



## Kajaun Barnes

Kajaun Barnes graduated from Muskegon High School in 2012 and has held various jobs since then. An aspiring entrepreneur, he hopes to one day start his own business in Muskegon. On his off days, he enjoys basketball and reading to and playing with his 2-year-old daughter. Mr. Barnes cites his grandparents as a positive influence on his life, shaping him into the young man he is today. On what drives him to succeed, he notes, “Growing up I didn’t have much, and that pushes me every day to get more. There’s always more.”



## Sam Booker

Sam Booker was born in Muskegon in 1953 to parents Ida and Samuel. Samuel and Ida arrived in Muskegon during the great migration, where he found work pouring iron at Lakey Foundry and she at restaurants and in nursing. Sam Booker graduated from Muskegon Heights High School in 1971 and attended Ferris State University until joining the U.S. Army in 1972. While in the Army, he worked in NATO as a Nike Hercules Missile crewman and in the 1/10 Mechanized Cavalry as a turret mechanic on the M-60 A1 tank. After a five year posting in West Germany, he returned to the U.S.

Back in Muskegon, Mr. Booker worked for the Eagle Ottawa Leather Company from 1979-2006, also serving as President, activist, and organizer for the Local 7252 of the Allied Industrial Workers Union. He graduated from Muskegon Community College in 2008, and worked at Michigan Steel until its 2010 closure. Mr. Booker is currently a member of the Muskegon Museum of Art staff, working in security.



## Brandon Burrel

Brandon Phillip Burrel was born in Muskegon on February 3, 1986 to Bishop Willie L. Burrel and Lady Zandra M. Burrel. He is one of four children, his siblings being Willie Burrel Jr, Alexandra Burrel, and Philip Smalls. Brandon Burrel came up through the Muskegon Heights Public School system, where he participated in basketball, football, baseball, golf, track, cross country, and band. He was also a member of the National Honor Society and finished within the top 10 of his 2004 graduating class. Brandon continued on to complete his

Associates Degree (2007) in General Studies at Muskegon Community College, his Bachelor of Arts (2009) in Sociology/Criminal Justice, and Master of Arts (2012) in Educational Leadership, both from Western Michigan University. During his college career, Brandon remained a force on the basketball court, and played for both Muskegon Community College and Kuyper College. Mr. Burrel made the basketball team at WMU as a walk-on (2009), but due to collegiate Division 1 rules was not able to play.

Following the completion of his BA, Mr. Burrel returned to his hometown of Muskegon Heights where he immediately began supporting the community with his talents and educational training as a teacher in the Muskegon Heights Public School District. He then worked for the State of Michigan as a Child Protective Services worker before stepping into his current role as a Disease Intervention Specialist with the Muskegon County Health Department. Mr. Burrel has found innovative ways to educate the local community, one of them being his Health Talk radio show on 103.7 The Beat. He can frequently be seen throughout the city at health forums, fairs, and events, establishing relationships, partnerships, and informative opportunities to improve the overall state of health in Muskegon/Muskegon Heights.

In addition to his educational and career accomplishments, Mr. Burrel takes great pride in his foundation of faith. He was raised in a faith filled home and church, Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church, where his father Willie was the pastor until he lost the battle with cancer in October of 2009. Mr. Burrel is still a faithful member of the church, which is now under the pastoral leadership of his uncle Suffragan Bishop Avery Burrel.

Brandon Burrel has 2 children, Braylen Phillip Burrel and Bex Lee, both by his future wife Rachel Latsch. Although the youngest of the family, he continues to carry on the legacy of love, education, and faith that his parents instilled. In his free time, he enjoys basketball, flag football, softball, golf, fishing, volleyball, officiate sports, and world travel. Mr. Burrel has a strong belief in such enduring sentiments as "The Sky is the Limit," "Hard Work Pays Off," and "Never Settle." Through his work and faith, he hopes to establish a legacy that can live on for generations to come.



## Edwin T. Chappel, Jr.

Edwin Troy Chappel Jr., better known as “TJ,” was born and raised in Muskegon Heights. He is the fourth of six children born to Arnetta A. Ware and Edwin T. Chappel, Sr. TJ attended Edgewood Elementary school in Muskegon Heights. From there he went on to Steele Middle School in Muskegon before becoming one of the first school of choice participants when he enrolled at Muskegon High School. As a Big Red, Mr. Chappel lettered twice as a varsity basketball player. He was also a member of the Big Red Marching Band, Student Leadership Council, Drama Club, and the National Honors Society. He was awarded “Best Personality” from his senior class, and graduated from Muskegon High School in position 25 out of 256 seniors; earning a 3.56 cumulative grade point average.

Mr. Chappel attended Baker College for a year after high school, before earning a scholarship as a walk-on basketball student-athlete at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio. After 2 seasons as SSU, he transferred to Paul Quinn College, a Historical Black College located in Dallas, Texas. From there, he earned his bachelor’s degree in Human Services as well as a varsity letter for basketball.

Since graduating college, Mr. Chappel has held a variety of positions. From a heavy equipment operator to cemetery attendant to a youth development professional, he is a man of many skills. Today, he is extremely active in his home community as a Club Director of the BGC/21st CLCC Teen Zone in Muskegon Heights as well as a role model and middle school basketball coach.



**Kevin M. Cummings**



## **Lawaun Cunningham**

Lawaun Cunningham was born in Muskegon and raised in a single family home with his two older brothers. He went to Muskegon Public Schools, and upon graduation enrolled in barber school in Detroit, where he obtained his Barber's License in 1996. He then worked at Burt's Barber Shop for 8 years. In 2004, Lawaun became the co-owner of L & L Family Barber Shop in Muskegon Heights. When not working, he enjoys spending time with his wife Teresa and four children.



## Brandon Davis

Brandon Davis, Esq. is a practicing attorney in Muskegon. A Detroit native, he attended Harry S. Truman High School in Taylor, MI and graduated from Southfield High School in 2004. Mr. Davis is an accomplished attorney, committed minister, and anointed gospel artist. After only three years of college, Brandon earned a Bachelors of Applied Arts in Interpersonal and Public Communications with an emphasis in Interpersonal Communication and a minor in American Sign Language from Central Michigan University in 2007. Brandon then obtained a Juris Doctorate from Wayne State University Law School in 2010. He passed the bar exam on his first attempt, at the age of 23. Since the completion of law school, Brandon's professional focus has been in the areas of Criminal, Family, and Labor Law.

He worked as an Attorney at Law for the Law Office of Randall P. Upshaw from 2010-2011 and was an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the Wayne State Prosecutor's Office from 2010-2013. He moved to Muskegon in 2013, where he served as Senior Assistant Prosecutor for the Muskegon County Prosecutor's Office until February of 2018.

As a child, Mr. Davis was constantly told that he would be a preacher, but he rejected that idea, swearing he would never preach. God had other plans, and called him to the ministry. When he's not in the courtroom, he spends his time ministering to God's people in both word and song. When he is not working, preaching, or singing, he enjoys spending time with his family and traveling the world. Mr. Davis strongly believes in operating in the spirit of excellence; he lives by Philippians 3:14 which states "I press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."



