



NOTICE OF PULPIT VACANCY AT THE ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

The Abyssinian Baptist Church (Church) in the City of New York, borough of Manhattan, and State of New York, is seeking a Senior Pastor to lead this traditional Baptist congregation of global esteem into the next phase of the 21st century. Applying candidate must embody pastoral characteristics that are grounded in the tenets of the Black Baptist Church, have a deeply rooted biblical foundation in historical, theological, and socio-political consciousness, and exhibit a passionate commitment to social justice, as well as community and spiritual development of a wide-ranging member demographic.

This present-day landmark sacred institution, named for the African Holy Land, Abyssinia, was established in 1808 by free African Americans and Ethiopian merchants who refused to accept racial discrimination while worshipping at First Baptist Church in lower Manhattan, NYC. For 214 years, the Church's transformative ministry has focused on proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, and it continues to be a revered beacon of hope in Harlem, the nation, and around the world.

The Church seeks a leader whose pastoral vision mirrors Abyssinian's mission to advance the Kingdom of God through its core values:

- **Worship** that honors its historic legacy of prophetic preaching and celebrates the power of God in our lives,
- **Evangelism and Discipleship** that wins more souls for Christ,
- **Service** that is focused on progress, economic empowerment, and justice in the Harlem community and across the globe,
- **Education** that enlightens, equips, and motivates members to grow spiritually and culturally.

QUALIFICATIONS, EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE:

An ideal candidate exhibits a proven record of at least 12-15+ years of successful leadership over a large Black Baptist Church. The candidate's ideology must be anchored in the teachings of the Holy Bible, as well as in the African American historical experience, spirituality, consciousness, and culture. Specific qualifications include:

- Sound interpretation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the tradition of African American prophetic and pastoral preaching.
- Experience managing complex religious organizations, including oversight of affiliate and/or other not-for-profit community and development related entities, and serving in an ex-officio capacity on the boards of such entities. Current affiliates of The Abyssinian Baptist Church in the City of New York include:
 - The Abyssinian Development Corporation
 - Blue Nile Passage, Inc.
 - Thurgood Marshall Academy for Learning and Social Change
 - Thurgood Marshall Academy Lower School
 - Youth On the Move, Inc.
- Ability to lead within framework of church by-laws.
- Skillful promotion of diverse theological convictions.
- Superior communication and elocution skills that reach various demographics.
- Superior Finance and Administrative Management acumen.
- Exhibit community, local, and national presence and engagement through association and board service.
- Exhibit firm commitment to institutional accountability and transparency.
- Extensive experience in working closely with clergy, staff, ministries and ministry leaders, to advance development and programmatic efficiency.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Candidate must be a baptized believer firmly committed to the purpose of, and dedicated to the total ministry of Jesus Christ.
- Candidate must be an ordained minister of the Baptist faith.
- Candidate must have Master of Divinity degree, and/or preferably, a Doctorate degree from accredited Theological Seminary.
- Candidate must have relevant Pastoral experience as Senior Pastor or Associate Pastor.
- Candidate must exhibit values of the church, professionally and personally.
- Candidate should be available end of year 2022.

The Abyssinian Baptist Church seeks a ministerial leader of unquestionable spiritual and moral integrity, and one who is of sound mind and character. The candidate embraces traditional and contemporary forms of worship, and understands intergenerational and cultural nuances that are critical in continuing the positive trajectory of the church established across 100+ years by Reverend Dr. Adam Clayton Powell, Sr., Reverend Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., and Reverend Dr. Samuel DeWitt Proctor, and further perpetuated by Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts, III throughout three decades of pastoral leadership, and 50 years of distinguished service to the Abyssinian church.

The Senior Pastor of Abyssinian is head of the clergy and ministerial staff, administrative staff, Music Ministry staff, and church ministries. The Pastor is accountable to the congregation through the Diaconate and Trustee Boards, and adheres to the Church's official by-laws.

The Abyssinian Baptist Church in the City of New York, Inc., shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, or sexual orientation.

An applicant who does not meet the above criteria need not apply. Interested candidate should send biography, photo, resumé/Career Vitae, and multiple references (with verifiable contact information) and any additional information for consideration to:

**THE ABYSSINIAN BAPTIST CHURCH
PULPIT SEARCH COMMITTEE
C/O CHURCH CLERK**

P.O. BOX 612

New York, NY 10031-9998

Submissions must be received by October 3, 2022

All materials sent to The Abyssinian Baptist Church Pulpit Search Committee will be kept confidential, and are non-returnable to applicant. No exceptions.