

THE FAITH FAMILY OF WEST POINT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

INFORMATION GUIDE

REV. DR. L. BERNARD JAKES

SENIOR PASTOR/TEACHER

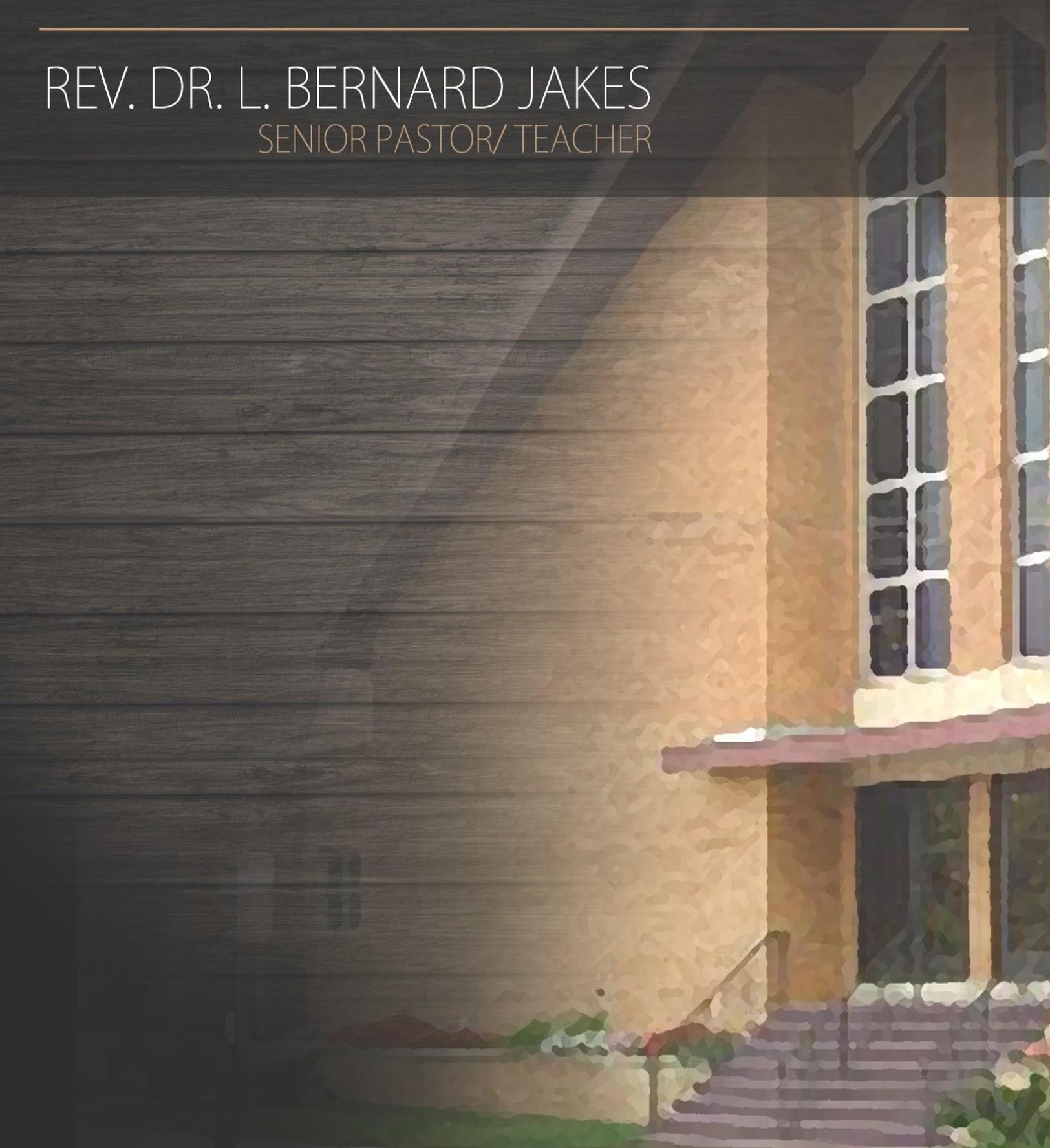


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Greetings from the Senior Pastor/Teacher



Welcome into another year of God's favor through God's mercy and grace. It's an honor and privilege to serve as your spiritual director, as well as have you as a member of our Holy family.

As a disciple of Jesus the Christ, as well as being a member of this local congregation, you are being provided this INFORMATION GUIDE 2019. The purpose of this information guide is to equip you with vital facts regarding our mission, purpose, ministry, etc., that

enables you to effectively participate in your local church. Your orientation and participation are highly encouraged.

If you're a new member, this document will help you transition into your new family of faith. If there are questions not answered in this guide, please feel at liberty to inform your deacon as soon as possible. For our seasoned members, please use this information guide to assist you in continuing your service to this local ministry.

Enjoy, as you navigate through your INFORMATION GUIDE 2019.

Only because of God's grace, I remain.

Dr. L. Bernard Jakes
Senior Pastor/Teacher

Historical Highlights

In April 1917, a fervent assembly of African Americans met, and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, organized a local church where they could worship God and serve the community. Commensurate with many local African American churches throughout the country whose organizers migrated from southern states to northern, eastern, and western states, the organizers honored the church by naming her after the city (West Point, Mississippi) from which a number of the organizers transitioned. As a result, West Point Missionary Baptist Church was born. Afterwards, she called the Rev. R.H. Harmon (pastoral service—1917-1921) of West Point, Mississippi, to be her first pastor. The first of a myriad of responsibilities for Rev. Harmon and the members of West Point Baptist Church was to secure an independent place of worship.

During the late eighteenth hundreds (1800s), Chicago was one of the northern cities where many southerners who made their exodus resettled. In search of better living opportunities, Chicago became *The Promised Land* to these weary, yet determined travelers. As a result of the large influx of African Americans to Chicago, local city officials designated sections of the city where the new residents could reside. One of these sections was, as it is affectionately known, *Bronzeville*. African Americans who resettled in Chicago needed places of worship. Historically, many white congregations would not allow African Americans to worship in their churches. However, due to the heightened number of African Americans in the *Bronzeville* community, white churches began to relocate their congregations in other areas of the city—leaving many worship facilities empty. What the devil meant for evil, God meant for good.

Due to the flight of white churches from the *Bronzeville* community, in the winter of 1917, Rev. Harmon and the West Point Baptist Church members could purchase the old St. Mark Methodist Episcopal Church—a church completed in 1865, which was used as a chapel in connection with Camp Douglas during the Civil War. The purchase price was \$22,000.00. To date, the original purchased building is one hundred forty-two (142) years old and is still owned and operated by West Point Baptist Church.

As lives were continuing to be transformed and Christ exalted, Rev. James H. Brown (pastoral service—1922-1972), who succeeded Rev. Harmon, added to the numerical growth of the church through uncompromising sermonic exaltation and administrative leadership. Toward the latter years of his pastorate, Rev. Brown cast the vision for a new, modern facility. Rev. Brown would see the vision come to pass in 1972; he died shortly thereafter.

After his passing, West Point Missionary Baptist Church called one of her staff ministers, the Rev. Dr. Carroll J. Thompson (pastoral service—1972-1997), to serve as her third pastor. Dr. Thompson was instrumental in burning the mortgage of over \$400,000.00 for the new facility in three years and one month.

Historical Highlights cont.

In addition, Dr. Thompson had a local reputation of being a caring and compassionate pastor—regularly visiting the sick and shut-in of his parish, as well as non-members. He also had a national reputation as a scholar. Dr. Thompson was the first pastor to retire.

After the retirement of Dr. Thompson, West Point Baptist Church called Rev. Corey Brooks (pastoral service—1997-2000), of Indiana, to be her fourth pastor in 80 years. Rev. Brooks introduced a new methodology of worship and witnessing to this local church. The church experienced a substantial numerical growth during his tenure. After three years of service, Rev. Brooks organized a local church in the Chicagoland area.

As West Point Missionary Baptist Church spent one year in search of her next pastor, it culminated into her calling the Rev. Dr. L. Bernard Jakes (pastoral service—2001-present), as her fifth pastor in 84 years. The Rev. Dr. Jakes was responsible for bringing healing, reconciliation and restoration to West Point Baptist Church. In addition, Dr. Jakes has led the church in *Operation Divine Restoration: Redesigning, Remodeling, and Restoring a 20th Century Building Using 21st Century Designs*, constructing neighborhood town homes, creating new ministries for the community, casting vision for the 21st century, empowering the laity to actively engage in social justice, and a host of other successes. In 2010, Dr. Jakes began referring to West Point as, *The faith family of West Point Missionary Baptist Church*. This was not a constitutional name change, but a description as to who we are as a local church—a family of faith.

The accomplishments of *The faith family of West Point Missionary Baptist Church* could not have been done without the Holy Spirit, coupled with committed, practicing Christians with a mind to work for the Kingdom.

The history of *The faith family of West Point Missionary Baptist Church* has a span of over 101 years. Her history is too extensive for all pertinent information to be printed. However, it does not yet appear what she shall be. As God continues to show favor and faithfulness to *The faith family of West Point Missionary Baptist Church*, she will continue *Living to Serve God by Serving Humanity* (Galatians 5:13).

Organizational Structure

The intent of the Church's Organizational Structure is to help members understand and relate to how the local church body functions. Following is a simplistic overview that depicts our democratic process.

The *Senior Pastor/Teacher*, like the President of the United States, serves in the Executive capacity. He is the Chief Under-shepherd who is responsible for the spiritual and overall well-being of the church. Another function is that he moderates all church meetings.

The *Assistant to the Pastor*, who is selected by the Senior Pastor, is like the *Vice-President* and serves as the overseer of the ministerial staff, while providing congregational care. This person is the ministerial mediator—representing the *Office of the Senior Pastor*.

The *Deacons*, like the *Senators*, are responsible for assisting the *Senior Pastor /Teacher* in setting guidelines and procedures that are necessary for spiritual growth and productivity.

The *Ministry Lead Servants* (presidents), like the *House of Representatives*, also assist the *Senior Pastor /Teacher* by overseeing, implementing and making recommendations that are aimed at strengthening the ministry of the church.

The members, or the citizens, make up the body. Like all the above, their responsibility is to respond to the leadership, policies and procedures of the church in such a way that God will always be glorified.

Meetings are held monthly for each group, except for the entire body. Meetings for the local church body are held quarterly. The church planning meeting is held in December. The ceremonial *Installation of Church Officers and Lead Servants* is held in January.

Pastoral Services and Care

Counseling

Counseling is available to members who feel the need for this service. If the need is greater than the counselor can meet, an outside professional will be recommended for extended counseling. Counseling is available based upon the member's need. All counseling sessions are held on the campus of West Point Missionary Baptist Church, unless otherwise approved by the Senior Pastor.

Persons requesting counseling will need to call the church and leave a message.

Infant Dedication (Baby Blessing)

Infant Dedication is a ceremony in which the parents present themselves and the child before God—asking God to guide them in the rearing of their child. This is not the same as a Christening. West Point Missionary Baptist Church does not *christen* babies.

Individuals with *active membership* status may have their infant dedicated at West Point Missionary Baptist Church. Unwed parents who wish to have their infant dedicated must meet with an appointee from the pastoral team before the dedication is approved. This appointee will be appointed by the Senior Pastor. No exceptions. Therefore, a counseling session with the appointee will be necessary.

- Infant Dedications are held quarterly on the second (2nd) Sunday at 8:45 a.m.
- Child must be six (6) months or younger.

- Parents will need to call the office to place their child on the schedule. Call 773-538-7590 x221, Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.—4 p.m., or leave a voicemail message at any time.
- Participants in the ceremony include: Parents and one set of Godparents.

Wedding and Marriages

Christian marriages are to be done per God's Word. Couples who wish to have their wedding/marriage ceremony here must receive pre-marital counseling prior to the ceremony. The Senior Pastor reserves the right to refuse to perform ceremonies, as well as use of the worship center.

A Wedding consists of a full ceremony that includes a printed Order of Service and bridal party.

A Marriage is a simple ceremony that does not include a bridal party, etc.

Individuals with *Active Membership* status may request to have their wedding or marriage in the church. However, there are costs associated with the wedding, and will be discussed as arrangements are solidified.

At least one individual must be an active member of West Point Missionary Baptist Church; if so, proceed to the next step. If not, the church has a contract whereby the individuals will be presented.

Call the church for an initial interview. During the interview, the couple will:

- Agree on a schedule for premarital counseling

Pastoral Services and Care cont.

- Set a date and time for the ceremony
- Arrange to meet with the church's coordinator and a representative from the Music Ministry

The couple may request any ordained minister from the Pastoral team to conduct the ceremony. If the Senior Pastor is requested, and it aligns with his schedule, he will perform the ceremony. If not, the Senior Pastor will appoint an ordained minister to perform the ceremony.

In the Event of Sickness

James 5:14-15 gives us specific directions on the event of sickness:

Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders (pastors) of the church; and let them pray over them anointing [them] with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; and if [they] have committed sins they shall be forgiven [them].

If you become sick, you or someone in your family should call the church—773-538-7590 x221. If you are scheduled for surgery and wish to have a minister there to pray with you, **NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE** prior to surgery.

In the Event of Death

It is our desire to share with you during this difficult time and to make it more bearable.

Services Provided to Members in Good Standing

If the deceased is a member of

West Point Baptist Church, please call the church—773-538-7590 x221, and we will:

- Suggest a funeral director (if requested)
- Assist in choosing a date and time for the memorial service
- Assist with the Order of Service and Obituary
- Host a continental breakfast during the visitation (all prepast and repast are the responsibility of the family— members and non-members).

In addition, there is no fee for the use of the worship center. However, there is a fee for the fellowship hall and kitchen, which requires a \$150 deposit. The deposit will be returned if the persons responsible restores the fellowship hall and kitchen to its original cleanliness (a checklist will be provided). There is a fee for the turnkey, and it must be paid before the memorial service. Lastly, there is no fee for a musician; it will be incurred by the church (active members only). If soloist attaches a fee, the family will be notified.

Services Provided to a Non-member

If the deceased is not a member of West Point Missionary Baptist Church, we recommend the service be held at his/her church or a funeral home. Upon request, The Church may assist in providing a minister, a musician and/or soloist. The fee for the Senior Pastor is \$300.00. This includes officiating, eulogizing, and the committal. The musician's fee is \$150.00 and the soloist's fee is \$100.00. All payments should be made with cash, prior to the memorial service.

Pastoral Services and Care cont.

Who to Contact Upon the Death of a Loved One

1. A funeral director

*If the funeral is to be held at West Point Missionary Baptist Church, **DO NOT** select a date and time prior to contacting the church office.

2. The Church Office—

773-538-7590 x221

3. Insurance Company

4. Relatives and friends

Information the Church Office Requests

When reporting the death/funeral arrangements of an immediate family member who is not a member of West Point Missionary Baptist Church:

- Name of deceased
- Relationship
- Name of person(s) making arrangements
- Telephone number
- Alternate telephone number
- Funeral home: name, address and phone number
- Location and time of visitation and funeral services

Elements of the Obituary

- Name of deceased
- Date and place of birth
- Name of parents
- Educational background
- When the deceased received Jesus as their personal Savior (if applicable)
- Church involvement (if applicable)
- Date married (if applicable)

What contribution he/she made to society

- Military service records, including decorations, awards, etc.
- Membership in professional, social or civic association
- Names of survivors and their relationships
- Photo (optional)

Order of Service

(If services are held at West Point Baptist Church)

Instrumental Prelude

Call to Worship

Opening Hymn

Scripture

Prayer

Hymn

Reflections (2 minutes maximum)

Acknowledgement

Hymn

Words of Comfort

Recessional

Interment (cemetery)

*Generally, family chooses to have a one-hour visitation period before the home going service. Therefore, reviewing the body after the Words of Comfort is not the policy of the Senior Pastor.

Other Elements of the Program

- Pallbearers (six)
- Honorary Pallbearers
- Poem or Favorite Scripture
- Acknowledgment

Please note that the Church does not print obituaries. Assistance is available for organization, but not implementation.

Ministry Opportunities

Bulletin Board Ministry: Creates and maintains bulletin boards designed to welcome visitors, inform all special announcements, and enhance the overall beauty of the church narthex.

Clothing Ministry: Serves the needs of the local church and community by providing quality clothing to persons in need. This ministry distributes clothing every Wednesday, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Congregational Care Ministry: Given the privilege of being the "keepers of the flock," providing ministry to appropriate individuals and groups within the congregation, by addressing the needs and joys of our members. This ministry is committed to helping every member feel loved, nurtured and supported during times of illness, stress and sorrow, as well as in times of joy and celebration.

Crowns of Wisdom: This ministry serves the senior aged members of our local church through a myriad of fellowship opportunities.

Deacon Ministry: (Membership is by pastoral appointment only.) The word Deacon (*diakonos*) means *minister or servant*. The Deacons are called to assist the pastor in spiritual and ethical affairs of the church. This ministry: teaches Bible classes, visits the sick and shut-in, and serves communion to those who request it monthly.

Deaconess Ministry: (Membership is by pastoral appointment for those who are not spouses of Deacons.): Duties are to support the Deacon Ministry in its role as spiritual leaders, to care for and assist candidates for baptism, and prepare the Lord's Supper.

Domestic Violence and Advocacy Ministry: Dedicated to improving the lives of men, women, and children who experience violence by providing Christian support, love and comfort to persons involved in emotionally and physically abusive relationships.

Drama Ministry: Ministry through the art of theatrical presentation. Jesus Christ used parables (stories) as a tool to illustrate all the great works God can do.

Evangelism Ministry: Outreach is a plan of action to reach out to the community surrounding the church or the people God has called you to seek out. This ministry is charged with the responsibility of developing and implementing the church's outreach program. This program includes educating and training members to share their faith with others.

Ministry Opportunities cont.

Food Pantry: Is designed to share the good news of Jesus the Christ through deeds. The Food Pantry feeds the greater Chicago community every Wednesday, 11 p.m. - 1 p.m. This is a 100% volunteer ministry.