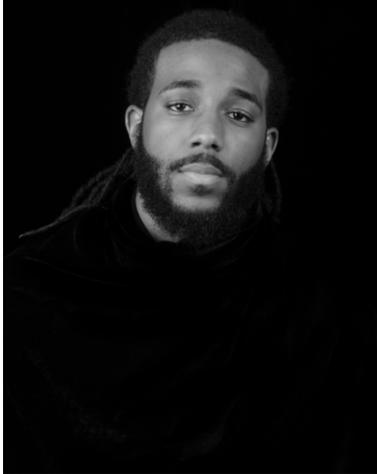
## Christopher James Dean

Christopher Dean is currently employed as the Muskegon Heights Fire Chief. A lifelong resident of Muskegon County, Mr. Dean and his siblings were raised by mother Ida Dean, a hard-working single parent. The family lived in Muskegon Heights for 13 years before moving to the City of Muskegon. Mr. Dean graduated from Muskegon High School and later attended Muskegon Community College. He has attended numerous technical training academies including the United States Fire Administration's National Fire Academy. Through his career, Chief Dean has attained multiple certifications including Emergency Medical Technician, Professional Emergency Manager, Fire Instructor I & II, Certified Incident Safety Officer, Fire Inspector, and Certified Fire and Explosion Investigator.

In his over 22 years with the Muskegon Heights Fire Department, Mr. Dean has received multiple awards for his work including, but not limited to, Muskegon Heights Firefighter of the Year, Michigan Arson Prevention Committee's Investigation of the Year, and, for his work in fire investigation, the United States Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Honor Award.

Before taking the position of Fire Chief, Mr. Dean was known as an accomplished fire investigator. He is qualified as an expert in fire investigation in both Federal and State courts. He also received several awards for fire investigation photography from the Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Fire Fighters.

Beyond his professional work, Mr. Dean has served on a number of boards and committees including the Boys and Girls Club Muskegon Lakeshore, Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association, Muskegon Area Fire Chiefs Association, and Mission for Are People.



## **D'Vonte Dockery**

D'Vonte Dewayne Dockery was born on August 30, 1994 in Muskegon, where he was also raised. He graduated from Muskegon High School in 2013 and quickly became engaged in the community as a mentor for the Young Brother's program while also teaching youth basketball and football. This holiday season he will be facilitating his second annual Christmas toy drive for Every Woman's Place.

At the age of 21, Mr. Dockery was the honored recipient of the 2015 Distinguished Gentlemen Award at the Muskegon Community Beat Award ceremony, the youngest man to hold the title.

Mr. Dockery has worked at ADAC Automotive for over four years, and recently launched his own lawn care business. He is devoted to being hands-on in his community, leading his young brothers in a distinguished lifestyle by example.



## Gregory R. Frye

Gregory R. Frye was born in Muskegon Heights to parents Thomas and Beatrice Frye. The Fryes had six children, four boys and two girls. Thomas Frye was an employee of CWC and Beatrice Frye worked at a celery processing plant. Thomas was also a professional musician, playing the guitar for BB King and other bands, and Beatrice was a gospel singer. Their passion and talent for music is shared with son Gregory, who sings professionally.

Mr. Frye graduated from Muskegon Heights High School in 1975 and enlisted in the US Army in 1976. He served three years in Germany and a following three years in the reserve before receiving an honorable discharge. He worked at several steel industry jobs until 2000, when he was hired at Sealed Power before a work injury forced him onto disability. Mr. Frye was hired in 2004 by the Muskegon Museum of Art as a guard, where he now serves as the lead member of the security team.



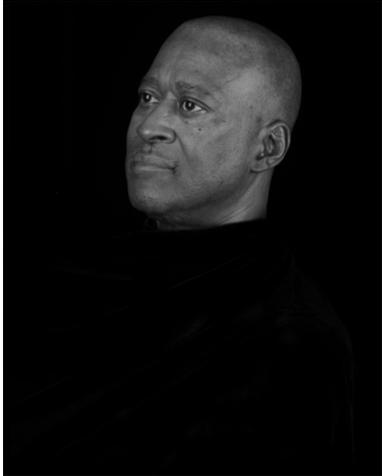
## Edward Garner

Edward Lenard Garner is the West Michigan Regional Director and Interim State Director for the Michigan Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at Grand Valley State University, where he helps entrepreneurs and small businesses start, grow, and succeed. He was born and raised in a caring community in Muskegon Heights, Michigan and graduated as valedictorian of the Muskegon Heights High School Class of 1977. Mr. Garner has over 24 years of economic development, business development, lending, and customer service experience and was the first African-American President & CEO of Muskegon Area First Economic Development Corporation where he served for 10 years.

Prior to the SBDC and Muskegon Area First, Mr. Garner was the Economic Development Vice President for the Grand Haven Chamber of Commerce and the Executive Director for Kent Area MicroBusiness Loan Services - the first SBA microloan program on the west side of the State of Michigan. Throughout his career, he has also had the opportunity to work for Muskegon Economic Growth Alliance, FMB Lumber's Bank (now Huntington Bank), Sprint Communications, and Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

Mr. Garner has always given back to the community by volunteering and serving on various boards which have included Muskegon Heights Public Schools, Muskegon Intermediate School District, Urban League of Greater Muskegon, Muskegon Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, West Michigan Works!, United Way of the Lakeshore, and Community Foundation for Muskegon County.

Mr. Garner has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering from Michigan State University and a MBA from Western Michigan University. He resides in Muskegon, Michigan with his wife of 18 years, Tonette, and is the proud father of one daughter, Shalyn.



## Lee Gilbert

Lee Gilbert is most remembered as the longtime coach of the powerhouse Muskegon Heights basketball teams and one of the best players to ever come out of the Muskegon Heights basketball factory.

Mr. Gilbert was born in Arkansas in 1952 and relocated to Muskegon in 1963. He attended the Muskegon Heights Public School System, where he was an All-State athlete. After graduating in 1970, he attended Robert Morris Junior College, where he led the team in scoring his sophomore year and took the team to the National Junior College championships his freshman and sophomore years. He was also an All-American performer. Later, Mr. Gilbert transferred to the University of Oklahoma to play with the nationally ranked Sooners, and was the team captain his senior year.

Returning to his hometown, Mr. Gilbert entered his career as an educator and coach for boys' varsity basketball. During his 24 seasons, he led Muskegon Heights to 2 class B State Championships (1978 and 1979). Over his career his teams had 529 wins, 15 district championships, and 8 regional titles. He also coached for five years at Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills and two years as head coach for Muskegon Community College. He is inducted into the Muskegon Area Sports Hall of Fame and Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Hall of Fame, and his basketball jersey, No. 22, has been retired. He is the recipient of numerous national, State, and local coaching awards, including Select Circle and Who's Who; Michigan Prep News Coach of the Year (1979); BCAM Regional Coach of the Year (1987); the Muskegon Chronicle News (five time honoree); and the Okie Johnson Award from the Muskegon Heights Alumni Association.

