

2021

ZION BAPTIST CHURCH-WIDE OFFICERS CANDIDATES BIO(S)

Alston, Jason, Trustee, joined Zion in 2015. He is from Queens, New York. His education, professional and personal experience includes youth development and educational programming, community outreach and organizational and social justice advocacy and reform. He attended Dillard University and later Graduate School at Howard University where he received a Master's degree in Political Science with a concentration in American Government and Political Behavior, Public Administration and Public Policy. He is a lawyer by trade and a social justice advocate.

After Law School, he began Judicial Clerkship in Washington, D.C. where he supports the Administration of Justice in various high-volume courtrooms. Upon completion of his clerkship, he plans to transition into a career in Criminal defense where he can fulfill a lifelong goal of empowering and advocating for people and communities impacted by mass incarceration.

Anderson, Jacqueline, Trustee, joined Zion in 2017. She was brought up in a Christian home and accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior at the tender age of twelve, at Carolina Missionary Baptist Church under Pastorate George C. Gilbert, Sr. Church has always been a vital part of my life, and I love the Lord. As a young adult, she served as Progressive National Baptist Convention's (Eastern Region) Young Women's President. Sister Anderson is a graduate of Howard University (BA Speech and Hearing Communications) and Regent University (MA of Leadership). She has been happily married to Rev. Kendrick A. Anderson for the past 26 years and are the ecstatic parents of Kaleb.

Sister Anderson believes she is gifted with the gifts of teaching, administration, and hospitality. Throughout her life God has challenged and is growing her in each of her areas of gifting and even allows her to utilize these gifts in her vocation. Sister Anderson, is a 33-year veteran in DC Public Schools, having taught 20 years, served as a coach for teachers 3 years and is in her 10th year of administration. She currently serves as Assistant Principal of John Eaton Elementary School and desires to continue using her gifts to the benefit of Kingdom building here at Zion Baptist Church.

Briscoe, Tanya, Church Secretary. Sister Briscoe joined Zion Baptist Church in 1978 as a young child and has served in many capacities working with the Junior Achievement, Assistant Sunday School teacher to Sister Elaine Saunders; Secretary/Correspondence Secretary for the Usher Ministry, and currently Recording Secretary for the Facilities Utilization Long Range Planning Committee since 2013.

Professionally, Sister Briscoe is a Career Development Counselor and is a Training Specialist for the Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service and manages the Career Development Counseling Service and coordinates the on-site training courses via virtual learning sessions. In this role, Sister Briscoe manages the calendar, schedules appointments and works with her clients with their career development/progressions and with her gifts she enjoys helping others and is prepared to utilize these gifts, if elected, to serve Him by helping others.

Castleberry, Sr., Roy L., Trustee. Bro. Castleberry and family joined Zion Baptist Church in 2015 and are actively involved in ministries devoted to children and now wants to contribute his skills and abilities towards the growth of Zion by committing to be a Trustee and will commit to a deeper level of service by working on the "Operations" ministry of the Trustee Board. He is seeking an opportunity to better serve God through the ZBC Trustee Ministry. He is retired from the Federal Government with 33 years of service as a Special Agent having demonstrated supervisory and leadership skills including oversight of staff and national program management responsibilities and is committed to ZBC for a deeper level of service by committing to become a Trustee and sharing his skills in the operation of the church. As in his previous positions, he is committed to being a team player and worker on the Trustee ministry to work diligently with the leadership to achieve the necessary results for all assignments in order to add value and being obedient to God in his service and support to Zion. Bro. Castleberry loves the Lord and is aware of Zion's rich history in service to God through tradition, community support and outreach efforts.

Coleman, Ernest, Trustee, officially joined Zion Baptist Church in May 2006 and joined the Male chorus in 2009. I believe that He which has begun a good work in me will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ "Philippians Chapter 1:6.

Mr. Coleman is a Small Business Owner and Background in Real Estate Investment. Bro. Coleman began his Christian journey during his Sophomore year in college when he asked the Lord to “Come into his Heart after one roommate and business partner “just happen to be the “brain thrust” of our investment Group said, “You need to ask Jesus to come into to your heart or you’re just all messed up”. He made the statement directly after another roommate “who had been recently baptized” asked me if I were a Christian and I was kind of stumbling over the question. I thought I was a Christian and prayed pretty much every night the Lord’s Prayer and prayed to do whatever the Lord would have me do up to that point in my life; but, I had never specifically “asked the Lord to come into my heart”. My roommates did not know it; but, as soon as they finished talking to me, I went to my bedroom and asked the Lord to come into my heart and immediately started reading my Bible for months until I finished it from cover to cover. I’ve learned a lot of biblical truths since that time in my life decades ago.

