

Reverend Dr. Douglas L. Maven

Reverend Dr. Douglas L. Maven was born on April 25, 1957 in Mays Landing, New Jersey to John and Faith Maven. He was educated in the elementary schools and at an early age excelled in football, basketball and track. Upon his graduation from Oakcrest High School, he entered Cheyney State College, Cheyney, PA where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Management.

Dr. Maven began his journey into the Christian ministry as a local preacher at the St. John African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Mizpah, NJ in July 1978. Upon his graduation in 1979, he relocated to Salisbury, NC and enrolled in Hood Theological Seminary. He was recognized for his accomplishments in Christian Education and Homiletics and graduated with honors with a Master of Divinity Degree in 1982. In his second year in Seminary he was appointed to the Brown Hill and Ebenezer A.M.E. Zion Churches of the West Central North Carolina Conference. He also served as an office assistant to the Editor of Church School Literature for the A.M.E. Zion Church at the denomination's Publishing House in Charlotte, NC. Dr. Maven earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Hartford Seminary, Hartford, CT in 2000.

In 1983, Dr. Maven married the former Janet Little of Charlotte, NC and was appointed to the St. Stephen's A.M.E. Zion Church in Morehead City, NC. He was reassigned to pastor the Parker Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in Meriden, Connecticut in 1985. During his tenure there, Dr. Maven became very active in the socio-political arena and distinguished himself as a state-wide grassroots community organizer, housing advocate and social justice leader. As Director of Community Resources for the Meriden Community Action Agency, Maven supervised a staff of 15 social service providers overseeing a food pantry, rental assistance, and lead organizer for tenant rights and Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) monitoring. In conjunction with Yale University, Maven was an early proponent of the controversial clean needle exchange programs for intravenous drug users. He also served as a plaintiff in the lawsuits against the State of Connecticut for jail overcrowding. This suit resulted in the establishment of Alternative Incarceration Centers (AIC's) throughout the State.

Maven relocated to Paterson in June of 1991 after being appointed to the First A.M.E. Zion Church. In 1993, he was awarded a Fellowship with The Congress of National Black Churches (CNBC), Inc., of Washington, DC. As program director, Maven was assigned managerial oversight of the Roche Paterson Black Churches Family Initiative, a mini-grant program sponsored by Hoffmann-La Roche Pharmaceuticals and CNBC to provide funding to Paterson black churches that implemented programs that served families of the community.

In 1996, Pastor Maven established the First Church Community Development Corporation (now known as Zion CDC). Many ministries, programs and services were instituted under the banner of the CDC including a Food Pantry & Clothing Bank, First-time Homebuyer Counseling, and a Scholarship program. A variety of support groups for couples, parents, substance abusers, etc., were established under his leadership. The CDC co-sponsored the construction of 19 units of housing for persons with disabilities.

Dr. Maven is the founder and Board Chair of New Destiny Family Success Center. Established in 2006, The Family Success Center serves as a family-friendly, neighborhood-based resource center for families and children of the Greater Paterson area. The Center has been awarded over \$350,000 annually since its inception from the Department of Children and Families, State of New Jersey.

Maven was appointed Presiding Elder of the Jersey City District by Bishop Louis Hunter, Sr. in 2015. He presently serves as a Commissioner, the Passaic County Board of Social Services; Commissioner, Housing Authority City of Paterson; Executive Board Member of NJ Together.

Rev. Dr. Maven is grateful to God for the gracious support of his wife Jann and they are the proud parents of Erica Nicole, Desmond Lamar and Derek LaVar.