Pastor Kevin A. Williams

Biography

Rev. Kevin A. Williams serves as 5th Grade Educator in the Asbury Park School System and is the former pastor of Martin Luther King Presbyterian Church in Neptune, NJ. He earned his undergraduate degree in accounting from Wilberforce University and his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary. After working in the corporate sector for several years, he answered “a higher calling” and entered seminary. During his studies, he desired more practical applications for real world ministry. With the assistance of a faculty member, Rev. Williams entered the New Jersey Army National Guard in 1992 to train as an officer and a chaplain. In this capacity, Williams’s service has included ministering to soldiers and their families for 14 years during monthly drills, state emergencies and overseas deployments like Iraqi Storm. Concurrently, he started his career in education as a guidance counselor in Plainfield, NJ.

In 2000, he took advantage of an opportunity to teach in Asbury Park. He has taught in various capacities, but has found a niche teaching 5th Graders. He enjoys teaching history the most, connecting his students to their African, Caribbean, and Haitian heritage. He also served as a coordinator for a YMCA Boys Council mentor group, Boyz2Men.

In 2009, another opportunity was presented for Williams to serve as pastor of the Martin Luther King Presbyterian Church of Neptune. In this capacity, pastor and congregation continue to grow in their obedience to God and in their service to the community. He was challenged to serve in a church bearing Dr. King’s name. “Being an educator in the same community where I serve as a pastor is unique. It informs my theology and helps to keep it grounded in the real world. If we are not touching our youth who are dealing with poverty and gangs, our work in the local church is wanting.” This pastoral assignment ended March 2013.

He currently serves as the pastor of historic Claremont Lafayette United Presbyterian Church in Jersey City, NJ. Appointed by the Presbytery of the Northeast in January 2021, this assignment started in 2018. It has included conducting ministry during the COVID Pandemic which forced all churches to utilize technology to broadcast worship services since March 2020. “It has been a challenge managing between a virtual environment and in-person congregations. But it has given us a reach beyond the walls of the building we didn’t previously possess. This is an opportunity for us to reach more people with the saving message of the Gospel.”

While in college, he met and married the love of his life, the former Kelly Jacquinn Smith. They reside in Jackson, NJ with their four children: Josiah, Jocelyn, Johanna, and Devin. This past summer they celebrated 34 years of holy matrimony.