At an early age as a child his mother taught him the Lord’s Prayer and the 23rd Psalm and recited these popular verses before his bedtime. Being one of the only African American in a school group setting was my cultural norm growing up in Minneapolis, MN. When a setting is your culture norm, at a very young age, you may not even realize your situation may be a little “unusual” because it’s “normal” to you. He excelled in sports, and had fun playing with children and was also exposed to a few musical instruments. My father was a physics Professor at the University of Minnesota and my mother was a school teacher. This cultural norm of being one of the only African American in a school sitting did not change until the 5th grade after moving to Northwest Washington D.C. where most of my classmates were Afro-Americans. My mother sought after a good church for the family. After being exposed to a few Christian churches, close by, of different denominations, my mother found Zion Baptist Church where she decided to join and also teach Sunday school which she had done in Michigan before moving to Minnesota. I attended Sunday School where “Deaconesses” as they were called back then. Deacon Donella Darby, Rev. Emanuel Lipscomb, and the late Deacon Augustus Saunders were my teachers. This was my formal Christian Exposure.

Darasaw, Kimani, Parliamentarian joined Zion Baptist Church in 1989 and is running for reelection. As **Parliamentarian**, he is responsible for invoking and interpreting *Robert Rules of Order* during the Annual Semi-Annual, Special Church Meetings as well as at the Board of Church Administration meetings that are held monthly. He attends *Sunday School* and wants to use his God given gifts to do his best as parliamentarian.

Elam, Jr., Glenwood L., Trustee, joined Zion in 2020 and serves as a Trustee at New Creation Zion, North Site location. He is the owner of Next Level Investment Group (The UPS Store 5760) and STE, LLC (The UPS Store 4234, 4457, 6047) and has been part of the UPS Store network since 1999 and owns. The stores are located in Philadelphia, PA, Washington, DC and Montgomery County, MD.

Prior to 1999, Mr. Elam owned, TERIM, Inc., (a real estate and investment management firm) and Bright Minds Home Childcare, Inc., (a Daycare Center). Mr. Elam started his career in information Technology and has over 30 years' experience in Information Technology (IT) including his own company (E-Systems, Inc.), growing it to 30 plus employees. He has developed and implemented strategic and creative technology plans that deliver measurable results. His technology experience covers all facets from integrating computer systems to project and team management. Currently, Trustee Elam is a member of the Washington, DC Chamber of Commerce and has also served as a strategic partner and board member of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, Board Member of the National Institute for Young Adults, Member Entrepreneur's Organization (EO) Member of the Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce and Member of the National Minority Supplier Diversity Council. Additionally, he has assisted with entrepreneurial course instruction at Georgetown University's Master Business (MBA) program.

Flowers, Tracye, Lay Member, joined Zion in 1971 and is running for reelection. The events of this challenging year have had a profound effect on our communities, especially our church. "God willing if we are ever able to worship together again, the leadership of our church must work together to reunite and revive our congregation." Serving as Lay Member for a 2nd term, Sister Flowers would like to continue learning about the issues, hopes, and concerns of the members of our congregation. "Being a member of the Board has certainly been a learning experience to say the least. But I am confident that the new year will bring a renewed energy to us as leaders so that we can embrace God's will and direction for Zion. I would be honored to serve another term as Lay Member; to support the pastor's vision and to promote the continued growth of our beloved Zion Baptist Church."

Hancock, Helen, **Lay Member**, joined Zion in 2017 and is running for reelection. She is retired from D.C. Government and is a member of the Charles B. Walker Culture Club. Sister Hancock attends Sunday School, Sunday Morning service and frequently attends Bible Study. She is a member of the Metropolitan Women's Democratic Club which

supports women in public office. Currently, she is working pastime in her daughter's Dentistry Practice.

Johnson, Delores, Church Treasurer, has been a member of Zion since 2001. She has held the position as Church Treasurer for the past eight years, having served initially as the Assistant Church Treasurer for two years. Sister Johnson has served as the Treasurer for the America Management Federal Credit Union and Apple Federal Credit Union for 10 years. Currently, she is employed with the Food and Drug Administration as an IT Specialist. Sister Johnson's ministry affiliations includes the Charles B. Walter Culture Club, has served as Zion Girl Scout Troop Leader/Senior Advisor Junior, Brownie and Daisy and attends the Walk by Faith Sunday School class.

Lawson, William B., running for **Trustee** and has been a member of Zion since 1983. Dr. Lawson is founder and director of Psychiatric Research for the Emerson Clinical research Institute and Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He is Emeritus Professor and formerly chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at Howard University School of Medicine. He received a PHD in Psychology from the University of New Hampshire and Maryland from the Pritzker School of Medicine University of Chicago. Dr. Lawson has chaired health ministries at Ebenezer Baptist in Austin, TX and Washington, D.C. He has given numerous presentations on mental health and the church.

McCoy, Davina, Lay Member and is running for reelection. She joined Zion in 2007 and attends Rev. Byrd's Evening Bible Study and Sunday School.

Martin, Cynthia Hightower, Assistant Calendar Clerk, is running for reelection joined Zion in 1975 and later served as Assistant Calendar Clerk (now called Church Clerk) under Sister Lady B. Johnson, Sister Marie Wade from 1977-1988 and currently under Sister Marlene Tolson. Sister Martin indicates that serving as Assistant Calendar Clerk has been very satisfying and rewarding. She appreciates being able to use her spiritual gifts in writing Church papers for Homegoing Services and working closely with the Church Clerk.

