

Rev. Patrick D. Clayborn, Ph.D. - Senior Pastor



Rev. Dr. Patrick D. Clayborn is a vision-driven disciple, preacher, teacher, and author who is committed to building the Kingdom of God by empowering individuals to fully embrace five core values: Spiritual Growth, Service, Stewardship, Evangelism and Education. Through his own passionate worship, dedication to family, friends, and those he pastors, Rev. Clayborn's personal goal is to share and show the love of Jesus Christ with all those he comes in contact with.

Born and raised in Memphis, TN, by two loving and musically gifted parents –John and Lois Clayborn, music has always been an important part of Rev. Clayborn's life.

He participated in school choirs and bands as a youth, and worked in the music department of several churches in his adult years. In addition to music, Rev. Clayborn has always been committed to education. After completing his primary and secondary education in the Memphis City Public Schools, he attended Morehouse College and Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA. There, he earned undergraduate degrees in Mathematics and Electrical Engineering respectively.

Once he completed his undergraduate work, he answered the call of God on his life and entered the ministry. Rev. Clayborn pursued ordination in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and served on the ministerial staff of Big Bethel A.M.E. Church in Atlanta, GA. He is an ordained itinerant elder. Rev. Clayborn was also on the ministerial staff of St. James A.M.E. Church in Newark, NJ, and later served as a pulpit associate at St. Paul A.M.E. Church in Columbus, OH.

As he began his ministry, he enrolled in seminary. He then earned the Master of Divinity and Master of Theology from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Rev. Clayborn also served as an adjunct instructor in the Philosophy and Religion Department of Spelman College. While in seminary, Rev. Clayborn met and married his wife Rev. Sheri Smith Clayborn.

Rev. Clayborn also pursued an academic ministry. He went to Drew University in Madison, NJ, and earned the Master of Philosophy and the PhD in Liturgical Studies with a focus on Homiletics. He also served as an adjunct Homiletics instructor at New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Brunswick, NJ, and served as a Religion Instructor at St. James Preparatory School in Newark, NJ. Rev. Clayborn also taught at Methodist Theological School in Ohio as an Assistant Professor of Homiletics. He then returned to New Jersey and was the Assistant Professor of Homiletics at The Theological School of Drew University in Madison, NJ. Rev. Clayborn assumed his first pastoral assignment at St. John A.M.E. Church in Huntsville, AL. and has been the proud pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church of Baltimore, MD since October of 2016. He serves on various city and community boards, as well as leadership committees for the A.M.E. Church in the 2nd Episcopal District.

One of his favorite roles is that of proud father to Patrick, II –affectionately known as “P2” and Joya, who is the epitome of her name. Alongside his wife and best friend, Rev. Sheri and their loving family, the other things that bring him joy include, serving his church, empowering his community, and being a child of God