

LOUISIANA EASTERN FIRST ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION  
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

**GREATER WORKS DISTRICT**



THE  
*Greater*  
GATHERING

ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING **May 6-8, 2026**

**Theme: "Answering the Call:  
Commissioned to Expand, Equipped to Serve"**  
MATTHEW 28:19-20; ACTS 16:9-10; EPHESIANS 4:11-16

LA EASTERN FIRST JURISDICTION  
**GREATER  
WORKS**  
DISTRICT

**PASTOR**  
**BRANDON M. SMITH, ED.D**  
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

**MISSIONARY**  
**VERONICA RICHARDSON**  
DISTRICT MISSIONARY



**GRACE COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
3791 ALETHA DRIVE | BATON ROUGE, LA 70814

# Welcome from Our Leaders

*This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.  
This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:23-24*



Greetings to the Saints of Greater Works, and every honored guest! With excitement and expectation, we greet you in the Name of Jesus Christ, and welcome you to our second annual **Greater Gathering!** From our humble beginnings, we have seized the opportunity to reimagine ministry strategies in these perilous times. Christ is the answer for the world, and we embrace the commission to make and teach disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). Our District Meeting has been planned with local churches in mind. We pray that you are encouraged, enriched, and empowered through the sessions and worship services. We extend special thanks to **Bishop Alphonso Denson, Sr.**, our noble prelate, for the opportunity to serve the Lord's People in this

capacity. We also acknowledge **Supervisor Dorothy Richardson**, who served as the interim District Missionary in our formative season. We love you, and will forever esteem you as "Queen Mother" of Greater Works. Finally, we celebrate the life and legacy of the late **Missionary Shirley Smith**, on whom we bestowed the honor of *District Missionary Emerita* in our inaugural meeting, for her tireless contributions to the Body of Christ. As we embark on the next phase of ministry, we solicit your prayers. The Greater Works District will fortify those who "answer the call" through the Word, genuine fellowship between churches, and collaboration for Kingdom impact. Furthermore, we will prioritize intergenerationality, knowing that we are all temporary stewards in God's Church. May the favor of the Lord shine upon you, and His Grace sustain the works of your hand. Peace and blessings!

## The Greater Works District

**Superintendent Brandon M. Smith, Ed.D.** • **District Missionary Veronica L. Richardson**

**Grace Covenant Community Church**

Baton Rouge, LA

**Superintendent Brandon Smith, Pastor**

**Greater Love Cathedral COGIC**

Hammond, LA

**Elder Herbert Burton, Sr., Pastor**

**Spoken Word Fellowship**

Denham Springs, LA

**Elder Malcolm Stokes, Pastor**



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
*Wednesday, May 6, 2026*

**Training Institute · 7:00 PM**

**Topic: Commissioned to Expand, Equipped to Serve**

*Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 16:9-10; Ephesians 4:11-16*

**Pastor Frederick Skinner, Facilitator**

*Greater Darlington Church of God in Christ (Greensburg, LA)*



**Evening Worship · 8:00 PM**

*Unto thee O God, do we give thanks: for that Thy Name is near thy wondrous works declare. — Psalm 75:1*

**Pastor Hebert Burton, Sr., Servant of Service**

The Invocation.....Pastor Malcolm Stokes  
Reading of the Old Testament Scriptures.....Deacon Byron Washington  
Reading of the New Testament Scriptures.....Deacon Michael Moore

**Time of Praise & Worship**

Welcome and Occasion.....Sister Juliette Burke  
Official Greetings.....District Missionary Veronica Richardson  
Superintendent Brandon M. Smith

**Time of Giving**

Announcements & Observations.....Dr. Vaneshette Henderson  
Music Ministry.....Greater Works Music Department  
Introduction of the Speaker.....Superintendent Brandon M. Smith  
Song of Preparation.....Missionary Rhonda Myles

**The Word of God**

**Bishop Alphonso Denson, Sr.**

*Prelate, Louisiana Eastern First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction*

*Church of God in Christ*

Invitation to Discipleship/Altar Prayer

Acknowledgements and Final Remarks

Benediction.....Visiting Superintendent/Pastor



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
*Thursday, May 7, 2026*

**Training Institute • 7:00 PM**

**Panel Discussion: Multidimensional Women Who Answer the Call**

*Proverbs 31:14-26, 30; Acts 16:14-15; Romans 16:1-2*

*Panelists: Lady Yvonne Stokes, Missionary Vickie King, Sister Paula Collins; Facilitator: Sister Rolanda Ellis*



**Evening Worship • 8:00 PM**

*O, sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. – Psalm 96:1*

*Missionary Troy Wagner, Servant of Service*  
*Assistant to the District Missionary & Department Administrator*

The Invocation.....Sister Donnis Warren  
Reading of the Old Testament Scriptures.....Dr. Jan Laughinghouse  
Reading of the New Testament Scriptures.....Sister Martinique Washington