Mr. Gilbert is also active in the community, serving as a counselor at the Michigan State University Summer Basketball Camp for many years. Currently, he is the president of Trinity Village Nonprofit Housing Corporation and serves on the board of directors for Holy Trinity Church of God in Christ. He is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Lee Gilbert and his wife Leticia have been married for 30 years and are the parents of 2 children, 5 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

## Joseph Gordon



Joe Gordon is the Case Manager and Transition Coach for the EXIT Program (Empowering Ex-offenders in Transition) where he is responsible for aligning participants with mentors, connecting them with local churches and community resources, and coaching or helping clients navigate re-entry to the community. Mr. Gordon is also the Youth Pastor at West Michigan Worship Center, located in Norton Shores. He is privileged to be appointed the youth minister for inner city and suburban school age, middle school, and high school children with approximately 40 regular students. He is responsible for introducing students to Jesus Christ, helping students grow in their walk with Christ, and equipping students and leaders for ministry.

Mr. Gordon grew up in Muskegon before moving to Toledo, OH; Dubuque, IA; and Kalamazoo, MI for college. He excelled in college playing football and track field. He later met his wife, a Detroit native, at Western Michigan University. The couple resides in Norton Shores, MI with their 3 children. Mr. Gordon holds a Bachelor's degree in Africana Studies and Comparative Religion. He is also an avid powerlifter and still holds the state record for his weight for the ironman division in USAPL.



## Glen Douglas Gray, Jr.

Glen Douglas Gray was born in Grand Rapids, MI and raised in Muskegon. He is the father of two (Glen III and Madison), a leader, philanthropist, socialite, event promoter, and millennial. A social media marketing guru, he is the founder of JR Gray Designs & Entertainment, LLC.

Mr. Gray has been employed with Muskegon Public Schools as a paraprofessional for the past eight years. In his role, he has a genuine desire to positively influence the lives of our youth. It is imperative to him to be in a place that has a shortage of African American men—our public schools.

Affectionately known as JR, Mr. Gray has charisma and the ability to work a room or crowd—big or small. He is on the rise as an entrepreneur, in the field of graphic design, and in marketing & promoting. He serves small businesses, organizations, churches, and individuals throughout the United States.

He is a lover of all genres of music, and loves to travel in his spare time. Mr. Gray prides himself on giving back to his community by hosting events that empower and challenge the urban community to rise to the occasion.



## **Keith Guy**

Keith Guy is the Director of Athletics and Head Boys Varsity Basketball Coach at Muskegon High School. He has been a varsity head coach for 15 years, including a nine year stint at Muskegon Heights.

Mr. Guy is a 1993 graduate of Muskegon Heights High School. He attended Muskegon Community College and later transferred to Ferris State University where he earned his Associate's and Bachelor's Degrees in Education. Keith earned his Master's Degree in Counseling Education from Central Michigan University.

Born and raised in Muskegon Heights, Keith resides in the city with his wife Kiesha and three children, Keiarra, Christian, and Cameron.



## Khi L. Guy

Pastor Khi L. Guy was born on September 20, 1971 and raised in Muskegon Heights, Michigan. As God would have it, he accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior at an early age and has not looked back. The evidence of God's hand upon his life was witnessed early, and Pastor Guy quickly became a servant of the Lord, leading bible study, Sunday school classes, and youth activities. He became the youngest Co-Pastor in the city of Muskegon Heights at Corinthians Baptist Church.

Pastor Guy began preaching at Corinthians Baptist Church in 1990 under the leadership of Pastor Clarence J. Guy. Three years later, he was ordained at Spring Street Baptist Church in Muskegon. From 1997-1998 he pastored his first church in California, the Sunflower Missionary Baptist Church. After a brief move away, under the direction of the Holy Spirit Pastor Guy returned to California.

In 2002 he organized the Greater Harvest Baptist Church in L.A. Pastor Guy, family, and church family joined Victory Bible Full Gospel Baptist Church in Pasadena, under the leadership of Bishop Milton M. White. Pastor Guy, led by the Spirit of God, chose not to challenge the leadership of the church. He purposed instead to follow the plan of God. God was ushering in a new thing; now he is the Pastor of Corinthians Baptist Church in Muskegon Heights, Michigan.

Pastor Guy attended Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He has completed all course work for his bachelor's degree in Ministry/Business Leadership, received a Masters of Art in Biblical Studies, and is pursuing a Doctoral Degree in Ministry at Western Theological seminary in Holland, Michigan. Pastor Guy lives in Muskegon. He is a Loving and Devoted father.



## Clayton Hardiman

Clayton Hardiman grew up in Grand Rapids in a home rich in laughter, faith, and love. Before retiring, he worked four decades as a reporter, editor, and columnist for *The Muskegon Chronicle*. Over the years, his work won numerous awards and appeared in the Poynter Institute's national anthology of Best Newspaper Writing. His interests include jazz, history, literature, and issues of peace and justice. He is currently working on a novel. Hardiman lives in Muskegon with his wife, Emma Jean. The couple raised three sons to be productive, principled men. They have eight grandchildren.



## Eric Hood

Eric Hood was born in Detroit and moved to Muskegon at age three with his parents, Marcella and Louis Hood. He attended Muskegon High School, and was a member of both the football and basketball teams. He holds the 1979 record for the longest touchdown interception run of 99 yards. He joined the US Army at the age of 20 and served in the Army Medical Corps from 1982-1985. Mr. Hood was stationed at Camp Howze Korea 1/31<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division and 72 on the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which included ambush patrols and the quick reaction force. He was also assigned to the Madigan Army Hospital and Walter Reed Army Medical Facility during his enlistment.

When he returned to Muskegon, Mr. Hood worked for three years at Howmet Turbine Components. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Colorado Technical University, as well as attending Muskegon Community College and Grand Valley State University Police Academy. He joined the Muskegon Police Department in 1988 and retired a patrolman in 2008.

In 2011, Mr. Hood was elected as Ward 1 Commissioner to the Muskegon City Commission and has served as Vice Mayor since 2016. He is married to Nietra Hood and is father to a son, Eric Jr., and three daughters, Charice, Caprice, and Sequoia.



## Douglas Hunter, Jr.

Douglas R. Hunter Jr. was born and raised in Muskegon, MI. Of his life to date, he states: "I have completed high school. I graduated from a college. I am employed. I really enjoy muscle cars and good music. I like art. I am a sneaker guy. As a kid I once ran away from home to buy a York peppermint patty, hid behind my house, and believed when I bit into it I would feel the "sensation of skiing the Alps" (Commercials lie). I am a devoted man of God. I have been chosen to preach Christ. I am not a felon and I have never served prison time. I am a committed Husband to an absolutely beautiful and brilliant woman. I'm a blessed Dad of 5 incredible children, a grateful Son to my very patient and loving parents. I'm a thankful Brother to a few crazy and cool siblings and a true Friend but not many friends. Oh and I like sports, football mainly, but I am terrible at playing basketball."



## Justin Jennings

Justin M. Jennings, Ed.Sp, was recently the Superintendent of Schools for Muskegon Public Schools. Mr. Jennings attended Purdue University on a varsity basketball scholarship, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree. He went on to earn three Master's Degrees from Grand Valley State University: Educational Leadership, Special Education Administration, and Special Education with an emphasis in Emotional Impairments. In addition, he received an Educational Specialist Degree (Ed.S) in Leadership from GVSU. He is currently completing the dissertation for his Doctorate of Education (Ed.D) in Educational Leadership at the University of Michigan.

