

## **Bishop Reginald T. Jackson**

**Reginald T. Jackson is a native of Dover, Delaware. He is a 1976 graduate of Delaware State University with a Bachelor's Degree in History and a 1979 graduate of Turner Seminary at The Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia with a Master's of Divinity. He was ordained an Itinerant Deacon by Bishop Earnest Lawrence Hickman in 1975 and an Itinerant Elder in 1977 by Bishop Richard Allen Hildebrand. After graduating from seminary in 1979, he was assigned by Bishop Hildebrand to pastor St. John AME Church, Jersey City, New Jersey, where he grew the congregation, increased giving and became involved in revitalizing the Lafayette neighborhood.**

**In 1981 Bishop Hildebrand appointed Rev. Jackson as the pastor of St. Matthew AME Church, Orange, New Jersey. During his pastorate more than 2800 persons accepted Christ or joined the church, including over 250 children and youth. Because of the church's growth a new edifice was built in 1985 and because of continued growth another new edifice and Family Life Center was built in 2002. Giving increased from \$50,000 to almost \$2,000,000 a year supporting more than thirty ministries to meet the needs of both church and community, as well as NIDA, the church's non-profit organization. Pastor Jackson had the church adopt the motto, "the servant church of the Oranges" and church is open seven days a week and is the center of activity for church and community. St. Matthew is one of the most prominent churches in the state of New Jersey.**

**In addition to his pastoral responsibilities, Rev. Jackson served as the Executive Director of the Black Ministers Council of New Jersey which represents more than 600 African American churches in the State of New Jersey. As Executive Director his opinion and input was sought on almost every major issue in the state. He received four pens from three governors, for his leadership to end racial profiling; making New Jersey the only state in the nation to pass a law making racial profiling a crime, ending predatory lending, supporting needle exchange to reduce HIV/AIDS, and for helping to repeal the death penalty in New Jersey. He has consistently been named one of the "Twenty Five Most Influential People in New Jersey."**

**He served from 2000 to 2012 as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Essex County College and Board of Trustees of the Barnabas Health System, largest health system in the state. He is also a life member of the NAACP.**

**On July 2, 2012 at the 49<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Session of the General Conference, Rev. Jackson was elected and on July 4<sup>th</sup> consecrated the 132<sup>nd</sup> Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was assigned to the Twentieth Episcopal District (Malawi and Zimbabwe) and as the Ecumenical and Urban Affairs Officer. He is also chair of the Social Action Commission.**

**Bishop Jackson is the husband of Christy Davis Jackson, Esquire, and the father of Regina Victoria Jackson and Seth Joshua Jackson.**