

## North Alabama Conference of the UMC SBC21 January 2010 Event Speakers

### **Dr. Anthony Powell**

#### **Convener of North Alabama Conference SBC21**

Dr. Powell the son of the later Mr. Wayman Powell, Jr. and Mrs. Wilma Crews Powell. He is a member of Enon United Methodist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Powell is a Lay Speaker and has served as Director of Music at Enon for the past ten years.

Dr. Powell is a retired Educator from the Birmingham City School System and Birmingham Catholic Diocese School Systems. He is married to Alma B. Powell. They have three sons, one daughter, three grandsons and one granddaughter.



### **REV. DR. JOSEPH W. DANIELS, JR.**

Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Daniels, Jr. Senior Pastor of Emory United Methodist Church has served in this capacity for the past 15 years. During his leadership at Emory, the church has been awarded the "Kim Jefferson Northeast Jurisdictional Award" for effective urban ministry representing the United Methodist Church and has been selected as one of the 25 initiative churches in the "Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century" effort of the United Methodist Church. In addition, the Emory congregation has grown from an average of 70 people in weekly worship attendance to over 300 every Sunday.

Pastor Daniels holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Theological Seminary(2000) in Washington, D.C. He is also a 1991 graduate of the Howard University School of Divinity, and has earned Bachelor and Master degrees in the areas of Public Communication, Psychology, and Journalism and Public Affairs from the American University(1982,1984), also in Washington, D.C. He is very active in community affairs, serving as a Co-chair of the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) as well as on the Board of Directors of the Council of Churches of Greater Washington. He also teaches at Wesley Theological Seminary in the Urban Ministry and Practice of Ministry and Missions programs.



For the past five years, Pastor Daniels has served as a delegate in mission service to churches in Zimbabwe and South Africa, providing training for pastors and laity in the area of community development. Instructing groups on establishing neighborhood "Communities of Shalom," Pastor Daniels' commitment to a spirit of "peace on earth" is not confined to the "Brightwood Community," the city of Washington DC, or the United States of America. He fully believes that there can be healthy, wholesome, economically stable families and communities all over the world. Pastor Daniels has been happily married to his wife Madelyn for the past twenty (20) years. They are the proud parents of two children ages 19 and 17.

## **REVEREND TELLEY LYNNETTE GADSON**

Reverend Telley Lynnette Gadson, the only daughter of the Honorable Herbert Gadson and "Missionary" Linda Dingle Gadson, was born on February 28, 1974. A native of Hollywood, South Carolina, she has two brothers: Reginald and Shaytee; and two nieces: Quati Lenay and Qynn Leshay. She was reared as a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church (Hollywood, South Carolina), where she was very active in the life of this congregation. She was also nurtured by Bluff Road United Methodist Church (Columbia, South Carolina) and Saint Paul United Methodist Church (Gainesville, Georgia; where she served as Assistant Pastor from 1997-1999). Since June 13, 1999, she has been serving as the Pastor of Saint Mark United Methodist Church (Sumter, South Carolina).



As one of the pioneers of the Charleston County School District Magnet School Program for the academically gifted and talented, Reverend Gadson was a member of the first graduating class of Buist Academy in 1988 and the first graduating class of the Academic Magnet High School in 1992. She is a fall 1995 graduate of the University of South Carolina, where she was named to the Dean's List of the College of Liberal Arts. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and a minor in Religious Studies. In the spring of 1999, she graduated from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia with a Master of Divinity degree and Certification in Black Church Studies.

On Sunday, November 29, 1992, Reverend Gadson answered God's call on her life for ministry after preaching her first sermon entitled "What's Your Persuasion." On June 27, 1996, she was certified as a Candidate for the Ordained Ministry in the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. She was commissioned as a Probationary Elder on May 24, 1999, and ordained Elder on May 28, 2002 by the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

From June 13, 1999 to June 16, 2004, Reverend Gadson served as the Pastor of two Churches: Mount Zion and Saint Mark United Methodist Churches (Sumter, South Carolina). By God's grace and through Reverend Gadson's leadership; Mount Zion experienced spiritual growth, made structural improvements to the Church, and purchased a 25-passenger shuttle bus. By God's grace and through Reverend Gadson's leadership; Saint Mark experienced spiritual growth, more than tripled its membership, more than quadrupled its financial stewardship, made structural improvements to the Church, and purchased 20.6 acres of land in support of the vision to build a New Saint Mark. On June 16, 2004, Saint Mark United Methodist Church reached a major milestone by becoming a "Stationed Church," making it a "full-time Pastor appointment." On the same date, Reverend Gadson reached a major milestone by becoming the first full-time Pastor of Saint Mark, where she continues to lead God's people with a commitment to Akingdom excellence. @

