

Rev. Dr. Allonia Hemby Holmes

Rev. Dr. Allonia Hemby Holmes was called into the ministry and mission field in 1982 under the Pastorate of Rev. David Morrison. In 1983, she was licensed to preach at St. John AME Church of Raleigh, NC. She was born in Greenville, NC to the late Revs. Bennie Lee and Kathleen Hemby. She was mentored under the tutelage of Global Missionary and International Teacher, Marilyn Hickey and the Oral Roberts International Charismatic Bible Ministries in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

She has been in ministry for 43 years and has served as Pastor for 35 years. She was married to the late Retired Major Dr. James E. Holmes for over 42 years. God blessed Rev. Dr. Holmes with a total of 3 children: Exhorter James, the late Trustee Anthony, and Rev. Jacquelyn.

Rev. Dr. Holmes received her Bachelor of Science and Masters in Pastoral Counseling from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. She received her Masters and Doctorate in Family Counseling from Living Word Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. She received an Early Child Care Education degree from Capella University and a Licensed Practical Nurse degree from Wake Technical Community College. In 2001, she returned to her AME roots and became re-obligated and ordained an Itinerant Deacon in the AME Church, later ordained as an Itinerant Elder in 2007. In 2012, received CPE Certification for Chaplaincy after completing Internship at Wake Med Hospital – Raleigh Campus and her Residency at Wake Med Hospital – Cary Campus. In 2017, received Ecclesiastical Endorsement for Chaplaincy from the AME Church Office of Urban and Ecumenical Affairs and is a member of the Association of Professional Chaplains and the Henry McNeal Turner AME Chaplains Association.

She has served as Alternate Delegate to the 49th, 50th, and 52nd Quadrennial Sessions of the General Conference. In 2007, was elected Western North Carolina Conference Women In Ministry Worship Leader. In 2018, she was appointed to the WNCC Board of Examiners. In 2022, was elected WNCC Women In Ministry Co-Chair. In 2024, was elected the WNCC Women In Ministry Coordinator. She has served on the Ministerial Efficiency Committee, Chair of Church School, and Chair of Ecology, Temperance & Health within the WNCC.

Other ministry highlights and/or achievements include:

- From 1992 to the present, she has ministered in over 24 countries, and provinces in South Africa; Tanzania, Mozambique, Japan, China, Russia, Israel, Cyprus, Turkey, Greece, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, and Italy
- Member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
- Recognized in the National Registers of Who's Who of Business Executives and Professionals
- In 1998, Living Waters' facility expanded from 800 square feet to over 3500 square feet

- 2001-2002 birthed two ministry subsidiaries which were under the umbrella of Living Waters: Allo'Hem Ministries, Inc. and Living Waters Community Development Corp.
- In 2001, hosted Mentoring Conferences for Leaders and Families in Secaucus, NJ, Manhattan, NY, and Kissimmee, Fl
- In 2003, hosted a Mentoring Clinic and Leadership Conference in Toronto, Canada
- Authored three books entitled: *In Search of A Way Out*, *In His Hands*, and *Prayer Changes Destinies*
- Implemented Annual Mentoring and Leadership Conferences on the campus of Disney World in Orlando, Florida; South Carolina Shorecrest and Baywatch Resorts; Savannah, Georgia and Washington, D.C.
- Attended Shaw Divinity School of Raleigh, NC
- In 2005, established Living Waters Child Development Center, a Licensed Daycare with Before and After School Care serving ages 5 to 12
- 2019 Recipient of the 103.9 Radio-One Lamplighters Lifetime Achievement Award sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC.