



Keynote Speaker

Daran Mitchell

Daran Hernandez Mitchell was born and raised in Tampa, Florida, received his early education in the private and public schools of Hillsborough County and continued his Christian nurture by way of the Hood Temple A.M.E. Zion Church (Tampa, FL.). He was called to the ministry at the age of 15, preached his initial sermon at age 16, and has now been preaching the gospel for thirty-one years.

Dr. Mitchell is married to the Reverend Lorraine Lynn Kennedy-Mitchell. They are the proud parents of one son, Caylen Mitchell.

Dr. Mitchell earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion/Philosophy-Liberal Studies from Bethune-Cookman College (Daytona Beach, FL), a Master's degree of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary (Salisbury, NC), and his Doctorate degree of Ministry/Worship/Liturgy, and the Black Church from Samuel DeWitt Proctor School Of Theology (Richmond, VA). Dr Mitchell has received training and certification in the Pastoral Care Specialist Program at the Presbyterian Hospital, (Charlotte, NC). He has also received certification in Church administration and Management at the Interdenominational Theological Center,(Atlanta, GA) and North Carolina Rural Leadership Development Institute (Raleigh, NC)

Dr. Mitchell has served as an adjunct professor in Religion at Mount Olive College (Mt. Olive, NC), , as an adjunct professor at Seymour Johnson AFB, NC. Presently, Dr. Mitchell serves as an adjunct Professor of Pastoral Theology at Hood Theological Seminary (Salisbury, NC). Presently, Dr. Mitchell is Chairman of Examiners for the West Central NC Annual Conference.

Dr. Mitchell has served congregations in North and South Carolina, New York, and presently the Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church in Greensboro, NC. He has been on numerous boards and has Received many awards and honors, including induction into the Kappa Omega Chapter of the Alpha Chi Honor Society and the Florida Gamma chapter. He has also been the recipient of the Prestigious Martin Luther King Board of Preachers at Morehouse College (Atlanta), the Livingstone College Leaders Hall Of Fame (2016), and the Teaching Excellence and Service Award (2017).