

Biography of Dr. Cynthia Dianne Davis



Cynthia Dianne Davis was appointed District Superintendent of the McKendree District of the Memphis Conference of The United Methodist Church in June 2011. Prior to this appointment, she served for six years as Senior Pastor of Friendship United Methodist Church, Millington, TN. She practiced nursing in various capacities for twenty-four years. Before entering full time ministry, she served as Manager of Admissions and Retention at Baptist College of Health Sciences, Memphis, TN. Concurrent with her twenty-four years as a practicing registered nurse; she served as an African Methodist Episcopal (AME) pastor for one year, and six years as an Associate Pastor of White's Chapel AME Church. She also served four years as an Associate Pastor in the founding of North Star Community Church and two additional years as a volunteer Associate Pastor for Asbury United Methodist Church. She has been an ordained Elder of the AME Church since 1997 and her orders were transferred and received as a member in full connection of the Memphis Conference of the United Methodist Church in June 2010.

Dr. Davis began her college education at Tuskegee Institute and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS. She completed thirty hours toward a Masters degree in Public Administration at Central Michigan University. A Masters degree in

Counseling from the University of Memphis continued her educational trek with additional academic work at Memphis Theological Seminary and the West Tennessee Board of Examiners of the AME Church. In December 2005, Dr. Davis received her Masters of Divinity Equivalency and a Doctor of Ministry degree along with her husband, Chaplain (COL) Elvernice "Sonny" Davis, USA Retired, from United Theological Seminary. Her focus group was "The Black Church and Public Health." Her dissertation is entitled, "Promoting Healthy Dietary Lifestyles to Prevent Obesity in African American Adolescents." In May 2007 she completed an additional 16 hours at Memphis Theological Seminary fulfilling final requirements for transferring into full connection as an Elder in the UMC. She and her husband Sonny have four children and two grandsons, Jalen and Blake.

With certification as a trauma and cardiovascular nurse, her distinguished nursing career includes Counselor/Academic Advisor; Facilitator for the Freshmen Experience; Program Chair, Certified Nursing Assistants, Baptist College of Health Sciences; Nursing Faculty, Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing; Nurse Manager, Burn ICU and step-down and Trauma Orthopedics, Detroit Receiving Hospital; Charge Nurse and Nurse Manager CVICU, Baptist Memorial Hospital; Charge Nurse and Staff Nurse ICU, Hinds General Hospital. Her continuous educational training includes workshops and training events too numerous to list. Her awards include: 1992 and 1993 Nursing Excellence Award; 1997 Excellence in Nursing Award; Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society; Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society. She models servant leadership by serving or has served on many community councils, boards and agencies including: Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare Foundation and Board of Directors, American Counseling Association; Parish Nursing Ministry; Shelby County Domestic Violence Council; Victims to Victory; The Emmaus Walk; Kairos Inside and Outside for West TN; St. Jude Sickle Cell Anemia Community Advisory Board and Churches Uniting in Christ. She has served as a regional, state and national speaker for HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America). She has spoken throughout the SEJ on the relationship of faith and health. She is a highly sought after workshop and conference presenter. She presently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for Hannah's Hope, Conference Board of Pensions, Conference Personnel and Finance Committee, Wesley Senior Ministries, Conference New Church Development, Wesley Foundation, Missional Task Force and the United Methodist Neighborhood Centers. She is a graduate of Leadership Memphis, Class of 2008. She served as the Chair of the Cabinet Consultation for the SEJ, 2015.