Prior to his post as MPS Superintendent, Mr. Jennings worked as an administrator in Grand Rapids Public Schools - five years as an Assistant Principal at Grand Rapids Creston High School and Union High and two years as Head Principal at Union High School. He served as Head Principal of Holland High School and New Tech High at Holland High School in Holland, Michigan. From 2013-2015 he worked as the Executive Principal of Ypsilanti Community Schools (Willow Run Community Schools and Ypsilanti Public School Consolidation). He also worked previously for Muskegon Public Schools as the Special Education Director and as the Assistant Superintendent.



## Zachary Johnson II

Zachary Johnson II is a member at Kingdom Embassy Covenant Church (KECC) under the Leadership of Pastor Arthur Duren. In the church, he served on the Media, Connection, and Youth Mime Ministry Teams. He graduated in 2017 from Muskegon High School, in the top tenth of his class. In high school he was a member of the Student Leadership Council and the National Honor Society. He also participated in orchestra for four years as the first chair violin, played on the JV and Varsity football teams, and was a member of the Muskegon bowling team his junior and senior years, where he served as Captain and placed #11 at the 2017 State Regionals. He is currently attending Davenport University and majoring in Biological Laboratory Sciences, and is a member of Davenport's men's bowling team.

Mr. Johnson hopes to return to his home town to give back and support his community by being a “resource to a deserving High School Senior who chooses to attend college.”



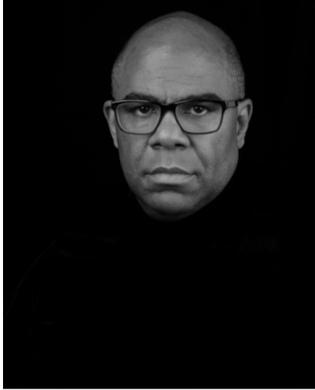
## Reverend Robert J. Johnson, MAML

Reverend Robert J. Johnson, a Muskegon Heights native, is nationally recognized in his clerical field. He has the distinction of being the first African American pastor licensed and ordained in the Missionary Church Inc., headquartered in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Rev. Johnson attended John Brown University and Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois, receiving his undergraduate degree from Trinity, and a Master's Degree in Ministerial Leadership from Cornerstone University in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Rev. Johnson is a licensed and ordained minister with the Missionary Church Inc. and has served as an associate pastor for 19 years and 20 years as the Senior Pastor of West Michigan Worship Center (formally known as West Shore Christian Fellowship).

Rev. Johnson recently completed a 6-year term serving on the Missionary Church Inc., General Board. 'Pastor Robert' is also an accomplished musician with several recordings to his credit. He has been a featured soloist in several international programs including World Vision and Youth for Christ, and has previously performed with noted musical artists such as Roy Clark, Glen Campbell, Pat Boone, The Osmonds, Mini Pearl, and others.

He currently resides in Muskegon Heights along with his wife of 42 years, Loistine. They have two daughters, Rachel and Olivia, and two grandchildren.



## Joe L. Lane

Joe Lane is a native of Lansing, MI. He has always had a drive for the arts, specifically music. After high school he studied as the first Jazz drum performance major at the Oberlin Conservatory. He transferred to Michigan State, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Education. He went on to study at Grand Valley State University and obtained a Master of Arts in Ministry Leadership from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary.

For the majority of his life, Mr. Lane has been a touring musician, having shared the stage with many musical greats, especially in the genres of Jazz and Gospel. He has also spent most of his life as an educator. He was the first ever African-American educator at Orchard View Schools and the first minority administrator at Reeths-Puffer School District.

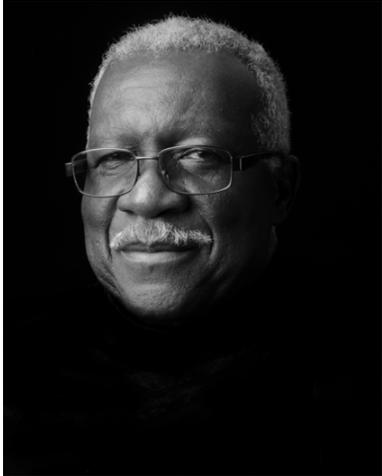
Mr. Lane has served as the founding and Senior Pastor of the New Life Christian Center of Muskegon since 2002. Additionally, he is a professional photographer and works with schools as a consultant specializing in climate, culture, and student behavior. He is in love with Sharri, his wife of 20 years, and the two of them have three children.



## **Kumasi Mack**

Kumasi Mack is a podcast host, poet, mentor, community activist, entrepreneur, and father of five wonderful kids.

When he is not spending time with his family, he enjoys working with youth and seeing them progress towards a fruitful future. Mr. Mack is affiliated with the Men of Color Read, Young Brothers, and the National Black Urban Foundation's Sankofa.

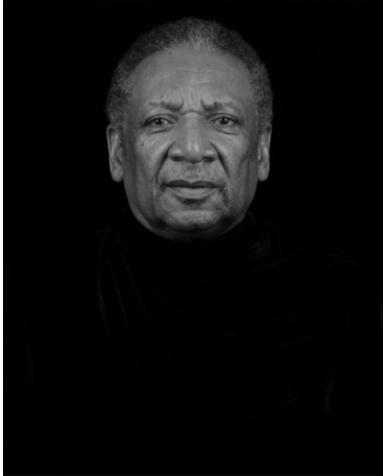


## Celester McCarty

Celester McCarty grew up in the South, and moved to Muskegon from Mississippi. After his graduation from Muskegon High School, he lived in Chicago until joining the United States Air Force, where he was a graduate of the First Sergeant Academy. After his military tour was complete he returned to Muskegon and attended Muskegon Business College. A graduate of the General Electric School of Distribution Management, his career included over 20 years in industrial and commercial sales and 8 in administrative management. He married Vernell Jones of Muskegon and the couple has two daughters. Active in the community, he served for several years as the Chairman of the March of Dimes.



**Darius Mitchell**

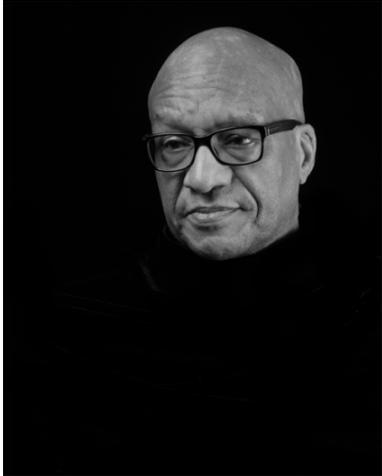


## Robert R. Moore

Robert R. Moore was born in Macon, Georgia, the eldest of three children born to Samuel and Helen Moore. Mr. Moore was raised in Forsyth, Georgia, and attended Hubbard Elementary, Middle, and High School. He graduated from Hubbard High School in 1965. Upon high school graduation, he attended Florida A & M University (FAMU) and participated in the famed Marching 100 Band. After graduating FAMU in 1968, Mr. Moore immediately began teaching band at East Depot High School in LaGrange, Georgia. He moved to Detroit, Michigan in 1970 and taught at Northwestern High School. He later moved to Muskegon, Michigan in 1971, where he served as the Band Director at Muskegon Heights Public Schools for forty-one and a half years, teaching elementary and middle school band as well as concert, marching, and jazz band. He retired as the Muskegon Heights High School Band Director in February 2015. In addition, he did graduate work at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and served for two years as the summer band Jazz Director for Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia in 2012 and 2013. He was elected to the Muskegon Heights Alumnae Association Hall of Fame in 2016.