Affectionately known as Pastor T, Reverend Gadson is a member of numerous church-related, community, academic, and national organizations; including the African American Clergywomen's Caucus of the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, the NAACP, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

God's anointing on Reverend Gadson for preaching has enabled her to share powerful witnesses to the glory of God on local, state-wide, and national platforms. During the 2001 Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, Reverend Gadson delivered a powerful witness concerning Racism in the Church Today during the Service of Reconciliation and Healing. In May of 2006, Reverend Gadson delivered the opening sermon for JUBILEE VOICES, a regional conference celebrating the 50th Year of Full Clergy Rights for Women in the Methodist Church. Reverend Gadson has been invited to preach on the following national platforms sponsored by the United Methodist Church: WOMEN'S WEEKEND 2006 in Wichita, Kansas; EXPLORATION 2006 in Jacksonville, Florida; CONVOCATION 2007 in Dallas, Texas; BACCALAUREATE 2007 at Philander-Smith College in Little

Rock, Arkansas; STUDENT FORUM 2007 in Tacoma, Washington; YOUTH STRIKE 2008 in Iowa City, Iowa; and WOMEN's DAY 2008 in Dallas, Texas. In February of 2007, Reverend Gadson was invited to share the Morning Meditation at the South Carolina Prayer Breakfast in celebration of then-Presidential Candidate, Senator Barack Obama (now President Obama).

The September/October 2008 issue of IMARA Woman Magazine highlights Reverend Gadson's story of her battle with obesity, and how she is overcoming this lifelong fight with a disciplined commitment to healthy eating and exercise. She was celebrated as the magazine's featured Keynote Speaker for the 2008 Health Ministry Empowerment Tour.

With sensitivity and a warm smile as her hallmarks, Reverend Telley Lynnette Gadson leads by example and believes that everyone has a place in the building of God's kingdom. An anointed preacher, a tenacious teacher, and a compassionate counselor, Reverend Gadson models her life after the African-American spiritual: "If I can help somebody as I travel along the way, then my living shall not be in vain."

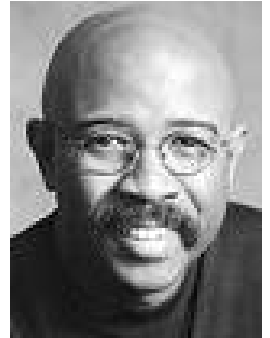
### **REVEREND RUDY RASMUS**

Rudy Rasmus is an emergent messenger, an urban prophet, and global humanitarian with a passion for outreach to our world's poorest citizens. Pastor Rudy co-pastors the [St. John's United Methodist Church](#) located in Downtown Houston with his wife Juanita.

Beginning with 9 existing members in 1992, St. John's has grown to over 9,000 members (3,000 of the total either are or were formerly homeless) in sixteen years into one of the most culturally diverse congregations in the country where every week people of every social and economic background share the same pew. He attributes the success of the church to a compassionate congregation who has embraced the vision of tearing down the walls of classism, sexism, and racism and building bridges of unconditional love, universal recovery, and unprecedented hope.

Pastor Rudy co-founded the [Bread of Life, Inc.](#) (a not for profit corporation) in December of 1992 and began serving dinners to the homeless in the sanctuary at St. John's. Years later the Bread of Life has changed the landscape of Downtown Houston providing an array of services to homeless men and women seven days a week in the recently constructed Daybreak Community Health Facility on the St. John's campus. The project provides over 7,000 hot meals each month to the homeless men and women and distributes over 9 tons of fresh food each week to hungry families. The agency also provides health and dental care for the indigent and uninsured, job training and placement, substance abuse treatment, and HIV testing, prevention, and education on a daily basis.

The \$9 million in campus construction over the last five years include state-of-the-art renovations to the Center for Worship and construction of the Center for Hope. Thanks to generous donations from Kelly Rowland and Beyonce Knowles of the pop singing group "Destiny's Child", the campus includes the \$1.2 million Knowles-Rowland Center for Youth, an exciting, multipurpose recreational complex for community youth. In response to insufficient housing in Houston in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, construction has begun on the \$4.6 million Knowles-Rowland Temenos Place Apartments. The project is a 42 unit Single Room Occupancy (SRO) development designed to provide transitional living accommodations for women and men who are taking significant steps in improving their lives after personal and natural disasters. Pastor Rudy is a monthly contributor to Oprah Winfrey's "[O Magazine](#)" in an ethics column entitled "Now What Do I Do" and is the author of a new book entitled "Touch: Pressing against the wounds of a broken world" (Thomas Nelson Publishers) which profiles his interesting life story and his unique brand of faith sharing and radical hospitality. He also has a new music project in stores now entitled "Touch Vol. 1: The Pastor Rudy Experience" on the Spirit Rising Music label. Rudy and Juanita have been married for 23 years and are the proud parents of two daughters, Morgan and Ryan who are both in college. Immersion.



**REV. DALE COHEN**

Rev. Dale Cohen is the Director of Connectional Ministries for the North Alabama Conference. He received his undergraduate degree from Birmingham-Southern in 1983 and a Masters degree from Emory University’s Candler School of Theology in 1986. His is a great researcher, a church planter and visionary leader with the ability to read widely, wisely, and well. Dale was ordained an elder in the United Methodist Church in 1988 and has served several appointments, including six years as associate pastor at Trinity UMC in Homewood. In 1992, he founded Discovery UMC in Hoover. Discovery grew to a congregation of more than 500 with many of those coming into the church on profession of faith. He is married to Ann and they have three children in their blended family.



**REV. TYRONE D. GORDON**

From September 1988 to June 2002, Pastor Gordon Senior Pastor of Saint Mark United Methodist Church, Wichita, Kansas. St. Mark grew from 350 members in 1988 to over 2,500 members. Saint Mark was considered to be one of the fastest growing African American congregations in the United Methodist Church. Saint Mark is also one of the most racially diverse congregations in the Kansas West Conference. In July 2002, Pastor Gordon was appointed to St. Luke “Community” United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas. St. Luke’s current membership is 5000.



Pastor Tyrone D. Gordon was born on December 7, 1956, in Los Angeles, California. He was educated in the Public School System of Los Angeles. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Bishop College, Dallas, Texas graduating with honors. He received his Master’s of Divinity Degree in 1984 from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. Pastor Gordon is an Ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church and is a member of the North Texas Conference. Pastor Gordon is married to the former Marsha Douglas and they have two beautiful daughters, Lauren and Allyson.

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***Pastoral Appointments:***

- St. Luke “Community” United Methodist Church – Dallas, Texas (June 2002 – Present)
- Saint Mark United Methodist Church – Wichita, Kansas (September, 1988 to June 2002)
- Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church – Little Rock, Arkansas (June 1986 – July 1988)
- Chaplain, Philander-Smith College – Little Rock, Arkansas (August 1986 – June 1988)
- St. Paul United Methodist Church – Little Rock, Arkansas (June 1982 – June 1986)

***Denominational Work:***

- National Revival Preacher and Workshop Leader
- Commission on Pan-Methodist Cooperation & Union (2000-Present)

Delegate to 1992, 1996, 2000, & 2008 General and Jurisdictional Conferences  
Delegate to 2004 Jurisdictional Conference  
South Central Jurisdictional Committee on the Episcopacy (1996-2002)  
Large Church Initiative Committee (1995-Present)  
Coordinating Committee, Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century (1996-Present)  
General Council on Ministries (1992-2000)  
Board of Directors – General Board of Discipleship (2000-2008)  
National President, Black Methodists for Church Renewal (1998-2000)  
Jurisdictional President, Black Methodist for Church Renewal (1988-1993)  
Conference Leadership

***Community Work:***

Perkins School of Theology Executive Board (2002 - Present)  
Wichita Board of Education (1991-1995)  
Board of Trustees – Wichita Children’s Home (1992-2001)  
Greater Wichita Foundation Board (1995-2001)  
Wichita Ministerial League (1988-2002)  
Salvation Army Advisory Board – Wichita, Ks. 2002  
Member - NAACP  
Member - Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

***Recognitions:***

1997 Denman Evangelism Award – United Methodist Church  
1998 National Citizen of the Year – Omega Psi Phi Fraternity  
1995 Minister of the Year – Wichita Branch NAACP  
2000 Brotherhood/Sisterhood Award – The National Conference for Community & Justice (formerly The National Conference of Christians and Jews)

**Published Work:**

Articles have appeared in *The Circuit Rider & The Quarterly Review*  
*Strengthening the Black Church through Worship-General Board of Discipleship-UMC.*  
*A Calendar of Devotions – African American History Month – Abingdon Press (2003)*  
*FOCUS: Living the Lord’s Prayer – Abingdon Press (2008)*