

# 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

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### 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 Trevoise, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

bcsc/ypna department



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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/ypha

education



## MYA FOUNTAIN, Candidate for YPHA Department 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 his 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](mailto:vphughes24@gmail.com)

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

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

## GENERAL ELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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