

## **Biographical Stretch for Bishop Eric Leake**

Bishop Eric Leake was born in Troy, NC, and raised in Mount Gilead, NC. He is the son of Mrs. Sarah Jean Dumas Leake and the late Mr. Percy Leake and the late Mr. William Richard Johnson. He committed his life to Jesus Christ during a revival at Ingram's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Mount Gilead. Subsequently, he became a member of his home church, McAuley Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church (Mount Gilead, NC).

Shortly after preaching his trial sermon, the late Rev. R. E. Sharpe (pastor of McAuley Memorial) became ill, and the late Bishop Arthur Marshall, Jr., charged Rev. Leake with fulfilling the pastoral duties at ***McAuley Memorial and Snow Hill A.M.E. Zion Churches*** (Mount Gilead, NC) for two years. He was appointed by the late Bishop Cecil Bishop to serve as the pastor for ***Hudson Grove and Redding Springs A.M.E. Zion Churches in Indian Trail and Waxhaw, NC***, respectively, from 1987-1990. In 1990, Rev. Leake assumed the pastoral duties at ***Troy Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Troy, NC***, for three years.

In January 1993, the late Bishop Enoch B. Rochester appointed Rev. Leake to the historic, yet troubled, ***Greater Warner Tabernacle A.M.E. Zion Church, Knoxville, TN***. For more than 16 years, with God's direction, he led this congregation and community in revitalization and renewal. During his time in Knoxville, Bishop Warren M. Brown appointed Rev. Leake to serve as a Supply Pastor of the ***Edgewood Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, Knoxville, TN*** for three months in 2003. In 2006, Bishop Louis Hunter appointed him to serve as the ***Presiding Elder of the Knoxville District***. In October 2009, the late Bishop Roy A. Holmes appointed him to serve as the Pastor of ***Martin Temple A.M.E. Zion Church, Chicago, IL***. Bishop Leake served Martin Temple for 12 years. He earned the Doctor of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary, Dayton, OH, in 2004. As the first graduate sponsored in the "Adopt-a-Minister" Project by the Daughters of Conference at Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church in Greensboro, NC, Rev. Leake earned the Master of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, NC, in 1995. In 1990, he received a Bachelor of Science from Shaw University, Raleigh, NC, and an Associate of Arts Degree in Applied Science from Montgomery Community College, Troy, NC, in 1987. His educational journey included receipt of the High School Diploma in 1981 from West Montgomery High School, Mt. Gilead, NC, and his barber credentials from Harris Barber College, Raleigh, NC, in 1982. In 1993, Rev. Leake completed one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

He also served as the Prayer Coordinator and Director of Evangelism for the Midwest Episcopal District. He has served as the International Prayer Coordinator for the A.M.E. Zion Church! In 2014, he was inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr., Board of Preachers at Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA.

In 2006, Bishop Leake attended the Cornerstone Celebration Training for World Methodist Evangelism, North America Section. He authored the following publications: 2019: He co-authored *“Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,”* in 2016: *“Making A Comeback: The Seven Components to Church Renewal,”* and in 2013, *“Praying on Purpose: Intentional Growth through Prayer.”*

Bishop Leake is married to Jean McMurray from the ***Swift Street A.M.E. Zion Church***, Greensboro, NC. They have been married since May 8, 1993. She has been his friend, ministry partner, and his greatest intercessor. They have four children, Jessica Leake Covington, Joshua, Caleb, and Elijah Leake, one son-in-law, Catrell Covington, and three grandsons, Jeremiah Andrew and Cayden Josiah, Noah Christoff, and a granddaughter, Ava Lee.

Bishop Leake was elected the 107<sup>th</sup> Bishop in the line of Succession of the A.M.E. Zion Church, July 31, 2021. He has been assigned to the Southwestern Delta Episcopal District, which includes Arkansas, India, Oklahoma, Louisiana, South Mississippi, Texas, and West Tennessee-Mississippi. He has been recently assigned to serve as the Presiding Prelate of the South Atlantic Episcopal District, which comprises Georgia, India, Pee Dee, Palmetto, and the South Carolina Conferences.