Mr. Moore was the Musical director for three musicals by the Muskegon Civic Theatre: *Purlie*, *Bubbling Brown Sugar*, and *Ain't Misbehavin*, and performed in *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Guys and Dolls*. He plays with several Port City Community Bands in Muskegon, including the General Assembly 17 piece Big Band, Ludington, MI and The Entouch Gospel Jazz Band, is the leader and member of Greenbrook Smooth Jazz and Variety Band, and the Minister of Music at Phillip Chapel A.M.E. Church. He wrote the horn arrangements and performed with the Ultimate Taste Band for a show entitled *A Reflection of Motown*, and has performed at numerous churches and civic and local events such as Muskegon Summer Celebration, Muskegon Heights Mayor's Ball, NAACP Annual Dinner, and Sorority and Fraternity Scholarship Balls.

Mr. Moore is married to Francene Moore and they have three children, Bobby, Michael, and Rochelle, and ten grandchildren. He is a member and the Minister of Music at Phillip Chapel A.M.E. Church, a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, and the Muskegon Heights Optimist Club. He is still actively performing in community and local musical groups.



## **William C. Muhammad**

Born William C. Walker, Jr. at Hackley Hospital, he was raised in Muskegon Heights along with his sister by two wonderful, wise, and determined parents. Mr. Muhammad graduated from Muskegon Heights High School and attended college locally.

Coming of age during the rising tide of Blackness in the turbulent 1960s was a conscious raising experience and education outside of the classroom proved eye-opening. Portions of what was taught in school as American and World History proved to be biased and untrue. This new reality was partially nurtured by being an avid reader. Being around and studying many wise, strong Black folk and others helped greatly. People such as Robert and Mabel Williams, James and Grace Boggs, and Dr. James Jackson provided many ideas and lessons. The writings of many, including J.A. Rogers, Carter G. Woodson, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and most recently, Dr. Joy DeGruy, have also been very enlightening. These and others, including his family, have helped Mr. Muhammad evolve.

The greatest influence in Mr. Muhammad's life has been Almighty God. His knowledge of God has been best clarified as a member of the Nation of Islam under the leadership of the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan. He has attempted, in his life, to be a fighter for freedom, justice, and equality for Black people and all people of color.

Most recently, William C. Muhammad humbly accepted his appointment as the President and Board Chairman of the James Jackson Museum of African American History. He is a founding member of the Muskegon Civilian Police Review Board, works as one of the Friends of the Muskegon Heights Library, serves as one of the leaders of a 4-H youth group the Busy Bees, and much more. He continues to try and help his community, especially young people.



## **Marvin A. Nash, Sr.**

Marvin A. Nash, Sr. is a retired educator/administrator from the Muskegon Heights Public School District and currently serves as an adjunct professor at Muskegon Community College, teaching Political Science, International Relations, and African American History. Mr. Nash was born in New Orleans, Louisiana and grew up in the Gulf Coast Region, living in Bay St. Louis and Jackson, Mississippi. His favorite childhood memories are swimming, fishing, crabbing, shrimping, biking, hunting oysters and clams, collecting sea shells, and basketball. He moved to Michigan to work for the Muskegon Heights Public School District, beginning his career as a secondary social science teacher at the high school. His career path lead him to serve as an assistant director with a local non-profit community organization which specialized in employment and training. Later returning to K-12 education, he joined the school district management team and served in the positions of assistant high school principal, high school principal, and elementary principal. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in History and Political Science from Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi and Master of Public Administration and Master of Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Mr. Nash currently lives in Twin Lake with his wife and has three adult children (one daughter and two sons) and two grandchildren. In his pastime, he enjoys reading, visiting museums and historical sites, traveling within the U.S. and abroad, gardening, landscaping, biking, swimming, walking nature trails, sailing, and volunteering with local organizations and serving on several local non-profit boards.

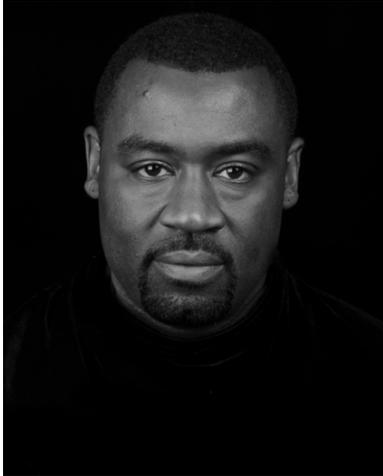


## **Dr. Dale Nesbary**

Dale K. Nesbary, Ph.D. is in his 10th year as President of Muskegon Community College. Since his appointment, a \$24 million bond authorization was approved by Muskegon County voters, while the college has secured more than \$17 million in state and federal grants and \$3 million in private gifts to support the most ambitious upgrade of its facilities since the construction of the main campus in 1967. Just as importantly, in 2017 MCC was ranked #1 in the State of Michigan by BestCollges.com based upon gainful employment, graduation rates, and university transfer rates.

Prior to joining MCC, Dr. Nesbary served as Vice President and Dean for Academic Affairs at Adrian College and as Associate Professor and Director of the Master of Public Administration Program at Oakland University. Additionally, he served as Research Director and Technical Services Director with the Boston Police Department, and held the positions of Assistant Director of Budget and Program Evaluation and Director of Contract Management with the City of Boston. He also held administrative appointments with the National Conference of State Legislatures and with the Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency.

Dr. Nesbary published three books and over 30 academic papers primarily in the areas of finance, technology, and policing and has keynoted conferences on topics as varied as Technology Leadership, Higher Education Governance, and Crisis Management in a Media Savvy World. He completed his Ph.D. in Law, Policy, and Society at Northeastern University, a Master of Public Administration degree from Western Michigan University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Anthropology from Michigan State University. He resides in Muskegon with his wife of 39 years, Connie. He is the proud father of two adult children, Nicole and Matthew. His interests include baking bread, making jams, and trombone playing.



## Carlos Piggee

Carlos Piggee, a husband and father of two, is a true testament to what it means to be a family man and leader in your community. Piggee has been working with young people for the last 14 years across the state of Michigan through Generation E, Ready for School Care and Share, The Big Red Heart Association, and GRCC workforce training program, along with several church and community events where he has spoken to youth.

Mr. Piggee received the Dale Carnegie Highest Award of Honor along with Graduate Coach Awards through the accredited program. He also had the opportunity to coordinate the Presidential visit for President Obama when he visited the manufacturing site of the first Lithium Ion Battery Facility in the U.S. located in Holland, Michigan. He was selected by his employer to work in France for a year to help his company explore more resources in the management sector to become more successful with the Lithium Ion Business. In his younger years, Mr. Piggee pursued his bachelor's degree in Business from Ferris State University and made a vow to speak to youth about life experiences. He decided to focus more on urban education to find ways to help his community and the youth within Muskegon County.