Greeters Ministry: Provides an enthusiastic, positive, spiritual, and friendly welcome to each person entering WPMBC before every worship service and special service. This ministry is committed to helping make every worship experience at WPMBC positive and spiritually uplifting for everyone, every time.

Health and Wellness Ministry: Provides for the health needs of the church from a medical perspective.

HIV/AIDS Ministry: Educate and spread awareness about HIV/AIDS within the congregation and abroad, to assist persons infected and affected by the disease.

Intercessory Prayer Ministry: Prays by faith, with power, a pure heart, and persistence and without ceasing, for the church, the pastoral family, the community, etc., and provides prayer partners.

Internal Security Ministry: Provides safety for the congregation, as well as the pastoral family, staff, members, etc.

Legal Ministry: Aids congregants and community in comprehending the law and legal system, keeps them abreast of relevant and impactful legal issues and topics, and provides needed legal assistance and information. This ministry is not a free legal clinic.

Liturgical Dance: Designed to worship and praise God through interpretive dance (Psalm 149:3). Participants of this ministry are taught the principles of modern dance, ballet, and interpretive dance. They are also taught the African roots of dance in worship and the Biblical basis for praising God with dance.

Mental Health and Wellness Ministry: Seeks to support and restore individuals socially, emotionally, and spiritually, in a variety of areas. Individuals interested in working in this ministry must be screened to determine their area of training and how they complement the ministry.

Mission Ministry: Designed to serve God through serving humanity, the three service aspects of WPMBC's Mission Ministry are:

- Church Mission—caring for members of this local church.
- Local Mission—caring for our brothers and sisters in the community.
- Global Mission—caring for our brothers and sisters in other countries.

Mothers Ministry: Designed for mature, seasoned women who assist the Senior Pastor/Teacher with carrying out the Biblical model for older women. The Mothers are available to aid younger men and women in their Christian growth. In addition, they provide mature Christian perspective to the new believer. Our mothers comfort the sick in body and spirit; they are intercessors for babes in Christ and give Godly direction on how to live a more fulfilled life.

Multimedia Ministry

(Audio/Video): Records, edits, produces, reproduces, and sales the worship services, and other church-related activities as requested, on audio and video diskettes (CD's and DVD's).

Music Ministry: Creates an atmosphere in which the hearts and minds of individuals are prepared to receive the preached Gospel message. Music is rendered at each worship service and other activities as required by the church. The Music Ministry consists of:

- Instruments of Praise—Praise and Worship Ensemble (audition)
- The Voices of Praise Chorale (Gospel choir)
- The King's Kids

New Disciples Ministry: Designed to journey with all new disciples of WPMBC during New Disciples Orientation, this ministry does new disciples' wellness checks on a weekly basis.

Nurses Ministry: To aid those who have various medical quandaries during or after morning worship and other activities— making sure their needs are met through medical attention.

Nursery Ministry: Designed to provide a safe, enjoyable and educational environment for children left in our care (ages 0-5)—allowing parents to feel comfortable while attending Sunday morning worship. Individuals who wish to work with this ministry must be willing to provide information relative to their background and experience regarding childcare, as well as submit to a background check.

Operation GRACE (Demonstrating God's Grace to Others as God Shows to Us): To assist our brothers and sisters in the community to achieve greatness by using their own untapped strength and power as the foundation. It also helps persons realize and actualize the gifts GOD has given to them, while empowering and preparing them to use those gifts to improve their lives and the lives of others.

Ministry Opportunities cont.

Scholarship Ministry: Purposed to provide a pre-determined stipend to actively engaged West Point members who are college bound. Students must be enrolled full-time and documentation of enrollment must be provided before consideration.

The faith family members are encouraged to sow seeds into this ministry—making contributions earmarked Scholarship Ministry on the Sacrificial Offering line of giving envelopes.

Sisterhood Ministry: The goal and objective are to build trust among Sisters and attempt to find ways to solve the problems of life, while celebrating the uniqueness of finer Christian womanhood—Christ being the solution and victor of all. The ministry also teaches the importance of bonding through sisterhood, by being supportive of our Sisters as they move through various seasons of womanhood. In addition, there are regular **Sister-to-Sister** dialogues to discuss pertinent issues and topics.

Trustee Ministry: (Membership is by pastoral appointment and approval by the Joint Board.)

Usher Ministry: Welcomes members and guests to the church. Ushers' duties include: distribution of worship bulletins, seating parishioners, assisting with the offertory and other tasks necessary to the orderly and productive flow of church services.

Young People's Ministry: Provides opportunities for youth (ages 6-17) to engage in wholesome Christian activities that lead to their spiritual formation, by using a mix of contemporary and traditional methods within the goals and objectives of the Senior Pastor.

This ministry has five (5) purposes:

- Reach out to youth and children through Evangelism
- Relate to youth and children through Fellowship
- Raise the Redeemer (Jesus the Christ) through Worship
- Ready youth for the work of ministry through Discipleship
- Release youth to do Ministry

Tithes and Offering System

We are a tithing church because the Word teaches tithing. Our **experience** gives witness to tithing. Our **obedience** to God requires tithing. Our **response** is to bring our tithes and offerings to the Lord as he has prospered us, for the "tenth shall be holy unto the Lord." Below is a sample chart on how to calculate your tithes.

