

Rev. Dr. Yalonda N. Smith

Reverend Doctor Yalonda N. Smith was born in Hampton, Virginia, and spent most of her formative years traveling as a part of a military family. Reverend Smith accepted the saving grace of God through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in September 2001. After accepting Christ, she has run passionately the race marked out for her.

Reverend Smith received her Master of Divinity degree from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. She was licensed to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in July 2010 and ordained in August 2012 at Mount Zion Baptist Church, Arlington, Virginia under the leadership of her late husband, Dr. Leonard N. Smith. Reverend Smith holds a certificate in Youth & Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary, a Master in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from the Chicago School for Professional Psychology, and a Doctor of Ministry from the Virginia University of Lynchburg.

After 13 years in the Federal Government, Reverend Smith served full-time as the Minister of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for Mount Zion. Under her leadership, Mount Zion experienced consistent growth in the number of youth of all ages who attend services regularly. In addition, she provided a sacred space to nurture and guide young people toward discovering and developing a personal and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Reverend Smith is currently serving as the Minister of Spiritual Formation and Counseling at the Dayspring Community Church in Lanham, Maryland under the leadership of Dr. Cynthia Turner Wood.

Reverend Smith is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. She is also a Certified Youth Mental Health First Aid Instructor and owner of Pivot for Life Counseling and Wellness, LLC.

Reverend Smith is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She lives and is encouraged by the Word of God. Specifically, Isaiah 40:31 “but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” As evident in her diligent and fervent work in her church, Reverend Smith continues to be an asset to the Kingdom of God.