Currently, Mr. Piggee works as a High-Performance Team Coordinator and Human Resource Supervisor for the world's first battery manufacturer, Johnson Controls. Eight years ago, he helped with the launch of the first lithium ion battery plant in the U.S. Additionally, Mr. Piggee considers himself lucky because he has the opportunity to work with his company and GRCC's workforce training program to help working adults get the training they need to become more successful in the workforce. He is a passionate motivational leader and youth speaker that values working with families, schools and communities as they make their journey through life. He is a board member of The Big Red Heart Scholarship Association, where he helps to generate scholarship funds for high school seniors that plan to enter the medical field in college. Mr. Piggee has plans to continue to find ways to help his community grow as a people. He is passionate about helping others and will always exercise service before self in every situation. Mr. Carlos Piggee is one of Muskegon's rising leaders!



## Honorable Gregory C. Pittman

Gregory C. Pittman is a Probate Judge for the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit Court in Muskegon County. Judge Pittman is the Presiding Judge of the Family Division. He hears Family Divisions cases which include domestic relations, neglect and abuse, and delinquency matters.

Judge Pittman received his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University in 1983 and his Juris Doctor degree from Indiana University in 1987. He has worked in both the public sector and the private practice of law. He served with the Michigan Department of Commerce, the Kent County Public Defender's Office, and as a Magistrate for the 60th Judicial District. He worked with the firm Williams, Hughes, Corwin and Sinninger and as adjunct faculty member at Muskegon Community College. He was appointed to the court by Governor John Engler in 1998.

Active in the community, Judge Pittman is an appointed member of the Governor's Task Force for Children's Justice, a member of the Board of Trustees for the Community Foundation for Muskegon County and Hackley Hospital, a co-founder of Muskegon Responsible Fathers Initiative, former president of the Muskegon Heights Public Schools Board of Trustees, and former trustee for the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District.



## Reverend Charles W. Poole

Reverend Charles W. Poole is the Senior Pastor for Bethesda Baptist Church, the oldest African American church in Muskegon County. Reverend Poole was deeply involved in the Civil Rights Movement, and made history in 1970 when he was elected to the Muskegon Public Schools Board of Education, the first African-American to hold office in Muskegon.

Reverend Poole grew up on the east side of Detroit, in a deeply religious household, with both maternal grandfathers serving as Baptist ministers, his father a Deacon, and his mother a preacher. His uncle was Elijah Muhammad, founder and longtime leader of the Nation of Islam. Reverend Poole's personal and family legacy is tied directly to slavery — his great-grandparents were born slaves — and the Civil Rights movement, and he survived cross burnings, discrimination, the bombing of his grandfather's church in Detroit during the Great Depression, and other acts of racial violence over the course of his life.

Active in the Civil Rights Movement, Reverend Poole was a close friend of Martin Luther King, Jr., and struggled and fought alongside him. After leading a church in Inkster, he moved to Muskegon in 1963 to lead Bethesda Baptist Church. After serving two terms on the Board of Education from 1970 to 1978, he took a break, including moving away from the area to pastor a church in New Mexico. Reverend Poole accepted an appointment back to the Board of Education in 1997, and after re-election in 1999 served as president of the Board until his retirement in 2011.



## **William Roberson**

Will Roberson Sr. is employed with the State of Michigan as a Success Coach, where he encourages and guides families in their daily efforts to become self-supporting while assisting them in meeting some basic needs during their journey. Mr. Roberson is a lifelong resident of Muskegon County, excluding a six year stint in the United States Air Force where he proudly served in Desert Storm. He graduated from Whitehall High School and has a Bachelor's Degree from Baker College of Muskegon. He is married to the lovely Fatima Roberson, a high school history teacher at Muskegon High School. Together they have seven wonderful children and two grandchildren. In his spare time, Mr. Roberson enjoys spending time with his family and mentoring the youth of his community.



## **Artisse Sanders**

Artisse Sanders is an Independent Business Owner Director with Total Life Changes Health and Wellness Company. He developed an early interest in healthy living by observing his parents, reading, and attending health seminars. After graduating from Muskegon High School, he attended Michigan Laborers' Training and Apprenticeship Institute where he received certification in the removal of lead, hazardous waste, and more. Afterward, Mr. Sanders studied at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Western Michigan University, aspiring to become a personal trainer.

Mr. Sanders' health behaviors jive well with promoting and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

During his leisure time he enjoys hanging out with family and friends, exercising, cooking, listening to motivational speakers, and serving others. He is a well-balanced individual who firmly believes "Without Health there is No Wealth".



## J. Arthur Sanders

J Arthur Sanders' life has been shaped by his passion and drive to be an artist. He recalls this yearning as early as three years old, when his longing to create led him to practice drawing and coloring on paper, in books, and on walls using pencils, crayons, and watercolor.

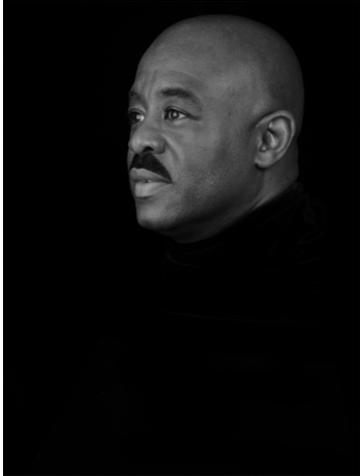
After high school, Mr. Sanders attended barber school and worked part-time for several years as a registered barber while completing an undergraduate degree in painting and education. He later returned to school and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting, drawing, and watercolor from Western Michigan University. Additionally, he studied at Instituto Allende San Miguel de Allende in Guanajuato, Mexico.

Until his retirement, Mr. Sanders taught visual fine arts at Muskegon Heights Public Schools where he assisted and motivated students to create art. He now makes art full-time, and his paintings can be found in museums and public and private collections.

As an artist and teacher, Mr. Sanders has garnered significant recognition and awards. He won the Third Place International Bronze Medal Award and an Honorary Master degree from Ligoa Duncan in Paris, France, and the Best of Show Award in the 59th Annual Regional at the Muskegon Museum of Art. During Western Michigan University's Centennial celebrations, he was recognized as one of the 100 Distinguished Art Alumni in professional practice, art instruction, and the application of art to other professions.

J. Arthur Sanders is married to his college sweetheart, Velma, and they have four adult sons.

“Without art, I'm silent.”



## Rodney L. Savage

Rodney L. Savage is the Senior Pastor of Great Lakes Kingdom Ministry, a thriving church in downtown Muskegon. He is a dedicated and involved leader in both the not-for-profit and for-profit organizations within the community in which he was born and raised.

Prior to full-time ministry, he worked in corporate America and was part of a Fortune 500 sales force. He holds two earned academic degrees in Business and Entrepreneurship. He also holds multiple certificates in sales, leadership, and management, which he credits to his driven personality.

A pioneer, forward thinker, motivator, and solutionist are all attributes that make him a sought-out and requested mentor, advisor, speaker, and board member to various corporate organizations. Mr. Savage's determination and drive has caused him to pursue and obtain goals that began with a dream. His focus has stirred others to dare to dream and build.

Mr. Savage is a faithful husband to his wife, Shavaun Savage, of twenty-six years. He enjoys spending time with his three children and three grandchildren. He also enjoys traveling and has volunteered to serve and minister in Central America and South Africa over the years. In his quiet time, he loves to write. He has written many blogs and authored his first book, *The Power of Momentum*, currently available at Amazon.com.