Annual Income	Weekly Income	Beyond a Tithe		Tithe	Upper Range of Giving			Middle Range of Giving			Lower Range of Giving		
		15%	12%	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	1%
\$22,000	\$423	\$63	\$51	\$42	\$38	\$34	\$30	\$25	\$21	\$17	\$13	\$8	\$4
\$25,000	\$481	\$72	\$58	\$48	\$43	\$38	\$34	\$29	\$24	\$19	\$14	\$10	\$5
\$30,000	\$577	\$87	\$69	\$58	\$52	\$46	\$40	\$35	\$29	\$23	\$17	\$12	\$6
\$40,000	\$769	\$115	\$92	\$77	\$69	\$62	\$54	\$46	\$38	\$31	\$23	\$15	\$8
\$50,000	\$962	\$144	\$115	\$96	\$87	\$77	\$67	\$58	\$48	\$39	\$29	\$19	\$10
\$60,000	\$1,154	\$173	\$138	\$115	\$104	\$92	\$81	\$69	\$58	\$46	\$35	\$23	\$12
\$70,000	\$1,346	\$202	\$162	\$135	\$121	\$108	\$94	\$81	\$67	\$54	\$40	\$27	\$13
\$80,000	\$1,538	\$231	\$185	\$154	\$138	\$123	\$108	\$92	\$77	\$62	\$46	\$31	\$15
\$90,000	\$1,731	\$260	\$208	\$173	\$156	\$138	\$121	\$104	\$87	\$69	\$52	\$35	\$17
\$100,000	\$1,923	\$288	\$231	\$192	\$173	\$154	\$135	\$115	\$96	\$77	\$58	\$38	\$19
\$110,000	\$2,115	\$317	\$254	\$212	\$190	\$169	\$148	\$127	\$106	\$85	\$63	\$42	\$21
\$120,000	\$2,308	\$346	\$277	\$231	\$208	\$185	\$162	\$138	\$115	\$92	\$69	\$46	\$23
\$140,000	\$2,692	\$404	\$323	\$269	\$242	\$215	\$188	\$162	\$135	\$108	\$81	\$54	\$27

Tithes and Offering System cont.

Determining the Amount to Give

1. Pray sincerely to God, asking His guidance and direction as to what your financial gift will be.
2. You may choose to give on a weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis.

Using the Attendance/Offering Envelope

1. Use the Attendance/Offering Envelope when giving your gift. Please supply all the requested information.
 - a. We want to give you credit for your financial gifts.
 - b. The information is used to keep track of attendance.
 - c. Complete the envelope each time you are including a financial gift.

Please remember that even when you are not present, the financial responsibilities of the church go on just as they do in your home. If you cannot make it to church, please mail your contribution. The address is:

West Point Missionary Baptist Church
3566-72 S. Cottage Grove Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60653

Or, you can log on to www.wpmbc.org; select **CONTRIBUTIONS** and support your church via **PAYPAL**. **GIVELIFY** is also a viable means for sowing your gifts by selecting **WEST POINT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH** and follow the directions.

Contribution Statements

Purpose of Contribution Statements

Any single gift of \$250.00 or more to a church, or other charity, can be deducted on the donor's Federal Income Tax return only if a written receipt has been received by the donor prior to the filing of the return. Canceled checks, or receipts, which show insufficient information or only summary totals, are no longer acceptable by the IRS for such gifts. *Managing Your Church Finances...Made Easy* by J. David Carter.

Contribution statements are made available in January. Once you receive your statement, please check it immediately. To request a statement and/or should you find a discrepancy in your statement, please contact the office, 773-538-7590, immediately. Every effort will be made to correct the discrepancy.

Schedule of Activities

Sunday

- Sunday Morning Hour of Power Worship (1st Sunday's only).....7:45 a.m.
- Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.
- Adult classes—main worship center
- Young people—lower level
- Christian Education Classes (fellowship hall).....9:00 a.m.
- New Disciples Orientation (conference room).....9:00 a.m.
- Sunday Morning Glory Worship.....10:00 a.m.

Monday

Trustee Meeting—each Monday after the second Sunday

Tuesday

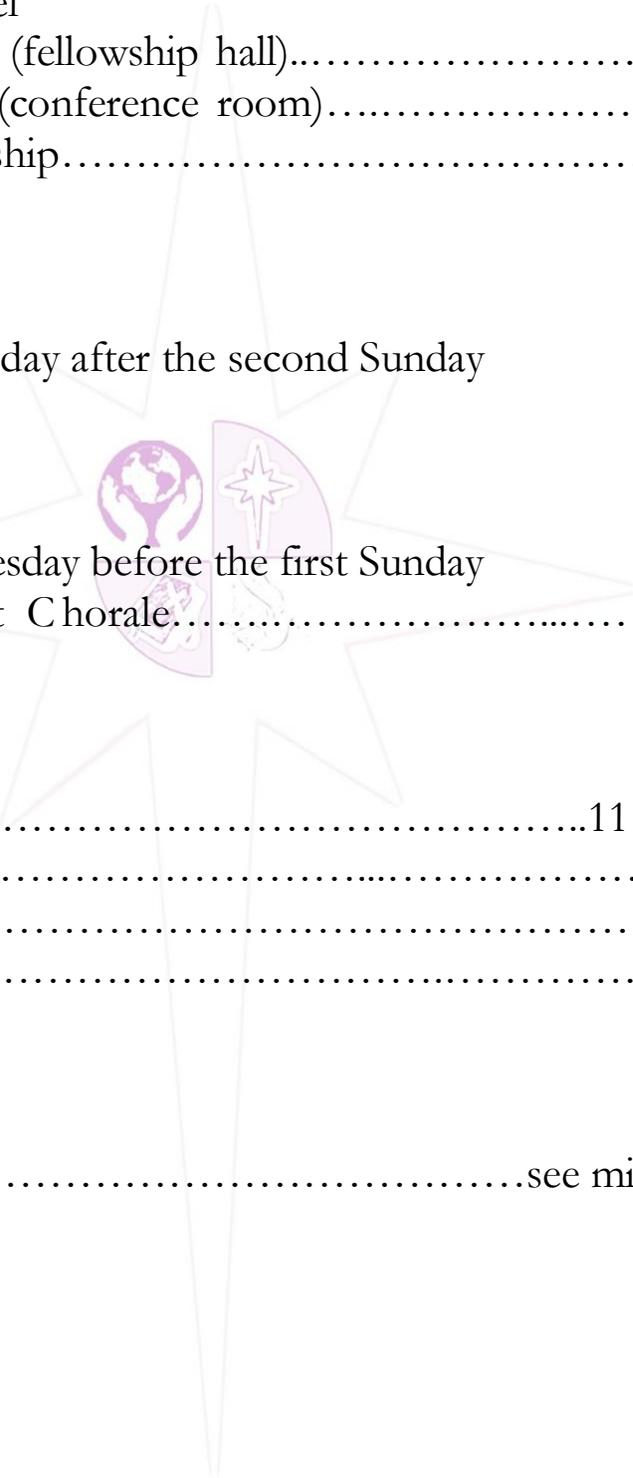
- Deacons Meeting—each Tuesday before the first Sunday
- The Voices of West Point Chorale.....7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

- Food Pantry.....11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Noonday Bible Study.....12:00 noon
- Prayer Meeting.....6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday in the Word.....7:00 p.m.

