

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH-NEWARK  
275 WEST MARKET STREET  
NEWARK, NJ 07103  
REV. TIMOTHY L. ADKINS-JONES, PhD, Senior Pastor

# Deacon Ordination Service

## *Deacons Elect*

Edward Crawford  
Frantz Masse  
Wilma McPherson Masse  
Patricia Way

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Sunday, October 18, 2020  
1:00pm

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[www.bethany-newark.org](http://www.bethany-newark.org)

# Ritual of Ordination

## Hymn of Praise

### The Special Occasion

Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Adkins – Jones

### Call for the Laying on of Hands

### Ordination Prayer

Deacon Amey Morrison

### Greetings from NJ State Deacon Association

Deacon James Highsmith  
First Hopewell Baptist Church

### Charge to the Church

Rev. Onaje Crawford  
Pastor, First Hopewell Baptist Church

### Charge to the Diaconate

Deacon Harold Fullilove

### Presentation of the Bibles

Deacon Brenda Brown

### Presentation of the Hymnals

Deacon Kevin Maynor

### Presentation of the Certificates

Deacon Carl Watson

### Remarks by Representatives of the Deacon Board

Deacon Franklin Dobbins  
Deacon Vera Upshaw

### Remarks from the New Deacons

Edward Crawford  
Frantz Massé  
Wilma McPherson Massé  
Patricia Way

### Closing Remarks and Benediction

Rev. Dr. Timothy Adkins-Jones

# *Deacons Elect*

## ***Edward Crawford***

I am third generation Bethany, as my grandparents, George and Elizabeth Lucas, my mom, Alberta E. Crawford, and her sisters and brothers have all been members of Bethany. Thanks to Sister Crawford, I was in everything - all plays, pageants, choirs, the Junior Ushers, and BYF – and, in 1961, I was baptized by Rev. Hayes. After going away to college and wandering out in the world for about 10 years, I increasingly began to run into the BBC family in random places throughout the city, and I eventually started working with Bethany's Boy Scout Troop. At the same time, my wife, Barbara, and my mom suggested (demanded) I return to church, and, upon returning, I found a love I did not realize I had been missing.

Over the years, I have been a Trustee, Chairman of the Trustee Board, President of the Men's Fellowship, and a member of the Senior Missionaries, Youth Ministry, Nurses Unit, Lecture Committee, International Committee, and most of the choirs. Because the Bethany Family has gotten me through some of the most difficult times of my life, I am committed to doing anything I can to make sure anyone and everyone who comes through Bethany feels supported and loved.

## ***Frantz Massé***

I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior when I was 10 and have been a member of Bethany since 1981. I grew up in Vailsburg and attended both St. Benedict's and West Side high schools. Because of a college tour organized by the Black College Committee, I attended and graduated from Lincoln University. I met my wife, Wilma, at Lincoln and together we have been blessed with raising two wonderful children. I now work in Newark as an assistant deputy public defender.

Bethany has been my guide throughout my Christian journey. I am grateful for the Sunday School ministry for teaching me the Bible; Youth Choir for teaching me how to work together for a common purpose; the Junior Usher Board for teaching me how to serve; the Boy Scouts (under the leadership of Ed Crawford) for teaching me self-sufficiency; and finally the Board of Trustees for teaching me that as a servant of God, you need both works and faith. My prayer for Bethany is that we continue to be a place that teaches the Word of God while supporting the needs of our community.

## ***Wilma McPherson Massé***

Wilma McPherson was born in Boston, Massachusetts, to the proud parents of Wilber and Cecil McPherson. She graduated from Weston High School, MA and obtained her bachelors from Lincoln University and her dental medicine degree from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a Pediatric Dentist, in Jersey City, NJ.

Wilma accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior in 1996 at Concord Baptist Church in Boston, Massachusetts. She later married a son of Bethany, Frantz Massé, and joined the church in 2006. Over the years, they established their family and are the proud parents of Zoe and Olivia. They currently reside in West Orange. Wilma is committed to raising her family in a Christian community.

### ***Patricia Way***

By profession, I am a Legal Assistant and Certified Paralegal with over 30 years of experience, employed at the law offices of Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst & Doukas in New Brunswick, New Jersey for 21 years. Lifelong member of Bethany Baptist Church who accepted the call to Christ at the age of 12. I have had the privilege of serving as former member and Chair of Bethany's Board of Trustees and current member and former President of Bethany's MLK/Lecture Committee. I love the diverse offerings of Bethany's ministries and clubs and enjoy the discussions in Deacon Dr. Linda Caldwell-Epps' Sunday School Class and fellowship as a member of Bethany's Book Club and the renowned Jazz Vespers Committee. Proud to be a member of a church that is justice oriented and community engaging. Events hosted by Bethany such as, Fugitive Safe Surrender, the Lecture Committee's One-Day Drug Summit in partnership with Drug Policy Alliance, marks some of the events in which Bethany serves to effectuate change for some needing a way through in which I have been in service.

You may have heard me say this from time to time that God has a sense of humor...but believing that God has a plan even for me in it all, I promise to grow and learn my service to God's people in my new role. It reminds me that God knows all about me and for my part, though I stumble, I will remain faithful in understanding he knows what is best for me. I love you Bethany Baptist Church!!

### ***DEACON'S CHARGE***

You are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, to serve the community in which we live, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. You are to work with your fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world that the love of God may be made visible. As a deacon, you are to share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. You are to read the Word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. You are to labor to lead the lost to faith and bring them to baptism. You are called to assist in administering the sacraments, to distribute communion, and to minister to the sick and housebound. Therefore, we charge you before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom; lead the people of God in true religion, which the apostle James says is to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. Be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, be servant unto all, that in losing your life you may indeed find it. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto you are also called; for those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

## *BIBLE CHARGE*

The Bible possesses the word of God. Refer to it when making all decisions concerning the wholeness or completeness of your fellow man or woman. WHILE it contains the history of the church and gods will, it contains the message of Jesus Christ to be used in your living. The Deacon is to refer to it before doing anything in God's church. You are ruled by the Holy Spirit. God allows the Bible to guide you in your quest. The Bible is the word of God to be interpreted for you by the Holy Spirit. Allow the teachings of the Bible to use you in all endeavors and pray before and after reading it. The Bible is the daily exercise of a Deacon. However let nothing come between you and your account with GOD, including the Bible.

## *HYMNAL CHARGE*

The Lord will use a song to bring good cheer.. Keep the hymnal close and learn the songs of the hymnal to provide a message for those in need. The songs of the hymnal will provide Hope in the midnight hour. Sing and make a joyful noise unto the Lord for it is good. Learn the words of the songs in the hymnal for they provide a message to you and those who you serve. Often the Deacon will find a sermon itself in the words of the songs provided in the hymnal. Sing in a loud voice. Sing with a soft voice. But sing. The melody and the harmony will provide direction for the lost soul and provide a cushion in the midst of despair. Keep a hymnal in your home and remind your family to sing the songs of God. Often a song will bring one to Christ. Use this song..

Sent from my iPhone

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