

REVEREND DR. ERIC MASON

Ministerial Bio

The Reverend Dr. Eric Mason is an experienced Christian minister, theologian, educator, and community advocate whose life and ministry reflect more than 37 years of preaching, pastoral leadership, spiritual formation, and service. Rooted in the historic Baptist tradition and enriched by service within the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Dr. Mason has dedicated his ministerial journey to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, strengthening congregations, nurturing spiritual growth, and advancing compassion, reconciliation, human dignity, and social justice.

Dr. Mason currently serves as Senior Pastor of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in St. Louis, Missouri, where he provides spiritual leadership, pastoral counseling, biblical teaching, congregational oversight, and administrative direction. His responsibilities include preaching, coordinating worship, supervising ministerial leaders, visiting the sick and homebound, supporting families through grief and crises, and working collaboratively with church leaders. He understands the church as a source of both spiritual nourishment and practical assistance.

His calling began early at the age of 15 years old. Licensed to preach in January 1988 and ordained in the Missionary Baptist tradition in January 1989, he subsequently served as an Assistant Pastor while still a young adult. In 2008, he was ordained an Elder in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. He has ministered in more than 300 churches, including over 200 congregations in metropolitan St. Louis, developing an ability to communicate across worship traditions, generations, and communities.

Dr. Mason earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology of Religion from the Graduate Theological Union, Master of Arts in Religious Studies, concentrating in Social Ethics and Religion, from Howard University's School of Divinity, Master of Science in Administration of Justice and Security from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelor of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Missouri–St. Louis. His interdisciplinary background informs his understanding of faith, culture, ethics, public policy, and community life.

His theological interests emphasize the intersection of Christian faith and everyday life, especially the responsibility of religious institutions to respond to poverty, inequality, violence, discrimination, and barriers to human flourishing. Through biblical interpretation, theological scholarship, and practical ministry, he approaches preaching as a means of encouraging personal spiritual transformation and collective responsibility.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of the New Bethel Community Development Corporation, Dr. Mason leads initiatives involving neighborhood revitalization, housing stability, workforce development, youth engagement, and community partnerships. His work reflects the conviction that meaningful Christian ministry extends beyond Sunday worship into the places where people live and work.

Previously, he served as Chief of Staff at Lane Tabernacle Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in St. Louis, supporting a congregation exceeding 1,200 members. He supervised personnel and volunteers, supported financial stewardship, expanded ministry infrastructure, and helped establish the Lane Community Development Corporation. Its initiatives included food assistance, prison reentry, employment preparation, computer education, and health services.

His earlier service as Assistant Pastor of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Omaha, Nebraska, involved worship, Christian education, visitation, staff supervision, and stewardship within a congregation exceeding 1,000 members. These experiences strengthened his commitment to collaborative leadership, responsible administration, and strong relationships among clergy, lay leaders, and the wider community.

Throughout his ministry and professional career, Dr. Mason has built partnerships among churches, educational institutions, healthcare providers, nonprofit organizations, and public agencies. His engagement has addressed homelessness, food insecurity, health disparities, substance misuse, criminal justice involvement, and educational and economic barriers. Central to this service is his concern for the dignity of people too often overlooked.

Dr. Mason has contributed to theological education and ministerial development as a former Vice President of the Howard University School of Divinity Alumni Association, through ministerial organizations, and as a guest lecturer at Saint Louis University on Pentecostalism and the Church of God in Christ. He received the Phi Delta Kappa of St. Louis Minister of the Year Award in 2006, alongside other civic and institutional recognition.

As a pastor, Dr. Mason values thoughtful biblical interpretation, meaningful worship, intellectual inquiry, compassionate pastoral care, and the freedom of individuals to grow in their understanding of God. His experiences across denominational traditions have deepened his appreciation for ecumenical dialogue and diverse expressions of Christian faith.

Dr. Mason approaches the opportunity to serve with respect to spirituality, community, inclusivity, and justice. He believes effective pastoral leadership calls for courage, humility, theological reflection, collaboration, and the capacity to engage difficult questions with conviction and compassion. His aspiration is to help cultivate a spiritually vibrant, intellectually engaged, welcoming, and service-oriented congregation expressing the love of Jesus Christ through worship, learning, reconciliation, and community engagement.