



The Reverend Samuel Baker has been assigned as the new pastor at Joshua Chapel African Methodist Episcopal by Bishop Gregory Ingram, presiding prelate of the state of Texas.

Coming to Waxahachie from my previous assignment at Greater Allen Temple in Grand Prairie, Texas, Reverend Baker is no stranger to the Ginger-bread City.

The Reverend Baker's deaconate ordination ceremony was held at the Waxahachie Civic Center in 2001. From 1996-2003 he was a resident of Lexington Arms on the east side of the city and worked for the U.S. Postal Service and Fortra Fiber Cement before his retirement in 2005.

I am excited about the ambiance and atmosphere at Joshua Chapel and being back in the city that helped to nurture me spiritually and mentally. I received wonderful opportunities for development and I am proud to reacquaint myself with friends.

He has pastored three other churches before returning to Joshua Chapel.

Educated in the public schools in Dallas, Baker graduated with honors from James Madison High School where he was a member of the National Honor Society.

The Reverend Baker received an associate of arts and science degree in business administration from Allstate Business College in Dallas. He received a certificate of theology from New Covenant School of Ministry in Dallas in 1982 and a certificate of theology from Trinity Theological Seminary in Newburgh, Ind. in 1984. He received a bachelor's of science degree in organizational management from Paul Quinn College in Dallas in 2005 and currently pursuing a master's of divinity degree at Perkins School of Theology Southern Methodist University (SMU) 2006.

The Reverend Baker was ordained an Itinerant Elder in Dallas at St. Paul AME.

He is also a U.S. Army veteran where he received the highest honor from his airborne class at Fort Benning, Ga. as the distinguished graduate.

The Rev. Baker is associated with Adonai Ministries, an addiction recovery group; NAMI of Dallas; Alpha Chi and Sigma Beta Delta Fraternities, Fellowship of Christian Educators and LCMA Ministerial Alliance.

He is a certified evangelistic instructor, chaplain and adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans of Texas and has won many awards and accolades in the community, business and churches.

He is married to his college sweetheart, Elna Rainwater-Baker and they have two daughters, Sameriyah and Ronika.

"I look forward to meeting other pastors and business persons to establish fortuitous relationships and serving the community as a whole.

"I am empirical and cognizant of our needs and the things we want as a church. When we work together – pulling in the same direction, building on the same foundation (Christ), and lifting as we climb, God will reward us with His blessing and anoint us with His grace.

"My prayer and desire is for God to enlighten, equip and empower us to accomplish the tasks we encounter. We extend an open invitation to worship (at Joshua Chapel AME) with us.