

Our Founder & Early History of the Church

Elder Reginald Williams was born November 20th, 1956 in Benton Harbor, Michigan. He grew up in the loving home of Otis and Margaret Williams and was the 4th out of 8 children. As a very young boy, he began to stand out from his peers and there was something clearly unique about him. As a child he attended church at Community Church of God in Christ where Superintendent Nathaniel (Papa) Wells was pastor. Under this renowned man of God, a seed had been planted in his life that would fully blossom 35 years later. Even as a young man he studied how Papa Wells was able to articulate and break down the Word of God. To this day Pastor Williams often recalls those Friday nights Papa Wells would sit in his favorite chair and hold the bible in one hand and bring forth the word. Those night services made a big impression on his life.

As a young man Reggie knew the Lord had a special call on his life. At the age of 15, his family began attending Emmanuel Church of God in Christ in Decatur, Michigan, where Superintendent Leroy Earven had begun to shepherd a new, young flock. Supt. Earven took the young Bro. Reggie under his wing, giving him spiritual direction and appointing him to the service of deacon. It was in Decatur that he met his future wife, Annette Herron, who had begun to grow and mature in the church under Evangelist Missionary Ruby Earven. As Bro. Reggie and Sis. Annette continued their work in the church, fostered by Supt. And Mo. Earven, they fell in love and were wed August 6th, 1977. This blessed union has produced 5 children (Jason, Antoinette, Tiffany, Justin, Terece).

Reggie had a very strong work ethic. As a boy he and his brothers would help his father do additional work on Sunday afternoons after church and it was during this time he saw the dedication and commitment it took to raise a family. Pastor Williams had heavenly favor on his life, for it seemed whatever he put his hands to do was prosperous and provided great

learning experience for him. He started in the grocery business as a stocker at the age of 16. His unyielding commitment, and the hand of The Lord worked in his favor and the young man was moving up the business ladder in a short matter of time. By the age of 27 he had become an assistant store manager.

As his family began to grow, the Lord blessed and saw a need and in 1985, Reggie and his family moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan and he began to work as an assistant store manager for the multi-million dollar grocery store chain, Cub Foods based out of Minnesota. Reggie and his family lived in Kalamazoo for 6 years and in 1991 the Lord showed more favor in his life when Cub Foods asked him to relocate. Reggie prayed for divine direction as to what to do for this move would not only shake his family, but the Emmanuel church family as well. But Reggie has always been a man after God's own heart and always did the right thing for the right reason no matter how hard it is.

Reggie was a dedicated, committed and loyal son to many in his community. He was especially close to his spiritual mentor Elder Earven. Up until this time in his life he had served as a deacon and as a minister to Elder Earven for 17 years. And so in late 1991, Reggie answered the Lord's call to relocate to the city of Indianapolis, the capitol of Indiana. And in February of 1992 his family followed but there was one last thing that needed to be accomplished and in the summer of 1992, Reggie received his elder's license under Bishop Lawrence of the Michigan/Canada Jurisdiction.

While the Lord was settling Reggie and his family in their new city, He was strategically placing him to do his work and service. In 1992 God told Reggie where he was to continue his work and he led his family to Bread of Life Church of God in Christ, where Elder James Sullen was the pastor. The Lord anointed Pastor Williams and he was always faithful to God first, serving at Bread of Life C.O.G.I.C. for 8 years.

In November of 1999, after much prayer and fasting, Elder Williams answered God's call to the ministry and began serving in his home. The church was founded on November 30, 1999. Our first service was held on Friday, January 14, 2000. Pastor Williams recognized early on that he would be giving all that he had to the service of the Lord. He fully committed his home to God and our first services were held at the residence of the Pastor and Missionary Williams.

In seeking the Lord for a name for the church, Pastor Williams announced that the Lord had given him two foundational scriptures: And the LORD said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication, that thou hast made before me: I have hallowed this house, which thou hast built, to put my name there forever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually. 1 Kings 9:3 But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. Joshua 24:15b

Thus, House of God Church Of God In Christ was named. We have faced obstacles but the Lord has always been in our midst. Our Pastor encourages us to keep moving forward and to never give up. We are blessed to be rooted and grounded in the Lord and to have a Pastor who, like David, is a man after God's own heart and will do all His will.

The Lord has been with us and has directed our Pastor in the paths that he should take. He has given Pastor Williams wisdom and knowledge in all things and everything that he has put his hands on, the Lord has blessed. Our Pastor and First Lady have been on quite a journey. The presence of the Lord has been with us and House of God, like He was with the children of Israel with the Ark of the Covenant. Thru God's power, He has strengthened us, girded us up, and prepared us for what is to come. We realize that it is God that has brought us this far by faith. We move forward under the anointed leadership of Pastor Williams, with great expectation knowing this is just the beginning.