

REV. JOELYNN T. STOKES, ESQ.



Joelynn, an ordained Itinerant Elder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, currently serves as the 4th Episcopal District Director of Social Action and as its General Counsel.

Joelynn earned a Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling from Ashland Theological Seminary and a Master Degree with a concentration in Biblical Studies, from the University of Detroit-Mercy. She received her Juris Doctorate degree from Hofstra University Law School in New York and bachelor's degree with a dual major in business and psychology from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee.

Joelynn previously served as pastor of Saunders Memorial and the subsequently merged congregation of Allen Temple. Her tenure at Saunders began in 2018 when the church faced a City Order of Immediate Correction with 16 code violations. Demonstrating remarkable leadership and dedication, Joelynn addressed all the issues within five months, securing a certificate of occupancy. Within a year, the 1901-built church's bathrooms were completely gutted and renovated. In 2020, the lower-level fellowship space, which had been unusable for years, was also fully renovated. In addition, new furnaces and air conditioning systems were installed. And in 2023, the renovation of the cathedral ceiling sanctuary was completed. To God be the Glory!

Believing strongly in God's call to care for "the least of these" Joelynn also led the congregation to the streets to minister to the community. The church gained media attention for its Christmas Wonderland vaccination event featuring Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus. Other notable initiatives included Winter on Ice, where an ice rink was set up in the church parking lot, offering free ice skating and lessons, and Yoga in the Yard with a Yogi Master, all offering health screenings, Covid vaccinations and testing.

Striving to further live out God's command to be repairers of the street, Joelynn founded Isaiah 58 through which she invites others to join her in "Worshiping God Through Ministry to the Community" with a present focus on health and future focus on housing. Joelynn is honored to have received Authority Health's *Best of The HealthNet Award* for her work in the community.

Blessed to have her own law practice, J.T. STOKES & ASSOCIATES, P.C., Joelynn has also served as adjunct faculty for Detroit College of Law at Michigan State University and Ashland Theological Seminary. Joelynn is active in the community and is a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Joelynn's first love, however, is preaching and teaching God's word. She has received the distinct honor of having sermons published in Judson Press' *The African American Pulpit* and New York Theological Seminary's *The Living Pulpit*. In addition, her Biblical analysis and insight is quoted in *Joshua and Judges: Texts @ Context*, a journal of scholarly essays. She has preached throughout the US and Bahamas and is featured in *Pardon My Dust, I'm Under Construction*, a motivational book which highlights the journeys of inspiring Michigan women.

While Joelynn is thankful for all of her blessings and accomplishments, she hopes the most important thing you will remember about her is simply this...SHE IS A CHILD OF GOD!