Saturday

Ministry meetings.....see ministry partners



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How long should I wait before joining a ministry, and how do I join?

First, you must complete *New Disciples Orientation*. However, you are at liberty to let your interest be known to the ministry leader. After completing class, you may join a ministry. Certain ministries have orientations and other requirements. If you are interested in organizing a ministry at WPMBC, write down your vision and present it to Pastor Yashika Tippett.

2. How long do I have to be a member before serving as Lead Servant of a ministry?

One year

3. What should I do if I need financial assistance?

Write a letter of request stating your needs. You must supply documentation to support your claim. Leave your sealed request in the church office and you should receive a response within one week.

4. If I'm in the neighborhood, can I stop by and see Dr. Jakes?

Dr. Jakes enjoys speaking with members and the public. However, his schedule does not permit impromptu visits. If you would like to meet with him, you should schedule an appointment via the church office staff. You will be required to provide the purpose of the meeting. Depending on the nature of business, you may be directed to meet with someone else on staff. The maximum time for each appointment is 30 minutes. Dr. Jakes does not have an open-door policy.

5. Is it important for me to attend New Disciples Orientation? If so, why?

Yes, emphatically! In the weeks of sharing, the instructor expounds on different topics as you can begin to take ownership of your spiritual journey. In addition, many historical untruths are revealed, and Biblical truths highlighted.

6. What happens after I complete New Disciples classes?

Your church family celebrates you as the newest member of our family of faith. A commencement is held in your honor during the 10 a.m. Sunday Morning Glory Worship Service.

7. What numbers do I call if I have an emergency?

First, call the church. If after business hours, call the Deacon that serves your birth month. His or her number will be given at New Disciples Orientation.

8. Is there a fee for renting the church for weddings, funerals, etc.?

As a member in good standing, i.e., time and treasure, there are privileges allotted to you within this local church. Members in good standing pay a different rental fee than non-members, but all members must observe and pay the rental fees associated with every event, as it relates to the church and fellowship hall.

Frequently Asked Questions cont.

There are standard fees associated with the employees of the church that must be hired for your event, i.e., Turn-key, Custodian, Sound Engineer, Musician, Soloist, and Security. Dr. L. Bernard Jakes does not charge a fee to officiate weddings and funerals of active members in good standing, but a freewill offering is appreciated.

However, if it is a family member, normal fees for the pastor and use of the church facilities apply. Those fees will be presented upon approval of the *Church Utilization Agreement Form* and *Church Utilization Contract*.

Parenthetically, if the member requesting to use the church for weddings, funerals, etc., desires to use outside assistance, the Senior Pastor must approve it. No plans should be made or finalized until final approval is given by the Trustees and the Dr. L. Bernard Jakes.

9. Since I am a member in good standing, can I use the church, rent free, for a family member?

Remember, your membership has privileges for **you**. As a tithe paying member, your monies go toward financially supporting the daily operations of this local church so the lights, gas, etc., can be paid. If the church allowed every family member of a member to use the church whenever there was a need, the members who give financially would cover those expenses, which is unfair. Therefore, if the space is needed for a family member, i.e., weddings, funerals, anniversaries, etc., the normal contractual fees apply.

10. I want to teach a Christian Education Class. What do I need to do?

To teach at WPMBC, you must complete the Leaders/Teacher Certification curriculum. Offered twice a year, all participants must be recommended by a Ministry Leader or Staff Pastor. To be considered, applicant must display the spiritual qualities and Christian maturity necessary for the teaching of God's Word and or leading God's people. Additional requirements for entrance into this certification process and for a leadership or teaching position at WPMBC include being: **1)** a regular attendee of Bible study, Sunday school, or some form of spiritual growth; **2)** A supporter of the Senior Pastor's vision; **3)** A faithful financial supporter of the church.

11. God has called me to the preaching ministry. What is the next step?

All persons called to preach must enter and complete a training curriculum, as well as satisfy other requirements set forth by Dr. L. Bernard Jakes.

12. What other Christian Education classes do the church provide?

The Christian Education department offers quarterly classes throughout the year. Classes will be announced in advance.

Frequently Asked Questions cont.

13. How do I let the church know when someone is ill and needs prayer?

If one needs to report a member, friend, or family member that is sick or hospitalized, contact the church at 773-538-7590. Upon calling, provide the person's name, location (hospital, nursing home, etc.), and additional relevant information. The Pastoral Care staff will be notified, and the person will be added to the church prayer list.

14. My relative has passed away. How can the church assist me in this time of bereavement?

If a person needs to report a deceased member, friend, or family member, contact the church office, 773-538-7590. For more info, read pgs. 8-9.

15. I would like to have my baby dedicated. What are the steps?

Infant dedication ceremonies are held quarterly on 3rd Sundays at 16. 8:30 a.m. Space is limited.

Dedications are assigned on a first come, first served basis. Obtain forms from the church office or download the form from our website. Return completed forms to the church office no later than 1st Sunday of the month of dedication. If you have any questions, need information, or to schedule an appointment, please call the church office, 773-538-7590. Parents who were not married to each other when their child was conceived are required to take a class. Dedication are for active members only.

17. I want to get married at West Point Missionary Baptist Church. What do I need to do?

Contact the church office immediately. A couple will not be allowed to have their wedding ceremony at WPMBC until they have completed Pre-Marital Counseling (PMC) offered by the church or an approved outside source. The same applies if a couple wishes to be married by a WPMBC pastor. PMC is offered various times throughout the year. Forms are available in the church office.

18. I would like to use the church facility for a non- WPMBC event. Who do I contact?

Call the church at 773-538-7590 x221. If the office staff is unable to answer your questions, you will be forwarded to the appropriate person.

19. How do I get a copy of my contribution statement?

Call the church office, 773-538-7590, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

20. I've recently moved. How can I let the church know?

Notification of any changes in your contact information (address, phone numbers, e-mail address) or any other information, i.e., changes in marital status, children, or business information should be directed to the church office, 773-538-7590.

