

# Reverend Deborah Williamson, First Lady



Rev. Deborah (Bailey) Williamson was born and reared in Madison, IL where she accepted Christ at the age of 12 years old. She served, worshipped and matured spiritually at Canaan Galilee Missionary Baptist Church where she actively taught Sunday School, directed the choir, ushered, served in missions and secretary to the pastor.

She has honorably served in the United States Airforce Reserves at Scott Airforce Base, Illinois. After marriage, Rev. Williamson joined her husband at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church, East St. Louis, IL under the pastorate of the late Rev. John H. Rouse. Over the next several years she assisted him in ministry as he was called to pastor for nine years in Madison, IL and five years in Binghamton, NY. She was employed by the St. Clair County Regional Superintendent's Office in Belleville, IL and after relocating to Binghamton, NY she served as President and CEO of the Broome County Urban League.

She humbly became first lady of the Bethel Baptist Church, White Plains, NY in 2004 and accepted her calling into the preaching ministry and was licensed in September 2005. After seminary, she was ordained by the Central Hudson Baptist Association Ordination Council in October, 2010. Rev. Williamson serves as First Lady, Associate Minister, and New Members Discipleship Orientation Instructor.

Rev. Williamson obtained a BA degree in Sociology from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL. She has taken religious courses from Covenant Theological Seminary, St. Louis, MO and is a graduate of Nyack Alliance Seminary, Nyack, NY obtaining her MPS (Masters of Professional Studies) degree with an emphasis in church development May, 2010. She has worked in the White Plains City School District for over ten years and is presently employed as a Teaching Assistant at Eastview Middle School.

She is the proud wife of Rev. Dr. Edward Williamson, Pastor/Teacher of Bethel Baptist Church, White Plains, NY; Dean of Christian Education-Empire State and Vice President of the Central Hudson Baptist Association. They have been married and in ministry together for over 30 years. They are blessed with two wonderful daughters, Stefanie and Jennifer and two loving grandsons (Oliver III & Michael III.)

Rev. Williamson believes in using the gifts that God has given her to bless His people and uplift His kingdom. She loves the Lord and the people of God with all her heart. One of her favorite scriptures is: Romans 8:28 "For we know that all things work together for good, for those who love the Lord and are the called according to His purposes."