Sister Martin has served on Zion Usher's Ministry for over 30 years and was a founding member of the Young Adult Usher Board. She is a former Trustee and served as Secretary for the Church Board of Administration. Sister Martin is retired from the Federal Government after serving 37 years of service whereupon she was afforded many

opportunities including being on detail for one year to the White House and was a senior manager of the government's multi-billion-dollar credit card program.

Pullings, Retna, is running for Lay Member. She joined Zion Baptist Church in December 2014 and has been an active member assigned to the Sheepfold of Deacons Norma Hutchinson, Kimani Darasaw and the late Patsy Jenkins. Since joining Zion, she has enjoyed actively engaging in the Sunday School, weekly Bible Studies and regularly attends Sunday services. Sister Pullings' has worked in the legal profession for over 25 years and is currently employed with the DC Department of Behavioral Health, as a Forensic Mental Health Coordinator. As a Forensic Mental Health Coordinator, she coordinates two services for residents of the District of Columbia.

1) Sister Pulling's facilitates and coordinates the training of clinical staff as Officer Agents for the Department of Behavioral Health providing services to one of the community's vulnerable citizens, persons with mental health disorders as well as issues with substance use disorder;

2) The second project is coordinating, tracking, notification, documenting the submissions of progress reports, for persons who are civilly committed. There are two statuses: **Outpatient** (in the community) and those who are **Inpatient** (receiving services at St. Elizabeth's Hospital). Both positions required relationships that are collaborative, respectful and a team mindset.

Robinson, Lisa, Assistant Treasurer, is running for reelection. She was restored at Zion in December 31, 1995 and in 2019. She was nominated and selected as the Assistant Treasurer in taking over the role and responsibilities at Zion Baptist Church. Currently, Sister Robinson works for the IRS doing budget as a Financial Plan Manager with 36 years of experience. She reviews, manages and analyzes the Monthly Budget Report for the Building Delegation territories request to ensure they are spending their one-year operational budget monies effectively, ensuring that all funds have been committed and obligated by the end of the Fiscal year. In addition, she is responsible for reviewing the Monthly Treasurer Report when submitted by the Treasurer. Sister Robinson signs all checks prepared by Zion's Finance Team, making sure that all funds are deposited into the bank after the counting Team handles their assignment. Sister Robinson is committed and holds herself accountable to follow all the Principles and Standard Leadership in conducting herself as a good Christian to make sure that she serves and is doing the work accordingly to God's Will and His Testament.

Smith, Cornelle B., Lay Member, is running for reelection. He joined Zion in 2013 and is serving the second term as Lay Member. He is President of CBC Design Development Group, LLC, an acquisition, real estate, and development firm in Washington, D.C. Mr. Smith is a construction and development professional with over 25 years of expertise in all facets of the industry, including 18 years as an entrepreneur. He has expertise in residential construction and renovations. As a longtime resident of Washington, D.C., Mr. Smith has from the ground up acquired the knowledge of the local real estate development market and been able to consistently identify creative investment opportunities. Mr. Smith has developed long-term and trusted relationships with local political officials, real estate development firms and aggressive financial investors. CBS is becoming a leader in sourcing below market properties and land assemblage opportunities in the DC Metropolitan area through cultivated relationships. His firm's overall strategy is based on a continuing effort to maximize CBS's in-house resources to benefit both investors and the community through innovative market analysis, presentation of creative investment opportunities, acquisition, superior design, and quality construction.

Thomas, Dawn is running for **Assistant Church Secretary**. Sister Thomas is a resident of Washington DC, born and raised in upstate NY where she was baptized at a young age. She joined Zion Baptist Church approximately eight years ago and immediately got to work by joining the Zion Senior Usher Ministry, Member of the Praise Team and is a Stephen Ministry Leader. Sister Thomas has a heart for service and loving on God's people and accepted the calling to serve as Assistant Secretary for Zion.

Tolson, E. Marlene, Calendar Clerk, is running for reelection and has been a member since Cradle Roll. As Calendar Clerk, Sister Tolson is responsible for crucial recording-keeping functions inherent to membership, church statistics, contributions and trends in church life. She is responsible for maintaining the software application for membership data and financial contributions; assists in counting room operations and reconciling of Sunday collections; accurately record each individual contribution; maintain a regular account of return in envelopes for each Sunday; order, prepare and assign envelope sets for each member. Sister Tolson maintains a membership database which includes members' demographics; prepare and mail semiannual/annual contribution statements; provides data as necessary for other ministry services; maintains a personal history file of church membership and prepares church papers for deceased members. The position

requires patience, promptness, accuracy in maintaining the church roster, statistics and financial contributions.

Yette, Michael Lewis, Historian, is running for reelection. He joined Zion in 1971 and has served in many capacities over the years. He became Trustee Emeritus, Sunday School Teacher, served as FULRPC for 22 years and is currently a member of the Historical Preservation Committee. Bro. Yvette has served on the Breakfast Ministry, Transportation Ministry, Chapman's Army, Mighty Men of Zion, Sound and Drama Ministries.