



## Greater New Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church

586 Owen Street

Detroit, Michigan 48202

1-313-871-8025

Accepting applications for a Senior Pastor

Application Dates: February 1, -February 14, 2026

Submit online to

[GreaterNewPastorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:GreaterNewPastorsearch@gmail.com)

Dear Prospective Pastor,

On behalf of the congregation of Greater New Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church of Detroit, Michigan we extend a warm greeting and express our sincere gratitude for your interest in serving as our Senior Pastor. We are currently seeking a dynamic and spiritually grounded leader to guide our church into the future. To apply for this position, we request you submit the following materials to the email listed above.

### Guidelines

- Resume should reflect possession of at least a high school diploma, with a Master of Divinity degree recommended. Marital status must be married. Pastoral Experience 5 years or more. Date of birth, List of programs instituted under your tenure as a pastor and current and past church affiliations example: The National Baptist Convention USA, The Progressive Baptist Convention, The Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity.
- Greater New Mt. Moriah believes in the Baptist Doctrine, to have a successful relationship it is important for us to know what you believe. Please tell us about your call to the ministry with your application. Please give a brief explanation of the following passage of scripture: John 3:7, Ephesians 4:11-12, Acts 6:4, II Timothy 2:2 and 2:4.
- Please give a brief description of the following terms: Shepherd, Pastor, Church, Christian Education.
- Tell us about your belief regarding the virgin birth and do you accept the Bible as a whole?
- Can you share your vision for this church as a pastor including immediate, intermediate, and long-range goals? What are your expectations from Greater New Mt. Moriah?
- Finally, can you provide a link to a recent sermon and at least two local references? Please indicate if the reference is professional or personal and if any relation to the applicant.
- Please indicate your earliest availability as well as salary expectations. We have included our rich 100- year church history for your review.

The pulpit search committee will respond to all applications received and after careful review will contact those candidates selected for further consideration.

Thank you again for your interest.

Sincerely,

Greater New Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church-Pulpit Search Committee

# Greater New Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church

1925 ~ 2025

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

May 2025

*More than Conquerors*

**Church History**

Founded in 1925 - A small group of humble Christians met in the home of the late Brother Phillip Foston on May 5, 1925, to formulate plans for organizing a church. A place of worship was located at 9101 Cardoni Street. Rev. Howard acted as moderator over the group of founders.

This group was sent to Macon, Georgia to secure the services of the late Rev. Louis Coates, whom they knew and loved. The first service was held on May 10, 1925. It was in a call meeting held on Sunday, May 17, 1925 that New Mt. Moriah Baptist Church was organized.

The church grew under the leadership of Rev. Coates and the following departments and auxiliaries were organized: Sunday School, Senior Usher Board and Missionary Society.

In 1926, the late Rev. C.H. Harris was called and he served for two years. The church grew in membership and much was accomplished. Added auxiliaries were B.T.U., Usher Board and the Mother's Board, of which Mother Mary Grey was the only living member of the original board at that time. During Rev. Harris' leadership, larger facilities were purchased at 1428 Holbrook. The church soon outgrew these quarters and later moved to 1169 Hague Street.

In 1928 Rev. J.S. Scott was chosen and accepted to serve as pastor. He served four years, during which time the church grew and annex was added.

On December 31, 1932 a call was extended to the Rev. J.S. Murray. He accepted in January, 1933 and served as pastor for nineteen years. The church took on new life and on May 4, 1941, when property was secured at 586 Owen at a cost of \$18,000.00.

R.T. Wilson, chairman of the Trustee Board, submitted the original idea and plan for the purchase.

In 1941 the late Deacon James Coleman (Daddy Coleman) was the pillar that spearheaded the financial plans to purchase 586 Owen and burn the mortgage in eighteen months when money was at a premium in Detroit.

At that time the prefix "Greater" was added to New Mt. Moriah. The Male Chorus and the Junior Ushers were organized under Pastor J.S. Murray's leadership. Also, in 1942 Rev. William T. Newbern organized the first Bible Class. A new organ was purchased and an additional forty feet of space was added to the building. With this added space the choir loft was elevated.

On March 26, 1952 the membership was shaken to the extent that another church went out from among us, led by Pastor Murray, and was given the name of "New Mt. Moriah." The membership was then forced to worship in the R.T. Wilson Funeral Home and later, Christ Staff Baptist Church. For one year, Deacon Abraham Thomas, Chairman of the Deacon Board, assisted By Phillip White, Chairman of the Trustee Board, did a tremendous job of holding the membership together. Deacon Thomas and Sister Thomas opened their doors and hearts to the membership during the crisis. With renewed hope, we returned to our church home at 586 Owen on March 25, 1953.

