



## **Rev. Dr. Earl G. Harris**

**Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. Earl G. Harris** is a distinguished native of Saint Louis, Missouri, whose remarkable pastoral journey spanned nearly five decades across Missouri, Kansas, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. His most enduring service was as pastor of Greater Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church in Dayton, Ohio, where for twenty-five years he faithfully shepherded the congregation. Culminating his ministry as Presiding Elder of the Cleveland District of the North Ohio Conference, he oversaw eighteen congregations and brought to completion an extraordinary forty-eight years of pastoral leadership.

Renowned as the “Education Pastor,” Dr. Harris has been a tireless advocate for educational opportunity, firmly believing every child deserves access to a high-quality education. He founded the West Dayton Church Caravan, Inc., uniting more than twenty-eight churches across denominational lines—including AME, CME, UMC, AMEZ, Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal, and Apostolic traditions—into a collaborative force for educational advancement. Through the West Dayton Church Caravan Educational Foundation, over \$250,000 in scholarships have been awarded to first-year college students. In 1992, his vision also galvanized the Dayton community to raise more than \$105,000 in emergency tuition support, ensuring fifty-one Central State University students were able to graduate.

In 1996, together with his wife, Dr. Jeanette Harris, he co-founded WestPark Academy, an elementary school that became the foundation for a growing network of four Richard Allen Academy schools in Ohio, along with a private elementary school, and a charter school in Georgia. This legacy reflects his deep commitment not only to churches, but also to the broader community and its future generations.

Elder Harris’s leadership extends far beyond the pulpit. He has served with distinction on the Board of Trustees for Wilberforce University, the Ohio Council of Churches, and the Third Episcopal District, where he also held the role of Dean of the Board of Examiners. He has been an active voice in the Connectional Presiding Elder’s Council, the Methodist Ministerial Alliance, and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance. His numerous honors include being named “Clergyman of the Year” by the Dayton/Montgomery County Visitors and Convention Bureau, recognition as one of Dayton’s “Top Ten African American Males,” and receipt of the prestigious “Dayton Legacy” Award, among many others.

Educated in the public schools of St. Louis, Pastor Harris attended the University of Missouri at St. Louis (UMSL). He holds degrees from Payne Theological Seminary (2002) and Wilberforce University (2004). He is blessed in life and ministry by his wife, Dr. Jeanette Harris. Together they share a blended family of six children, twelve grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren, who are the living testimony of their love and legacy.