**Time of Praise & Worship**

Welcome.....Sister Robin Chapman  
Official Greetings.....Superintendent Brandon M. Smith  
Music Ministry.....Children/Youth Ministry

**Time of Giving**

Announcements & Observations.....Sister Paulette Claiborne  
Special Remarks.....Mother Dorothy Richardson  
*Supervisor, Women's Department, Louisiana Eastern First Jurisdiction*  
Introduction of the Speaker.....Missionary Rachanda Smith  
Song of Preparation.....Lady Angela Burton

**The Word of God & Inaugural Address**

**District Missionary Veronica L. Richardson**

*Greater Works District, Louisiana Eastern First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction*  
*Church of God in Christ*

Invitation to Discipleship/Altar Prayer.....Missionary Terreca Bates Wells  
Presentations and Final Remarks  
Benediction.....Visiting District Missionary



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
*Friday, May 8, 2026*

**Training Institute/Sunday School Early Rhema · 7:00 PM**

**Topic: Answering the Call with Grateful Faith**

*Luke 17:11-19; Colossians 2:6-7*

*Sister Paula Collins, Field Representative, Presiding*



**Evening Worship · 8:00 PM**

*I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations – Psalm 108:3*

**Brother Wayne Myles, Opening Liturgist**

*Grace Covenant Community Church; Youth President, Louisiana Eastern First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction*

**Pastor Hebert Burton, Sr., Servant of Service**

Processional

The Invocation.....Elder Emanuel Gill

Reading of the Old Testament Scriptures.....Deacon Ronald Thomas, Sr.

Reading of the New Testament Scriptures.....Brother Terry Ard

Affirmation of Faith.....Minister Christian Golden

**Celebration of Praise**

Official Greetings.....Missionary Rachanda Smith  
District Missionary Veronica Richardson

Music Ministry.....Greater Works Music Department

**Time of Giving**

Announcements & Observations.....Missionary Troy Wagner

Introduction of the Speaker.....Pastor Malcolm Stokes

Song of Preparation.....Greater Works Music Department

**The Word of God & Official Address**

**Superintendent Brandon M. Smith, Ed.D.**

*Greater Works District, Louisiana Eastern First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction*

*Church of God in Christ*

Invitation to Discipleship/Altar Prayer

Special Presentations.....Sister Rolanda Ellis

Appointments and Final Remarks

Benediction.....Visiting Superintendent/Pastor



## ABOUT OUR FACILITATOR & SPEAKERS

**Pastor Frederick D. Skinner**, a native of DeQuincy, LA, is a fourth-generation member of the Church of God in Christ. Although active in the Church his entire life, he formally accepted his call to ministry in 2002 under the tutelage of Bishop James Jerome Quillen at Harvest Time Fellowship COGIC in Baton Rouge. Years later, he was ordained an Elder by Bishop Howard E. Quillen, Jr. of the Louisiana Eastern Third Jurisdiction, COGIC. In January 2013, he was appointed pastor of the historic, Darlington Church of God in Christ in Greensburg, LA, a ministry with a rich legacy dating back to the early years of the denomination in Louisiana. Following the Great Flood of 2016, Pastor Skinner led the ministry to relocate and build a new sanctuary, renaming the church Greater Darlington COGIC. Over the years, he has been afforded opportunities to minister and serve in various roles, both local and beyond, including as Jurisdictional Youth Department President and Jurisdictional Chairman of the Pastors and Elders Council. His heart's desire however is to always walk humbly with God and be His ambassador wherever he goes. Pastor Skinner holds a Sociology degree from Louisiana State University and has worked in Human Resources Management for over two decades. He has distinguished himself professionally as a subject-matter expert in his field and currently serves as the Human Resources Director for a major government agency. He is married to the love of his life, Missionary Angel Albert Skinner, and they have two sons, Mason and Micah, and one daughter, Malise. Together, they reside in Zachary, LA.

**Bishop Alphonso Denson, Sr.**, a native of Andalusia, AL, is the seventh of eight children. He was reared by his stepfather, Deacon Jesse McCollom and his mother. As a life-long member of the Church of God in Christ, he was taught by his parents to fear God. At age 16, he received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost at Andalusia COGIC, under the direction and leadership of his pastor, Dr. Wiley C. Neal. Bishop Denson graduated from Andalusia High School in 1976 and matriculated into the Regional Electronic Technology School in Birmingham, AL, receiving an Electronic Engineering Technology Degree in 1979. To enhance his Professional and Technical portfolio, he attended Kennedy-Western University in Cheyenne, WY and Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. In 1982, Bishop Denson began his gospel ministry under the leadership of Superintendent Burley Lafleur in Pineville, LA. He has served as pastor of the Abram Temple COGIC in Bunkie, LA since 1984. In 1991, Bishop James Earl Gordon appointed him to serve as District Superintendent, and as Administrative Assistant in 2001. To devote more of his time to ministry, he retired in 1999 from the NCR Corporation, a subsidiary of the AT&T Company after 20 years of working as a Computer Engineer. After the death of Bishop James Earl Gordon in April 2014, then-Presidenting Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. appointed Bishop Denson as the next Jurisdictional Prelate of the Louisiana Eastern First Jurisdiction. Since 1981, he has been happily married to Missionary Eula Young Denson. Together, they have two wonderful children: a son, Alphonso, Jr. and wife Nakia, and a daughter, Camille and husband, Derrick Guillory. They are also the proud grandparents of seven grandchildren. Bishop Denson loves the Lord and the Lord's people. He believes in Holy living and believes, "Your Best Life is in Christ."

