

REVEREND BETTY SCHRODER
SENIOR PASTOR AND ORDAINED ELDER

Rev. Betty Schroder is the fifth of seven siblings, born on April 20th, 1979, in Keetmanshoop, Namibia. She is known to be passionate, conscientious, and prayerful, with a reputation for her "crazy faith," endless energy, and consistency in believing that faith makes a difference.

Rev. Schroder comes from a challenging and impoverished background but excelled, irrespective of a household filled with domestic violence and alcohol abuse or struggles with drug addiction during her teenage years. At 19, she visited a church on a Sunday morning, seeking a place to rest, but ended up being saved and accepting Christ as her Saviour. Despite losing her mother three weeks before her first ordination as a deacon, she rose above the circumstances, caring for her siblings and serving the Lord fearlessly, even during times of rejection. Her mission is to speak up for the needy, cheer the fallen, feed the hungry, house the homeless, and, with God's help and inspiration, save the lost. Her ministry is based on personal experiences and an appreciation for the goodness of a merciful God.

Her persona resembles an African proverb, "***You will never know how strong a tea bag is unless you put it in hot water.***"

Rev. Schroder is a highly favoured, Called, dedicated, and anointed servant of God, with 26 years of combined ministry experience serving various churches, boards and communities in Namibia and abroad.

She was elected and admitted on trial for the itinerant ministry in September 2002 by Bishop Gregory J Ingram, elected and ordained as itinerant Deacon in September 2004 by Bishop Sam S Green, Sr., and finally elected and ordained as itinerant Elder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) in September 2008 by Bishop Wilfred J Messiah. Her hard work and dedication were observed by Bishop David Rwhynica Daniels, Jr., who appointed her as Presiding Elder in September 2017, where she presided over nine churches and planted one new church in 2018, with six other mission stations under development.

She served as the 15th Episcopal District Presiding Elder's Council Secretary. She was simultaneously appointed by the former President of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Connectional Presiding Elder's Council, the late Rev. Dr. Albert E Tyson III, as Secretary for the Global Development Countries in Africa and part of Asia. Rev. Schroder is the 15th Episcopal District President for the Women in Ministry (WIM), representing Namibia, part of South Africa (Kalahari, Queenstown, Cape, Boland Conferences), and Angola Annual Conferences. She remains the Presiding Elder of the Windhoek Presiding Elder District in the Namibia Annual Conference, reappointed by Bishop Silvester Scott Beaman.

In August 2020, Bishop David Rwhynica Daniels, Jr. appointed her as the bishop's Administrative Assistant to coordinate and represent the Bishop on administrative matters, in consultation with the Presiding Elders Council, for the Namibia Annual Conference during his absence and Bishop Silvester Scott Beaman reappointed her in 2021 till date for the same functions.

Rev. Schroder is an accomplished leader with a proven track record of successful church-building projects. In her nine-year tenure as Pastor at the St. John AME Church in Walvisbay from 2010 to 2019, she initiated the construction of a substantial double-storey church building to cater to the needs of the local community. She aimed to ensure the church had the necessary facilities to feed the hungry, support the needy, and even provide accommodation for any homeless pastor.

Rev. Schroder is a well-respected church community member and has served on various boards and organisations. She is a member of the General Board of the Church, where she holds essential positions in the Commission on Women in Ministry, the Commission on Finances and Statistics, and the Commission on Global Development.

Rev. Schroder has also served on several other boards and committees, including the AME Global Development Council, Delegate to the General Conference for AMEC, Executive Board Member for Women's Action Development, Executive Board Member for the Council of Churches Namibia, President for Women in Ministry in the 15th Episcopal District, and many more. Her extensive experience makes her a valuable asset to any organisation, and her leadership skills have been recognised at national and international levels.

The information above highlights Rev. Schroder's vast experience serving on boards and within the community. See the attached non-exhaustive list below.

Rev. Schroder's involvement with the WIM began in 2002 at the Annual Conference level. She became the Annual Conference Coordinator in 2008 and the Episcopal WIM President in 2017. In 2019, she successfully assisted the connectional WIM in planning and hosting the first GDC WIM in Cape Town, South Africa. During the same year, she hosted the 15th WIM Convention, attended by over 120 Missionary mothers and ordained clergy and held the same for the past seven years. She presented the WIM Executives with their first-ever unified WIM robes on this occasion. Since 2017, she has attended Executive meetings and encouraged discouraged WIM to revive themselves in various ways. The conventions have always included local and Connectional presenters on different topics. In 2023, she attended and presented a topic on "Community engagement" during the GDC WIM Convention in Monrovia, Liberia. From time to time, she also participates in "Maximising WIM" online events and other online activities of WIM in other districts throughout the connection.

Rev. Schroder currently serves as part of the executive of the CSA WIM and assists the CSA Coordinator in her duties and functions, along with other Episcopal Presidents and sisters. Her leadership has achieved much, and unity and growth within the CSA Districts are evident.

Despite her busy schedule with community service and pastoral duties, Rev. Schroder finds time to practice karate with her 11-year-old son, Veiko Shatilwe Alexander Jr.

Her goal is always success, not perfection, and she stands on the promise recorded in the gospel reading of Luke 18:27, *"But Jesus said, 'What is impossible with man is possible with God.'"*

References.

1. Right Rev. Silvester Scott Beaman
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2. Rev. Vuyoletu Gwarube
15th Episcopal District Executive Administrator
WIM Assistant Recording Secretary
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3. Rev. Audrey Ngamlana
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4. Evangelist Libertha Mutambo
District / Annual Conference WIM & Social Action Development Committee Member
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Annexure:

1. Current Boards/committees

General Board of the AME Church

- Commission on Women in Ministry (Member at Large)
- Commission on Finances and Statistics
- Commission on Global Development
- Member of the AME Global Development Council
- Delegate to the General Conference for AMEC since 2008
- President for Women in Ministry in the 15th Episcopal District (Namibia, Angola, South Africa)
- Annual Ecumenical Women's World Prayer Day Group
- Executive Board Member for Women's Action Development (WAD)
- Executive Board Member for Council of Churches Namibia (CCN)
- Chairperson of the Annual Conference Legislative Task Force Team
- Member of the Board of Examiners
- Member of the Annual Conference Economic Development Committee
- Member of the Annual Conference Church Growth and Development Committee
- Member of the Board of Trustees
- National Nominee of the Fifth Edition of the African Women's Leadership Program
- Vice Chairperson of the National Governing Council (NGC), African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)
- Inter-governmental Committee Member for Africa – UNCCD Midterm Review Committee
- Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Focal Point for Namibia and negotiator for Africa on selected items during conventions negotiations
- Access and Benefit Sharing Committee Compliance Member representing Africa to UNCBD.

2. Past Boards/ Committees

- Secretary for Namibia Annual Conference African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC)
- Chairperson of the Judicial Council, Namibia Annual Conference (AMEC)
- Secretary for the Global Development Connectional Presiding Elders Council (AMEC)
- Fellowship Youth President, AMEC
- Chairperson of the Annual Conference Finance Committee
- Bureau Member for Africa to the Conference of Parties (COP) – UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Representative for SADC on African Environments Ministers (AMCEN) flagship programme
- Project Co-ordinator for Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) Management Committee
- Executive member representing! Kharas Region on National Youth Council of Namibia (NYC)