennett gave her heart to the Lord, and a year later on an Easter Sunday she joined Bethel Pentecostal Church and became an active member. She served as President of the Missionary Department and held the positions of Sunday Superintendent and choir member. She also served faithfully as an usher for over forty years and was the President of the Usher’s Board. Mother Bennett served as the N.E. District Convocation secretary and B.C.S. and Y.P.H.A. Convention. In the General Church, she was secretary of the Holiness Union under Dr. Durham, a member of The Welcoming Committee and B.C.S. and Y.P.H.A. Convention, and secretary of the General Usher’s Board.

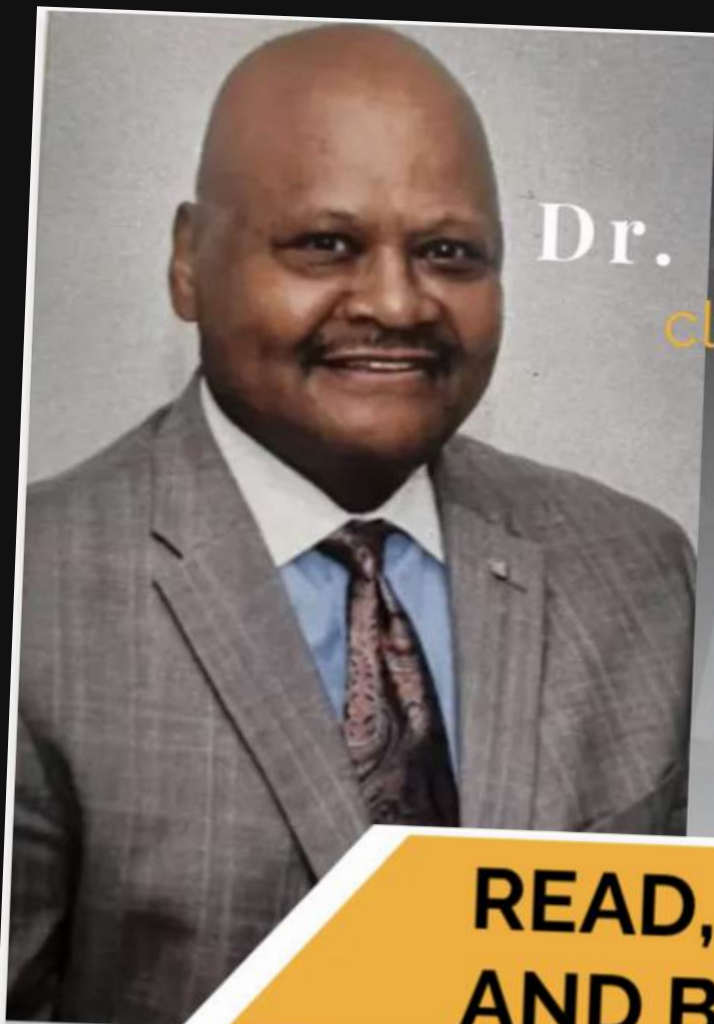


Mother Bennett was totally devoted to supporting the ministry, and she also managed to find time to work outside of her home. She worked for Stride Rite as a customer service representative for many years then later worked for the Boston Public School System as a librarian, bus monitor, and reading paraprofessional. After fifteen years of service, she retired and focused on church and family.

She is predeceased by her husband, Marcus G. Bennett Sr, and her sons, Marcus G. Bennett Jr and Matthew J. Bennett. She leaves to mourn her children and spouses: Marcia Bennett of Nevada, Michael and Jodie Bennett of Massachusetts, Michelle Bennett Johnson of Atlanta, and Meri and Marcus Bennett of Atlanta.

I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.





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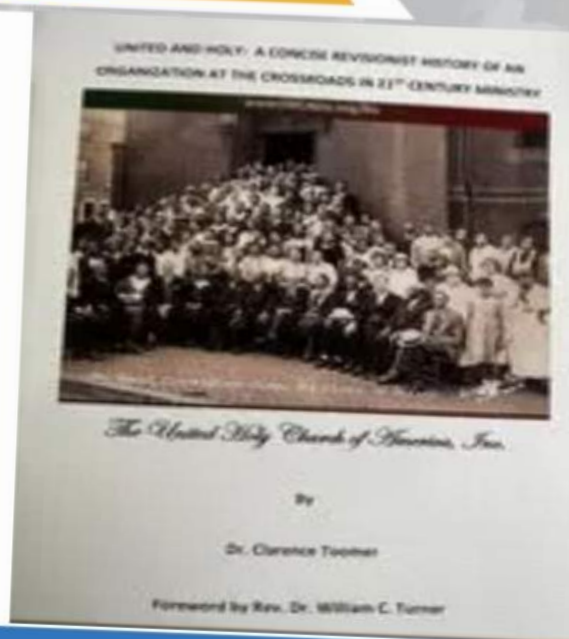
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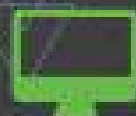
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"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee." Deuteronomy 31:6