**Missionary Veronica L. Richardson**, a native of Amite, LA is the daughter of Administrative Assistant Samuel Richardson and Mother Dorothy Richardson, current Supervisor of Women for the Louisiana Eastern First Jurisdiction (Bishop Alphonso Denson, Sr., Prelate). As an honor student, Missionary Richardson received a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, LA. Later, she later earned an Alternate Certification in Elementary Education from Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, LA. She later earned a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Concordia University. Missionary Richardson is currently employed with the Tangipahoa Parish School System as Principal of Chesbrough Elementary School in Kentwood, LA. Missionary Richardson is a member of Grace Covenant Community Church, where Superintendent Brandon Smith is pastor. She also serves as District Missionary for the Greater Works District. At the state level, she serves as the Secretary and an Executive Board member for the Jurisdictional Women's Department (Louisiana Eastern First Jurisdiction). She is the mother of two children, Krystal (Kevin) and Kaelan (Joia). She is the "Mimi" of four gorgeous granddaughters, Kyleigh, Karmyn, Kinsley, and Kori and one handsome grandson, Kaelan, Jr. Missionary Richardson is more compassionate now than ever before about serving God and fulfilling His will for her life. Her desire is to honor God in all she does and to encourage women to live a life of prayer and commitment to Christ, and to know that they can be over-comers and live victoriously.

**Dr. Brandon M. Smith**, a native of Zachary, LA, is the third child and youngest son born to Deacon Robert Earl and Sister Katie (Baker) Smith. He received his spiritual foundation and ministry training at Richardson Chapel Church of God in Christ, under the leadership of Bishop Charles H. Gordon. Pastor Smith's ministry began with choir directing at age 11 but later expanded to several other areas including the Youth Department, Sunday School, and leadership development. He began preaching in his senior year of college at age 21. He was ordained at age 26 by Bishop James E. Gordon, making him the youngest Elder of the jurisdiction at that time. In 2012, he founded Grace Covenant Community Church. He has also

served the church faithfully at the district, jurisdictional, and national/international levels, including as Music President for the Louisiana Eastern First Jurisdiction. For his achievements and service, Dr. Smith was named a recipient of the Church of God in Christ's inaugural *Top 40 Under 40* distinction in 2019. In 2024, he was appointed Superintendent and subsequently established the Greater Works District. Superintendent Smith is a three-time graduate of Louisiana State University (BA, Political Science; Master of Public Administration; Doctor of Education in Leadership Studies). After a teaching career, Dr. Smith began working at LSU, where he now serves as Assistant Vice President for Community Relations and adjunct professor. His civic and community contributions have been recognized by many including the Baton Rouge Business Report (Forty Under 40 Award, 2011), the Boys and Girls Club of Baton Rouge (Great Futures Honoree, 2017), and the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce (Capital Region's 100 Most Influential Black Men, 2022). He is married to Rachanda Wilson Smith, and they have three children, Katelyn Metielle, Wilson Parker, and Brennan Rashad.

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## 2026 Calendar for the Greater Works District

**Sunday, May 31, 2026**

*District Fellowship (Youth Summer Kick-Off) · Location: Walker, LA*

**Sunday, August 30, 2026**

*District Fellowship (Virtual Launch of Missions Initiatives)*

**Sunday, November 29, 2026**

*District Fellowship (Worship Service) · Location: Greater Love*

## 2026 Calendar for Louisiana Eastern First Jurisdiction

**Thursday, June 12 – Saturday, June 14, 2025**

***Jurisdictional Women's Convention***

*Location: TBA (Baton Rouge, LA)*

**Friday, June 13 – Saturday, June 14, 2025**

***Jurisdictional Men's Conference***

*Location: TBA (Baton Rouge, LA)*

**Wednesday, July 29 – Sunday, August 2, 2026**

***Jurisdictional AIM/Convocation***

*Saintsville Headquarters (Baton Rouge, LA)*

**ELECTRONIC WAYS TO GIVE  
Greater Works District COGIC  
greaterworksdistrict@gmail.com**



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