

## **Biographical Statement of the Reverend Dr. M. L. Kaufman**

Doctor M. L. Kaufman is a native of Louisville, Kentucky. He is the son of the late Reverend Godfrey Kaufman and Ms. Paula Butler of Louisville, Kentucky. He is married to Dr. Deanna Wathington of Matawan, NJ. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Applied Physics from Christopher Newport University; a Master of Divinity Degree from Virginia Union University; a Master of Sacred Theology Degree from Lenoir Rhyne University (LTSS) in South Carolina; and a Doctor of Ministry Degree in Homiletics from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. Among his educational pursuits, he taught African American Homiletics and Black Theology as an adjunct professor at Lutheran Seminary. He served as adjunct faculty for Barber-Scotia College, Apex School of Theology, Bethune-Cookman University and currently at Saint Leo University.

Among his degreed pursuits, he has had several certifications and certificates of training ranging from administration, conflict resolution, family relationships, and personality types. While attending Virginia Union University, he and a partner developed and copyrighted a welfare reform program for the state of Virginia that addressed spiritual, economic, and social issues. He also has written an article on domestic violence in a military newspaper at Fort Eustis, Virginia entitled "Jack and Jill Went up the Hill."

He has served in the U.S. Army in The Military Intelligence Corps as an enlisted soldier. While stationed in Germany, he has done missionary work at the African Refugee Camps. He has also served as a pastor in the United States Army Reserves and Active Duty endorsed by the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc in the armed forces as a military chaplain. He served as Pastor of the Gospel Service and a Battalion Chaplain at Fort Huachuca, Arizona ministering to over 400 soldiers and their families doing extensive counseling in marriage, domestic violence, suicide prevention, spiritual formation, leadership, staff development and religious education.

He has previously served as the senior pastor of Tubman King Community Church in Daytona Beach, Florida for five years and the senior pastor of Nicey Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Marshville, North Carolina for thirteen years. He was employed as a team chaplain at the AdventHealth Hospital system in Daytona Beach and New Smyrna, Florida. He completed a Clinical Pastoral Education residency at Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater, Florida. He served as an Army Chaplain in the United States Army for six years. He is an Ordained Baptist Minister who has been in ministry since 1987. He has taught courses in the State Baptist Congress' of Arizona, South Carolina, and North Carolina. He also has served as the former Ministers' Conference President for the Paradise Baptist State Convention of Arizona and Congress 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the North Carolina General Baptist State Convention.

He is a member of GZL chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. He previously served as an executive board member of F.A.I.T.H. (Fighting Against Injustice Towards Harmony) of Volusia County. He currently serves as a pool Chaplain at South Florida Baptist Hospital in Plant City. He was voted in as pastor on October 27, 2024 of the First Baptist Institutional Church in Lakeland, Florida.