

BIOGRAPHICAL FOR ERIC MASON

Eric Mason currently serves as Senior Pastor of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in St. Louis, Missouri, responsible for spiritual leadership, pastoral care, and overall administration, in accordance with the By-laws. He oversees and coordinates ministerial staff, including pastors and associate pastors, collaborates with leadership to manage church budget and financial resources while ensuring compliance with church policies and procedures. Over the past 37 years, he has served as community engagement specialist, community outreach worker, city manager, legal representative, executive pastor, chief of staff, college instructor, political advisor and corrections officer.

Previously, Eric served as the Community Engagement Specialist - Lead for People's Community Action Corporation, a subsidiary of Betty Jean Kerr People's Health Centers of St. Louis, Missouri (A Federally Qualified Community Health Center) where he led projects, programs, partnerships, operations and advocacy from justice-involved to monthly food drives.

Formerly Eric Mason served as the first City Manager for Missouri's oldest incorporated Black city: Kinloch, Missouri. The City Administrator is the Chief Administrative Officer of the City and serves at the pleasure of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. In this position, Mason supervised the general day-to-day operations of the City, carried out all lawful policies established by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, and coordinated the activities of all departments and offices of the City. His duties also include submitting the City's annual Budget for the approval of the Board of Aldermen, and administering personnel programs for the City, including recommendations for appointment, promotion or discharge of City employees.

Prior to Kinloch, Mason served as Special Legal Assistant to Attorney Donnell Smith and managed the Research and Communication Departments at Smith & Associates, LLC in St. Louis, Missouri. In addition to trial and litigation preparation, Mason assisted Attorney Smith with his municipal duties while he served as judge, prosecutor and/or city attorney for 13 municipalities throughout the St. Louis Metropolitan area.

Additionally, Mason previously served as Chief of Staff for Lane Tabernacle Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Saint Louis, Missouri affectionately known as "The Tabernacle". As the chief liaison to the pastor, he managed the day-to-day administrative operations for over 1200 members while supervising a staff of more than 75 paid and volunteer persons. In less than a year on the job, Mason tripled the full time paid personnel by adding positions such as: Executive Office Administrator, Director of Technology, Webmaster, Director of Health Ministries, Coordinator of Men's Prostate Health, Church Publicist and Church Press Corp.

His leadership in community engagement propelled The Tabernacle and its pastor to dominate the local weekly print media and subsequently leading to the pastor's listing in St. Louis Magazine as "One of the 50 Most Powerful People in St. Louis. In the areas of Institutional Development, Mason instituted the Lane Community Development Corporation (Lane CDC) to complement the already existing Lane Foundation. The Lane CDC raised funds, received many in-kind services and recruited several volunteers to work with projects and programs.

In addition to providing a weekly food assistance program, prison re-entry program, employment preparation, computer training and health clinic, the CDC sponsored the entire Howard University Concert Band, Lane College Choir and Howard University Gospel Choir to The Tabernacle with all expenses paid through sponsorships, respectively.

In May 2005, Mason was elected and served as National Regional IV Alumni Representative for Howard University, representing over 22,000 alumni in 12 states and Canada. Prior to being elected as Regional Representative, Mason served as president of the Metropolitan St. Louis chapter of the Howard University Alumni Association. He represented over 500 alumni locally and directed activities for the chapter. Within seven months of Rev. Mason's administration, the St. Louis chapter was awarded the 2005 "Howard University National Alumni Chapter of the Year".

During his tenure, he led the chapter in increasing membership dues almost 1000% on the national level and over 500% locally, ratified term limits for local officers, established greater fiscal responsibility, stream-lined monthly meetings, coordinated monthly alumni wine and cheese socials; represented the chapter at over 150 events, recruited over 155 students to attend Howard University in two years. Consequently, ranking Missouri in the top ten states for students attending Howard University. Additionally, the chapter hosted the 2006 Regional IV Alumni Conference; co-sponsored with Anheuser-Busch a book-signing for Dr. LaSalle Leffall Jr, hosted a capital campaign reception in St. Louis for Howard University President Swygert and established its first endowment scholarship at Howard University in honor of Howard alumni and trustees, Attorneys Frankie M. Freeman & Wayman F. Smith, III (both St. Louisans).

Eric Mason holds professional graduate and undergraduate degrees from the Graduate Theological Union of Berkeley, CA, Howard University of Washington, DC, and the University of Missouri of St. Louis, respectively. He is also a graduate of the Academy of Mathematics and Science High School of St. Louis.

He has or currently serves as a member of numerous organizations including: Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), Williams and Associates Minority Health Agency of St. Louis; National Baptist Convention of America Criminal Justice Commission, Howard University International Alumni Council, was appointed by former Governor and current Senator E. Ben Nelson of Nebraska (D) to the Nebraska Affirmative Action Commission (becoming the youngest person to serve in the governor's administration), Chairman of the Legal Redress Committee for the Omaha Nebraska Branch of NAACP, Youngest & only African-American with Omaha Police Chaplains Corps., Chairman of Violence & Crime Committee for St. Louis Mayor's Youth Advisory Board, Marian Oldham Scholarship Committee (University of Missouri), Youth Minister for Berean Missionary Baptist District Association (St. Louis), Secretary for the Missionary Baptist Minister's Alliance of St. Louis, Secretary for Baptist Pastor's Conference of St. Louis, Chairman of Human Relations Committee for Contemporary Living Options of St. Louis, American Criminal Justice Association, National Association for Blacks in Criminal Justice and the American Correctional Association.

Mason's efforts have been featured in several news publications such as the: United States Senatorial Record # S5472, Omaha World Herald; St. Louis Post Dispatch; "front cover" of the first issues of "Choices," a joint publication between the Suburban Journal & Saint Louis American Newspapers; and Ebony Magazine as "One of the 30 Young Leaders of the Future" (December 1997 issue; Phi Delta Kappa of St. Louis, "Minister of the Year, 2006" and guest lecturer at Saint Louis University on Pentecostalism and The Church of God in Christ.

Eric Mason was licensed to preach in January 1988 and ordained in January 1989 at the age of 16 by the Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church in St. Louis where he later served as Assistant Pastor at the age of 19. In 2008, he was ordained an Elder in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. In over 37 years of preaching, Mason has spoken at over 300 churches including more than 200 in the St. Louis Metro area. His leadership in Ministry has led to his been formerly elected as the Vice-President of Howard University School of Divinity alumni.