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#8033 Church and Society

Instructor: Rev. Eric D. Williams

"Education should not give the learner the answer but should provide the learner with the necessary tools and raise the necessary questions to help the learner discover the answer."

—Eric D. Williams, 2002

Born in Silver Creek, Mississippi, Reverend Eric D. Williams has dedicated his life to ministry and education. He is a graduate of Jackson State University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree, and he furthered his theological education at Morehouse School of Religion—Interdenominational Theological Center, where he received his Master of Divinity.

Responding to his call to ministry in December 1996, Reverend Williams preached his initial sermon on March 9, 1997, and was licensed by the College Hill Baptist Church. He was ordained to the gospel ministry on January 14, 2001, also at College Hill Baptist Church. While pursuing his seminary education, he gained valuable experience as a youth minister at both the Greater New Light Baptist Church and New Calvary Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

In June 2001, he became the Academic Dean of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary, making history as the youngest individual to hold that position. He served in this role until 2007 and took on the role of Pastor's Assistant at Farish Street Baptist Church in January 2002, where he contributed to the church's preaching and teaching ministries.

Reverend Williams further expanded his impact from August 2003 to December 2007 at Tougaloo College, where he served in various capacities, including Interim Chaplain, Coordinator for Service-Learning and Community Service, and Learning Specialist for the Center for Student Advising and Retention. He also taught in the Comprehensive Academic Resource Program and the Humanities Division.

From October 2007 to July 2021, he pastored Greater Pleasant View Baptist Church in Brentwood, Tennessee, before serving as pastor of Spruce Street Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee, from July 2021 to March 2024. Throughout his ministry, he has remained active in local, state, and national initiatives within the National Baptist Convention. His leadership roles include serving as President of the Stones River District Association Congress of Christian Education, First Vice Moderator of the Stones River District Association, and State Director of the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Education Convention Congress of Christian Education. He also worked as the Senior Director of Christian Education Accreditation and Credentials at the Sunday School Publishing Board.

In April 2024, Reverend Williams returned to Mississippi to become the seventh pastor of Farish Street Baptist Church in Jackson, MS. He also serves as the president of the Jackson District Missionary Baptist Association Congress of Christian Education. His journey reflects a profound commitment to faith, education, and community service, inspiring many in his path.