## Arthur V. Scott

Mr. Arthur V. Scott is committed to providing leadership for the betterment of all people, focusing on maintaining economic, professional parity and continually striving to find ways to give back to the community. A proud family man, Mr. Arthur Scott and Jannie Scott (wife) have four children, eleven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He was born in Woodville, Mississippi in 1947. Mr. Scott is a spiritual man that believes Jehovah God is the creator of all things and his son Jesus Christ is our lord and savior. Following His commandments enable Mr. Scott to continue to love his neighbors and understand there is more in giving than receiving.

As President and C.E.O., Mr. Scott directs Strategy and Operations for eight McDonald's™ Restaurants in the Greater Muskegon Area, employing over five hundred workers. He previously held several positions within the McDonald's™ Corporation, including as Home Office Director for 1,600 company owned restaurants across the U.S. He began his career as a crew person in 1981, over time holding a variety of leadership positions including Operations Manager, Field Service Manager, and Director of Operations.

As a business leader, Mr. Scott served on the Board of Trustees for the Muskegon Community Foundation; The Board of Directors for the Ronald McDonald House of Grand Rapids; the Ronald McDonald House Charities; Grand Valley State University Foundation for Muskegon County; the Muskegon Community College President's Advisory for Capital of Operations; Board President of the Muskegon Heights Public School System; and was a founding member of Muskegon Summer Celebration, Inc. His community contributions, business acumen, and leadership have garnered him numerous awards, including the Outstanding Leadership Contribution of the Cause of Racial Harmony and Social Justice Award; State of Michigan Humanitarian Award; the Urban League Economic Development Service Award; the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Award for Citizen of the Year; the Prestigious President Award; and the Ronald Award, one of the most prestigious awards given to McDonald's™ owners/operators.



## Dalrecus Stewart

Dalrecus Stewart is the Director of Athletics, Dean of Students, and Varsity Boys basketball coach at Muskegon Heights Academy. Mr. Stewart is an Alum of Muskegon Heights and Indiana University at South Bend, where he received his Bachelor's in Sociology and Education. After graduation, he launched his career in Indiana as an at risk student counselor at Madison Center and Hospital. Later relocating back to Muskegon, he continued his student centered service in fundamental literacy development, social and emotional student counseling, and fundamental math development.

A teacher by nature, Mr. Stewart has coached basketball for nearly 20 years at Muskegon, Reeths-Puffer, Muskegon Heights Academy, and Indiana University at South Bend. Having been positively influenced by former coaches and taught many life lessons through the game of basketball, he engaged in coaching to continue a connection with his passion for the sport as well as an avenue to connect with and serve students.

Dalrecus Stewart is a family man with a devotion to God, his fiancée Yvette, and three daughters - Breann, Dacia, and Alyssia. A devoted deacon at the Church of the Living God under Bishop John Williams Sr., Mr. Stewart's mission for life is to faithfully follow God's plan for his life through service.



## Darryl Todd

Darryl Todd is the proud father of two adult children and one teenager (two sons and a daughter). He is honored to be a graduate of the Muskegon Heights Public School System where he participated in band, football, and the National Honor Society. Mr. Todd received a Bachelor's of General Science with a concentration in economics from the University of Michigan.

Professionally, Mr. Todd is the Interim President/CEO for Muskegon Area First, which is the county-wide economic development agency whose mission is to help bring jobs and business investment to Muskegon County. He has served on several community boards and advisory committees, including the Pathfinders of Muskegon Heights, the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy, West Michigan Works! Workforce Development, and the Kent-Ottawa-Muskegon Foreign Trade Zone. He is also a member of the Muskegon Rotary Club. Mr. Todd is a past CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer.

When not working, Mr. Todd enjoys spending time with his family, reading, working out, and volunteering.

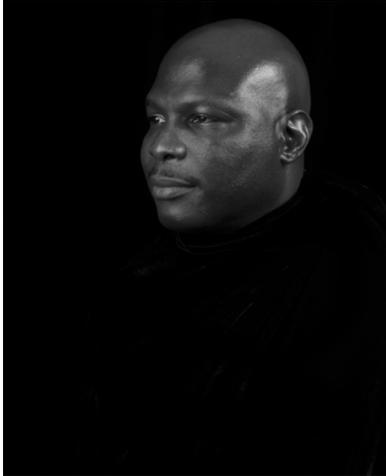


## Dwight Vines

Dwight Vines was born March 12, 1959 in Muskegon County. Upon graduating with honors from Muskegon Heights High School in 1977, he went on to receive his Bachelors of Science degree in Medical Technology from Michigan State University in 1981. As a concerned citizen with an interest in public education, he was elected to the Muskegon Heights Board of Education in 1988, where he served at every level of appointed office including President for over 14 years. Mr. Vines has served on many boards throughout his life, including the Board of Directors for Muskegon Hearing and Speech (1996-1999); President of the Iota Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity of Muskegon (2004-2009); Treasurer of the Urban League of Greater Muskegon (2009-2012); Muskegon Area Intermediate School District Board (2008-present); Manufacturing Representative for United Way's 2012 Campaign; Table Captain for the Red Cross "Change a Life" Breakfast in 2013; and member of the United Way Board (2014-present).

Mr. Vines has also been involved in other community functions and organizations including as a past member of the Muskegon Rotary Club, and was the recipient of the 2013 "Love In Action" award given by Muskegon Community College for volunteers who give selflessly of their time for the community. He has been employed at Sun Chemical Corp for over 36 years and currently works in the position of Process Control Manager. He is married to his wife Linda and has 2 children.

## Rodney Walker



Rodney Walker was a military dependent, affording him the opportunity to explore and experience cultures around the country and the world. He attended school in Michigan, Georgia, Virginia, Minnesota, Connecticut, and Germany. He graduated from Apollo High School in St. Cloud, Minnesota and continued his education at St. Cloud State University, where he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Science of Social Work and Human Relations. Mr. Walker was an accomplished high school and college student athlete, taking part in basketball and track at St. Cloud State University.

Mr. Walker served as a Social Worker for nine years in the Muskegon Heights Public Schools and currently is the Director of Student Services for Muskegon Public Schools. He is committed to his work with youth, believing in their ability to succeed and in the importance of developing life skills and character.

Prior to his current school district work, Mr. Walker worked with mentally challenged adults; adolescents charged with felonies incarcerated at a residential facility for high profiled teenage children; adult men in federal prison, county jail, and juvenile detention; and adult men and women struggling with substance abuse.



## Corey Watson

Corey Watson specializes in social media. He has served as the AmeriCorps Liaison for Muskegon County for My Brother's Keeper since 2016, and the Social Media and Promotion Coordinator for United Way Worldwide since 2015. Prior to these roles, he managed social media for Chippewa Hotel, Inc., Lilac Tree Hotel and Spa, and the Pink Pony Bar and Grill. In 2017, he received the Outstanding Service Award from My Brother's Keeper.