On October 31, 1953 the Rev. L.W. Craig was called, accepted and he assumed responsibilities as pastor. The church grew by leaps and bounds under Rev. Craig's leadership, and many improvements were made to the building. To name a few: Choir loft beautifully rebuilt, Young People's Church improved, floors tiled, new pews installed,

sanctuary redecorated. Also two adjoining pieces of property were purchased as well as a new Hammond Organ and piano.

On June 6, 1964 the Macedonia call was extended and accepted by Rev. Benjamin Lawson Hooks. The \$50,000.00 building project was underway when Rev. Hooks came to us. The 1965 Building Committee was led by Trustee Louis H. Spencer, Chairman, Sister Alberta Blackburn, General Coordinator and Sister Inez E. Strong, Secretary.

Rev. Hooks was supported tremendously by the Official Board under the leadership of Deacon E.L. Bolton, Deacon Johnny L. Woodard, Deacon James H. Landrum, Trustee Louis H. Spencer and Trustee William Brock.

Pastor Hooks recommended to the church body to have the Rev. Robert Joe Page serve as Co- Pastor who hailed from Jackson, Tennessee. Rev. Page began his role as Co- Pastor January, 1973 and was greatly assisted by the Deacons and Trustees, until he became Interim Pastor from January, 1994 -April, 1995.

On December 4, 1982, the Joint Board members selected the first three women to become members of the Trustee Board, Stella E. Gasby, President of the Worker's Council, Bennie Johnson, President of Senior Choir and Deloris Tabb, President of Voice of Moriah Choir. This was voted and confirmed by the congregation at the Annual Church meeting.

In 1995, the Rev. Kenneth J. Flowers became the Pastor of Greater New Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, and continues to serve faithfully and diligently. Under his pastorate, the church continues to be a beacon in the community as well as a pacesetter in building bridges interracially, interdenominational and with other faith-based groups.

Under his leadership our church has experienced many "firsts": Annual Church Retreat, Mt. Moriah Community Development Corporation, several grants have been secured for various outreach ministries; Evangelism Ministry, Counseling Ministry, computer training classes, women ministers have been licensed and ordained, (Rev. Betty E. Pulliam being the first woman to be licensed), July 9, 1997.

Pastor Flowers appointed Rev. Glenn L. Jones of Los Angeles, California as the assistant to the Pastor from 1996 - 2000. In 2001 Reverend Sandra Kay Gordon came on staff as the first female to serve as Assistant to the Pastor and continues to serve faithfully.

Our new Chairman of the Trustee's Ministry, William Preston Willingham was appointed at our Annual Church Meeting, December, 1998.

In October, 2002 members of the Senior Choir, Inspirational Choir and the Voices of Moriah combined to form the Senior Inspirational Voices.

We celebrated our first Unified Men and Women's Day, October 16, 2005. Our first women Deacons were appointed at our annual church meeting, December 3, 2005: Linda Compton, Audrey Mahaffey and Druel Outley. They were ordained October 7, 2007.

On March 25, 2007 we marched into our newly built Banquet and Conference Center to dedicate our new edifice.

In April, 2008 the Children's Church was re-instituted and 125 young people attended the first service.

In November, 2009 our Music, Drama and Dance Ministry breathed new life into our church, through their performance at our Pre-Season Concert under the Direction of our Minister of Music, Brother Robert L. Nix, assisted by Elder Herman Harris, Deacon Harry L. Mont, Sister Carmen Willingham, Brother Carlton Foreman, Sister Linda Bassett and Sister Kierra T. Flowers.

Our hearts were saddened in 2010 as we mourned the loss of our Pastor Emeritus, Reverend Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks and our former Co- Pastor, Rev. Robert Joe Page.

Some spiritual giants left us in 2011: Deacon Arthur Murphy, Chairman of our Deacons' Ministry and descendants of our founders: Brother Julius Ray, Jr. and Brother Milton Reeves, Sr.

Our present Chairman of the Deacon's Ministry Harry L. Mont was appointed March 6, 2011.

What a Mighty God WE SERVE...many stalwarts have left a legacy for those of us left to SERVE THIS PRESENT AGE!!

After thirteen years of faithful service, Chairman of the Trustee's Ministry, William Preston Willingham resigned from his position.

On December 2, 2011 at our Annual Church Meeting, the first woman Chairperson of the Trustee's Ministry, Johnnie M. Jackson was appointed.

December 8, 2011 we celebrated the life of our Church Public Relations Director, Sister Alberta "BeBe" Blackburn. "May the Work I've Done Speak For Me." Gone, but never forgotten!!

On March 17, 2013 we celebrated our Minister of Music, Brother Robert L. Nix's 50 years of musical service with Greater New Mt. Moriah.