21. I want to attend services, but don't have a way to get there. Can the church help?

Our Deacons can assist you if you live within the travel boundaries. Contact the church for the service area and pickup time.

2019 Church-wide Calendar of Events

January

6th—Presentation of Church Officers, Trustees, and Lead Servants during 10 a.m., Sunday Glory Morning Worship

7th—28th—**Church-wide Fast for 21 days beginning at 6 a.m.**

20th—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance during Sunday Morning Glory Worship

21st—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (church office closed)

26th—Church-wide meeting at 10 a.m./2018 full year financial report

February

3rd—National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness during 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Glory Worship

18th—President's Day (church office closed)

24th—Sermon in Songs during 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Glory Worship.

March

6th—**Ash Wednesday Worship at 7 p.m.**

10th—*Infant Dedication at 8:45 a.m.*; Spring forward at 2 a.m. (daylight savings); *New Disciples Graduation* during 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Glory Worship

13th—**Lenten Spiritual formation at 7 p.m.**

17th—**1st Seed offering of SOW TO GROW**

20th—**1st day of Spring/Lenten Midweek Worship at 7 p.m.**

27th—**Lenten Spiritual formation at 7 p.m.**

April

1st—Blue Bow Campaign and Autism Awareness Ribbon Tying after morning worship

3rd—**Lenten Spiritual formation at 7 p.m.**

14th—Palm Sunday during 10 a.m. Sunday Morning Glory Worship

18th—**Maundy Thursday worship at 7 p.m.**

21st—**Easter Sunday Celebration** during 10 a.m. Sunday Morning Glory Worship

27th—**1st Quarter Financial Report, 10 a.m.—11:30 a.m.**

28th—Rev. Dr. L. Bernard Jakes' 20/17 anniversary (all day)

May

12th—Pin-A-Sister Sunday/Mother's Day during 10 a.m. during Sunday Morning Glory Worship

27th—Memorial Day (church office closed)

June

9th—*Infant Dedication at 8:45 a.m.*; **Young People Sunday during 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Glory Worship**

16th—**2ND Seed offering of SOW TO GROW**; Father's Day; *New Disciples Graduation* during 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Glory Worship

21st—First day of summer

23rd—Rev. Dr. C.J. Thompson Scholarship Sunday during 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Glory Worship

30th—King's Kids Choir during 10 a.m. Sunday Morning Glory Worship

July

4th—Independence Day (church office closed)

28th—West Point honors *The Mothers Ministry*, 10 a.m. Sunday Glory Morning Worship

August

10th—**2nd Quarter Financial Report, 10 a.m.—11:30 a.m., fellowship hall**

11th—Usher Ministry Annual Sermon, 3 p.m.

September

2nd—Labor Day (church closed)

8th—*Infant Dedication at 8:45 a.m.*

15th—**3rd Seed offering of SOW TO GROW**

22nd—First day of autumn/ Mission Ministry fashion show, 1:30 p.m.

29th—Purple Ribbon Tying Ceremony for Domestic Violence immediately following morning worship/ Lead Servants nominees to be submitted to Executive Pastor; *New Disciples Graduation during 10 a.m.*, Sunday Morning Glory Worship

October

13th—**102nd year church anniversary during 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Glory Worship**

14th—**Church office closed**

20th—Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday during 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Glory Worship

27th—New Disciples Ministry host the Rev. Dr. L. Bernard Jakes' 49th birthday celebration, immediately following morning worship

November

3rd—Fall back at 2 a.m.

16th—**Dr. L. Bernard Jakes' State of the Church yearly address; Church 2020 proposed budget approval and Church Officers recommendations; 2020 Pastoral Team, Church officers and Lead Servants-elect retreat**

28th—**December 1st**—Thanksgiving holiday (church office closed)

December

8th— *Infant Dedication at 8:45 a.m.*

15th— 4th **Seed offering of SOW TO GROW**; *New Disciples Graduation during 10 a.m., Sunday Morning Glory Worship*

29th—Kwanzaa celebration immediately following morning worship

31st— New Year's Eve worship at 12 noon

- All members are asked to sow additional seeds of \$500 (SOW 2 GROW) above their tithe or regular contribution for 2019.
- 1/6/19—Installation of Church Officers, Trustees, and Lead Servants (Only) - \$25.00
- Baptism will be held at 9:30 a.m., every 3rd Sunday of the month, if applicable. Infant Dedication will be held at 8:45 a.m., quarterly.



Ministers, Church Officers and Lead Servants

*Denotes Officers of the Church

**Denotes Pastoral Executive Board

Pastoral Team

L. Bernard Jakes, D.Min., *Senior Pastor/Teacher*

**Denita Armstrong-Shaffer, M.Div. *Asst. to the Pastor*

**Yashika Tippet, Ed.D., *Executive Pastor*

Josef Eggleston

Emma Mosley, *Pastor of Intercessory Prayer*

ViMatice Jackson

Jonathan Wallace

James Jackson

Bishop F. Kevin Crutcher

* Diaconate Ministry

**Erica B. Davis, *Chairperson*

Harry Cooper, Sr., *Chairman Emeritus*

E. Willie Jakes, *Dean of Deacons*

Darryl Hobson, *1st Vice-Chairman*

June McWilliams, *2nd Vice Chairperson*

**Mark L. Reed, *Church Treasurer*

James Thompson

Kevin Brockenbrough

Leroy Gordon

Devorak Purnell

Deborah Kibble Thomas

Larry Wash

Bertha Blair

Adeyemi Faleti

Rodney Lacey

Felton Mitchell

Joseph Hardin (retired)

Willie McGhee (retired)

Trustee Ministry

*/**DeJuon “And I Helped” Battles-Newby, *Chairman*

**Annie Russell, *Chairperson, Finance Committee*

Trude McCoy

Judith Adams

Joseph Harris

Sharlene Hobson

Danita Blassingame

Hank Johnson

Eric Layne

Leslie Banks

E. Charisse Redo

Deacons Serving the Following Birth Months

January—Harry Cooper, Sr.