## Bishop Nathaniel W. Wells, Jr.

Bishop Nathaniel W. Wells' life is a thread that connects his calling to his passion; when asked what motivates him, he states that it's his love for God and his concern for the human race. Since birth, he has had a connection with God that grew into an intimate relationship, leading him to become a Saint of God.

Under the leadership of his father, the late Bishop Nathaniel Wells, Sr., he served faithfully for 15 years as co-pastor of Community and Holy Trinity churches and, in April of 1976, Elder Nathaniel Wells, Jr. became the full-time and senior pastor of Holy Trinity Institutional COGIC. He was elevated to the position of Jurisdictional Bishop for the Western Michigan Jurisdiction in 1985.

During these 40 years of pastoral duties, he has been a Jurisdictional Bishop for 31 years, has served 2 terms on the National Trustee Board, 2 terms on the National Judiciary Board, and was elected to the Presidium (the General Board) of the International Church of God In Christ. On July 13, 2014, Bishop Wells was presented an earned Doctor of Theology Degree from Midwest Theological University by Dr. Donald Jones, Th.D., President/Chancellor.

With all of the aforementioned accomplishments, Bishop Wells considers his greatest accomplishment becoming a Saint of God in 1961. In addition to his Ecclesiastical duties, Bishop believes his calling requires him to reach out and serve the "Total Man", thus his vision has taken Holy Trinity to another level - being an oasis for those in the community with unmet needs, both spiritual and natural. His God given vision has been to develop and implement programs and services in the areas of housing, education, economic and community development, senior and elderly service, child care, the jail and prison ministry, and health initiatives, to name a few. He has served on the Boards of and in various capacities for the Muskegon County United Way, Comerica Bank, Total Christian Television (TCT), Muskegon-Oceana Community Action Partnership, Inc., and was a Rotarian in the Muskegon and Benton Harbor/St. Joseph Rotary Clubs. He has received various civic and social community awards from organizations such as the Muskegon County Bar Association, Muskegon Economic Growth Alliance, the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and was the first recipient of the Reverend Doctor Donald B. Adkins Leadership Award for Religion. Through his community service and other social endeavors, he embodies the spirit of giving, caring and sharing, and being the catalyst for the Total Man Ministry and the Oasis of Love. Bishop readily acknowledges that all he is and ever hopes to be not only is through the divine intervention of God, but also because of the love, dedication, and support that comes from his wife, Elect Lady Mary Ann Wells. As the scripture reads in Proverbs 18:22, "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord."

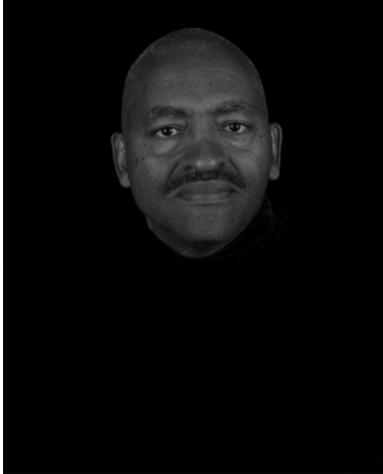
Bishop and Elect Lady Wells are the parents of 6 children: Paul, Chanita, Nathaniel III, Patricia, Anissa, and Tiffany. They have 12 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.



## Chauncy Williams

Chauncy Williams strives to be the bridge that connects students to their goals and passions. He is currently a teacher for Muskegon Public Schools, a retention specialist for United States Student Loan Help, a life skills instructor for the Fresh Start Program, an affiliate of Lexington Law, and a planner/manager for Generation X Disciples. Growing up in a community where very few people either had the advantage or took advantage of an education, he realized at a young age the opportunities he would have if he completed an education beyond high school. In pursuing a higher education, he wanted to be a model for individuals who were hesitant, afraid, or had doubts about their abilities, to serve as an outlet and role model for children by showing that going beyond your current circumstances and becoming successful is possible. Mr. Williams graduated from Muskegon Heights Public Schools in 1995, Cambridge College in 2004, and Cornerstone University in 2014. He holds a Masters of Education and a Masters in Urban Ministry Leadership.

As an Educator, Mr. Williams believes it is important to constantly educate oneself in order to provide the most relevant and effective educational methods. He also believes that the need to challenge yourself and the individuals you help is the key for personal growth and improvement. His passion has been shaped and formed through his relationship with his now deceased father, Ira David Williams II, and his father's experiences of serving in World War II, the Civil Rights movement, and the conflicts arising from racism and an awareness of racial identity.



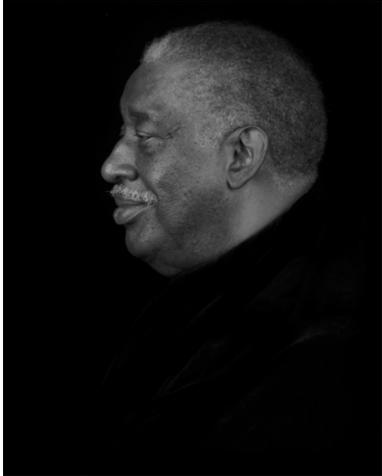
## **Dr. Anthony Wilson**

Anthony Wilson, M.D., was born and raised in Detroit. After completing high school at Martin Luther King High School he attended Wayne State University and obtained his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology in 1980 and his medical degree in 1987. He then completed a year of Internal Medicine at St. John Hospital in Detroit and a 3 year residency program in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan in 1991. From there, he began working at Orthopaedic Associates of Muskegon in 1992.

As a Physical Medicine Rehabilitation Specialist, Dr. Wilson was dedicated to reintegrating his patients back into the community after horrific injuries. His duties consisted of numerous procedures and consultation evolutions, including spinal injections and electromyographic nerve conduction studies.

Dr. Wilson was the Medical Director of Mercy Hospital's Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit from 1992 to 2008. He was a member of numerous associations, including the American Medical Association, Michigan State Medical Society, National Medical Association, and International Spinal Intervention Society.

After 24 years of practicing, Dr. Wilson retired and enjoys spending time with his wife and 3 children. He currently resides in Norton Shores.



## Harold Wright

Harold D. Wright is a graduate of Muskegon Heights High School, and an accomplished business owner, teacher, program developer, and social worker. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, OH, with additional advanced studies at Western Michigan University. He is also a certified social worker and teacher.

Mr. Wright began his professional career as a Field Representative for the Urban League in Flint, MI. He continued in the field of community advocacy, serving over the following years as Center Director for the Muskegon/Oceana Community Action Against Poverty in Muskegon; the Director of Community Services/Employment for the Urban League of Greater Muskegon; Program Coordinator for the Juvenile Interception Program for the City of Muskegon Heights; Project Supervisor for Community Partnership for Action in Grand Rapids; Program Field Services Manager for Project Focus; a substitute teacher at Glendale Elementary in Muskegon Heights; teaching employability skills at the Kent Career Technical Center; a housing specialist with Grand Rapids Community Health; and a social worker for the Department of Social Services, maintaining a caseload of 75 ADC cases.

Mr. Wright was also the owner and operator of Harold's House of Beverage and Party Store (1973-1991) and Rite-Way Communications (1993-2012), affectionately known as "Harold's House of Music." He is a member of Breakfast Toastmasters and the Job Corps Community Relations Advisory Council, and a past member of the Muskegon Urban League's Employment and Training Council and Catholic Social Services.