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BIOGRAPHY

REV. DR. ERIKA D. CRAWFORD

The Reverend Doctor Erika D. Crawford, a disciple whom Jesus loves, is a pastor, preacher, administrator, leader, mentor, advocate and visionary. She is a daughter of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Stamford, CT who embraced the work and call of itinerant ministry having served on staff there and at Reid Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Columbia, SC and Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Harlem, NY before receiving her first pastoral appointment.

Dr. Crawford is blessed to have led the Believers at Allen Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church of Mt. Vernon, NY liquidating all the church's indebtedness; and at African Methodist Episcopal Ebenezer Church of Rahway, NJ she led the congregation in erecting an edifice for Ebenezer AME Church in Malawi, Africa, the premature liquidation of a \$1.3 million mortgage, total renovation of the parsonage, and the purchase of two additional properties, one of which was the Rahway School for Colored Children (1840-1870) all while becoming a total tithing congregation. Since 2018, Dr. Crawford, has faithfully and joyfully served the Believers at Mt Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church of Dover, DE where she led the 500-member congregation in the early liquidation of the parsonage mortgage, the purchase of additional property, and projects in excess of \$250,000 for renovations, equipment, and upgrades to their facilities and properties, all while becoming a debt-free total tithing congregation.

In addition to Pastoral Ministry, Dr. Crawford is blessed to have served as Coordinator of Ecumenical and Interfaith Ministry at Fordham University; Team Chaplain for the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) New York Liberty; and Director of the Pastoral Care Department at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Prior to serving in a "fully funded/full-time" pastoral capacity, Dr. Crawford worked extensively in management positions in the health insurance industry and completed a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management at Voorhees College (Denmark, SC), a Master of Divinity at New York Theological Seminary (New York, NY), and a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Fordham University (Bronx, NY). Her doctoral project was entitled, *Serving Them Is Killing Me: Using Technology as a Vehicle for Self-Care for Bi-Vocational Pastors in the Black Church*. She has also done postgraduate work at Regent's Park College at Oxford University (Oxford, UK).

Other ministerial and community responsibilities and assignments held by Dr. Crawford include Connectional (International) President of AME Women in Ministry, Dean of the Ministerial Institute, Member of the Conference Trustee Board, co-founder of The

Toolshed: a social justice ministry, co-convenor of High Heels Seeking Higher Ground: a women's retreat ministry, Director of Stewardship for the First Episcopal District and an active membership in the Dover NAACP.

Dr. Crawford loves the promise, supernatural provision and divine protection found in the story of Noah's Ark and collects Noah's Ark figurines. Her favorite scriptures are:

- "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. (Genesis 9:13);
- "God is within her; she will not fall; God will help her at break of day." (Psalm 46:5); and
- Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" (Luke 1:45)

Dr. Crawford is EXCITED about what the Lord WILL do with her ministry as she preaches God's word, loves God's people, and puts it all in God's hands.