February—E. Willie Jakes

March—Leroy Gordon

April—Bertha Blair and Larry Wash

May—Rodney Lacey and Deborah Thompson

June—Erica B. Davis

July—James Thompson

August—Darryl Hobson

September—Adeyemi Faleti and Devorak Purnell

October—June McWilliams

November—Felton Mitchell

December—Kevin Brockenbrough and Mark Reed

Media & Marketing Division

Multimedia Ministry

Rhonda Brown

Membership Support Division

Greeters Ministry

Katrina Gordon

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

Pastor Emma Mosley

Mothers Ministry

Mary Ann Cooper

New Disciples Ministry

Donna Brown Cartman

Nurses Ministry

Stella Osbourne

Sisterhood Ministry

Usher Ministry

Diane Washington

Legal Ministry

Ministry Support Division

Deaconess Ministry

Debra Reed

Internal Security Ministry

Dinah Faye Giles

Scholarship Ministry

Pastor Denita Armstrong-Shaffer

Crowns of Wisdom

Annie Russell

Sunday School

Deacon Adeyemi Faleti

Operation H.O.P.E. Division

Clothing Ministry

Cora Watson

Mental Health and Wellness Ministry

Karen Witherspoon, PhD

Domestic Violence & Advocacy Ministry

Deacon Erica B. Davis

Evangelism Ministry

Food Pantry

Floydia Giles-Stokes

HIV/AIDS Ministry

Caprice Carthans

Mission Ministry

Deacon Bertha Blair

Worship & Arts Division

The Voices of West Point

Tiffani Isabel

The King’s Kids

Donna Brown Jackson, Director

Liturgical Dance Ministry

Ariel Burton-Reed

Lead Choreographer

Drama Ministry

Young Peoples Division

Children’s Church

**Sonya Marrero

Nursery Ministry



Harassment Policy of West Point Baptist Church

Policy Statement

It is the policy of West Point Baptist Church (herein “WPBC”) to maintain an environment free of discrimination and harassment. WPBC opposes any form of harassment on any basis, including, but not limited to someone’s race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, medical condition, age, marital status, national origin, disability, veteran status or any other characteristic protected by federal or state law or local ordinance.

The ethical conduct of all persons serving in WPBC leadership is of vital importance because, through these representatives, an understanding of God and the Gospel are conveyed. It is the commitment of WPBC that if allegations of harassment and sexual misconduct are reported that the response to the complaint shall be met with compassion, fairness, and justice for all involved.

Scripture clearly teaches that people in leadership should set an example of faith, love and purity (1 Peter 5:1-3). Any behavior or attitude that is potentially harmful to people under the care of WPBC is to be avoided, while structures and policies for the protection of potential victims is clearly mandated by our scriptural duty to care for each other, build each other up, and avoid harming each other. Therefore, the church should be a safe place for everyone.

It is the policy of WPBC that all of its employees and church leaders are to maintain the highest level of integrity and professionalism at all times. Harassment and sexual misconduct is a violation of moral integrity and professionalism and is never permissible or acceptable.

What is Harassment?

Unwanted conduct related to a protected characteristic which has the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of an individual, or creates an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for the individual.

What is Sexual Harassment?

Harassment can include “sexual harassment” or unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature.

Harassment does not have to be of a sexual nature, however, and can include offensive remarks about a person’s sex or sexual orientation.

Examples of Sexual Harassment

In identifying what type of conduct may be considered sexual harassment, provided are a list of examples:

- Unwanted sexual flirtations, advances or propositions;
- Offering employee benefits in exchange for sexual favors;
- Making or threatening reprisals after a negative response to sexual advances;
- Making or using graphic or degrading verbal comments about an individual or his or her appearance;
- Sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, or sexually-oriented “kidding” or “teasing”;
- Foul or obscene language;
- The display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures, or
- any offensive or abusive conduct

All such conduct, whether committed by an employee, pastor, pastoral staff, deacon, trustee, church treasurer, member of the finance team, church member or outside vendor is expressly prohibited.

ADDENDUM:

Reporting Harassment

Persons covered by this policy who have either experienced or witnessed any form of harassment at WPBC, must immediately provide a written or verbal complaint to either the Senior Pastor, or Chairperson of Deacons, or the Chairman of the Trustees. Should one of the three be named as either the alleged accuser or accused, a complaint can be made to one of three not engaged in the complaint. The complaint should include specific details of the incident(s), names of individuals involved, the names of any witnesses, as well as the date, time and location of the incident. All complaints will be kept as confidential as possible. Additionally, various organizations both local, state and federal are options for the reporting of harassment.

Responsibility

Employees and church members are required to comply with WPBC’s Harassment Free Policy and for reporting violations of this policy.

NOTES

OUR MISSION

The mission and purpose of the faith family of West Point Baptist Church is to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ, Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (St. Matthew 28:19). We meet this challenge through our worship, ministry and outreach.

We strive to be a **WORSHIPING CHURCH**, seeking God in spirit and in truth.

We strive to be a **LEARNING CHURCH**, committed to Biblical principles and spiritual dynamics.

We strive to be a **SOUL-WINNING CHURCH**, sharing our testimony of faith with all people.

We work to be a **MODEL CHURCH**, in the spirit of the church at Philadelphia always committed to the highest standards of excellence through prayer, tithing and Christian concern.

We work to be a **SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS, JUSTICE SEEKING, AND LIBERATION CHURCH**, aligning ourselves with the spirit of Amos, the commitment of Micah, and the proclamation of Jesus the Christ in St. Luke 4.18.

We work to be a **TRANSFORMATIVE, LIFE-CHANGING CHURCH**, meeting the needs of our brothers and sisters outside and inside the local church through life-changing ministries.

We work to be a **CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS**, extending God's grace to the world, outside of the local church, through various ministries of helps.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

There is one God, revealed to us as Father, Son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit.

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and sufficient Word of God.

The ordinance of Baptism signifies our fellowship with the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

The Lord's Supper commemorates Jesus' death, confirms our faith, and renews our communion with Jesus and others believers.



THE FAITH FAMILY OF WEST POINT MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
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CHURCH 773.538.7590 | FAX 773.538.8370 | WWW.WPMBC.ORG