

Dr. Marcus D. Allen Sr. A Life of Service and Faith
Senior Pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Board Member of MTZ Charitable Organization Inc., and President of the African American Council of Churches

Born in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Dr. Marcus Allen has devoted his life to faith, service, and community. Licensed to preach in July 1997 and ordained in July 2005 at Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church under Pastor George H. Jolly, Dr. Allen's early experiences shaped him into a beacon of spiritual guidance and leadership.

Military Service
Dr. Allen honorably served in the United States Army for over a decade as a Petroleum Supply Specialist. His military journey took him to Germany, where he was deployed to Iraq in 2003. He later joined the 101st Airborne Division ("Screaming Eagles") at Fort Campbell, KY, completing two additional combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. As a Staff Sergeant, he led numerous soldiers in combat, ensuring their safe return. His final assignment was at Fort Lee, VA, where he served as an instructor at the Petroleum and Water Department. His distinguished military service earned him several accolades, including the Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal (5), and the Bronze Star Medal.

During his deployments, Dr. Allen provided spiritual support and motivation to soldiers in Afghanistan and Iraq, demonstrating a profound dedication to both God and country.

Ministry Leadership
From September 2012 to October 2016, Dr. Allen served as the Senior Pastor of Union Branch Baptist Church in Prince George, Virginia. His passion for youth and young adult ministry led him to establish the Young Adult Ministry at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Petersburg, Virginia, under Pastor Robert A. Diggs, which focused on helping young adults navigate life's transitions and deepen their faith.

Academic Credentials
Dr. Allen holds a Master of Divinity from the Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University and a Doctor of Ministry from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. Additionally, he has a certificate in Pastoral Leadership from Marquette University.

Authorship and Awards
Dr. Allen is the author of *“I Got Next: Ten Essential Lessons for Effective Pastoral Transition,”* published in June 2020, which offers insights into pastoral leadership and transition.

His contributions to community service have been recognized with several awards, including the Outstanding Community Service Award from the Madison Metropolitan Links, Inc. (2019), the Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice “Voice for Justice” Award (2022), and the Rev. James C. Wright Humanitarian Award (2024).

Keynote Speaker and Educator
Dr. Allen was the keynote speaker for Wisconsin’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration at the Wisconsin State Capitol on January 15, 2024.

He is also the founder of the Midwest Gospel Preaching Summit, held in collaboration with Upper House at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In addition to his pastoral duties, Dr. Allen serves as an associate professor at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary and Moody Bible Theological Seminary.

A Legacy of Service and Faith
Dr. Marcus Allen’s profound love for God’s word and people, coupled with his generous spirit, defines his ministry. He remains committed to proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, making the Word of God relevant in believers’ lives, and building the Kingdom of God within his congregation and community.

He is married to Terra Cook of Cordova, Alabama, and they are blessed with three children: Alexandrea, MeKiyah, and Marcus Jr., a son-in-law, Minister Richard Jones Jr., and granddaughters, Lily and Layla.