On April 7, 2013 we dedicated the Gallery adjacent to the Banquet Facility as the " Alberta Blackburn Gallery." As we strive to reach the goals of our visionary, we continue to serve and pray together..."The Vision Is Still Coming To Pass!!!"

We were grateful to have Elder Herman L. Harris accept the position as Minister of Music, March 16, 2014 at our Annual Moments of Meditation.

Our Assistant to the Pastor, the Reverend Sandra Kay Gordon, took flight and left this earthly sojourn, June 4, 2014. Our hearts still ache. We still hear "I just stopped by Greater New Mt. Moriah..."

Greater New Mt. Moriah is in a prime location for growth, as our city is experiencing it's renaissance. We are so fortunate that we survived these Ninety years, because many churches of that era, are no longer with us.

We are still Standing!!

In keeping with the 91st Church Anniversary theme: "The Church Moving into its Destiny by the Renewing of its Mind," we were blessed to add to our church's rich legacy. On Sunday, May 1, 2016 the church overwhelmingly supported the motion offered by Deacon Harry L. Mont to accept the appointment of Rev. Leon Morehead, as Executive Minister to Our Pastor Kenneth J. Flowers. "We shall come Rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves!"

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. Proverbs 16: 3  
It was the drumbeat of the Music Ministry that forged their plan of work. Picking up the mantle, the Youth and Young Adult choir changed their name to "Victorious Voices."

Under the auspices of extraordinary fundraising efforts of the Music Ministry, we now have state of the art multimedia presentations. This resource is used at every service. This project was completed the week of July 11, 2016.

The "Recording Choir" launches its first initiative November 20, 2016 in a "Live Recording" which was the first step toward their CD release.

Our "gatekeepers," the Senior Usher's Ministry will change their name to Usher's Ministry #1, May 7, 2017.

Indeed, 2017 is the "Year of Elevation, Restoration and Deliverance." "All Hail the Power...."

Greater New Mt. Moriah is blessed and highly favored to have in our midst two Septuagenarians: Mother Willie Mae Hitchcock and Deaconess Mother Melba C. Woodard

Octogenarians: Deaconess Betty J. Foreman and Sister Henrietta Elaine Barney. These members have been a part of Our great church for more than seventy-five years.

We're blessed to have added to our church family, October 13, 2018, First Lady Terri Lynne (Johnson) Flowers, who's shown to be a prayer warrior and an activist in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On March 3, 2019, Deacon Shana Norfolk was appointed as first woman Vice Chairman of our Deacon's Ministry.

Greater New Mt. Moriah has made technical strides as we advance in social media, allowing our members to become more updated through visual aids and mass communication.

Rev. Cornell Sampson, Jr. (Rev. CJ) was appointed the Executive Minister to the Pastor in February 2023 by Pastor Flowers. Rev. CJ was named Executive Minister for the church in August 2024.

On December 31, 2024, Rev. Kenneth James Flower retired as the Pastor after 29 years of faithful service. His legacy of ordaining the first women ministers, deacons and trustees in leadership positions. Pastor Flowers developed the non-profit 501c3 Mt. Moriah Community Development Corporation that held many programs, fundraisers, and community events. It was under his pastorate that the Banquet and Conference Center was built and opened serving as venue for rentals in the community.

### The 100<sup>th</sup> Centennial

Greater New Mt. Moriah celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> Centennial Anniversary -100 Years of Christian Service to the community. The excellence continues in February 2025 with the addition of our first woman Minister of Music, Gloria Bailey.

On March 2, 2025, Rev. CJ Sampson recommended unanimously by Joint Board to serve the Interim Pastor, and the congregation overwhelmingly supported the appointment. Rev. CJ accepted the appointment of Interim Pastor with a grateful heart.

Greater New Mt. Moriah is blessed and highly favored to have in our midst a Centenarian: Deaconess Mother Melba C. Woodard and Octogenarian: Deaconess Betty J. Foreman. These members have been a part of our great church for more than seventy-five years.

A year of activities and celebrations was spearheaded by Sis. Gwendolyn M. Hatchett and Sis. Florene C. McMurtry, the General Chairpersons of the Centennial Celebration.

The historians that have kept diligent records of our church's history for the last century are Sis. Hazel Smith, Church Secretary; Trustee Clara E. White; Sis. Daisy Moss-Bridges, Church Secretary; Sis. Alberta Blackburn, Public Relations Director; and Sis. Gwendolyn M. Hatchett; Church Clerk.

Greater New Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church still stands by the words of the Apostle Paul, when he cited "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me," Philippians 4:13. When many doors have closed amid adversity, we have still been able to stand.

Our church still holds that vision of being a beacon on the North-end. As Elizabeth Barrett Browning once wrote, "How do we Love thee (Greater New Mt. Moriah) let me (us) count the ways."