

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PAOCC

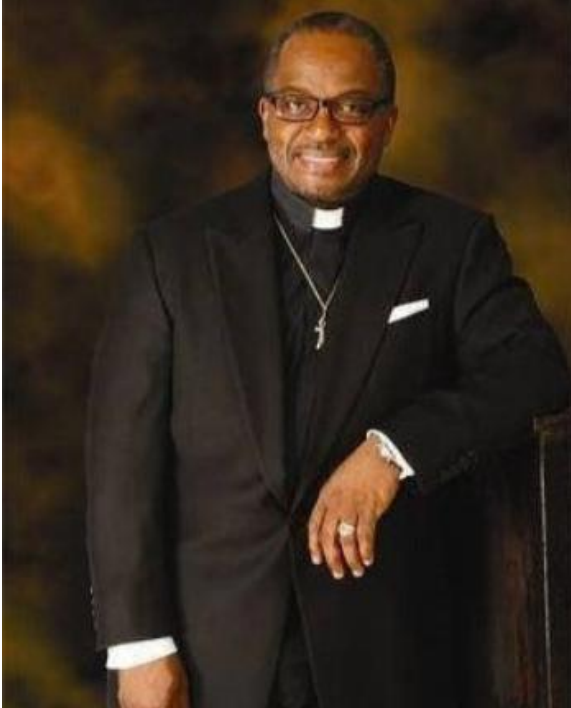


Detroit - Atlanta - Houston - Calhoun Falls - Liberia

www.shrinesoftheblackmadonna.org

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PAOCC

PRESIDING BISHOP D. KIMATHI NELSON



-Bishop Nelson is the Presiding Bishop, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of the Shrines of the Black Madonna of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church, Inc. He holds the honorific title reserved for the presiding bishop, “Jaramogi”. The Detroit native received his BA in theology/philosophy from the University of St. Thomas. He matriculated to Yale Divinity School where he earned a Master of Divinity Degree while serving as the president of the Yale Black Seminarians and the pastor of the Black Church at Yale. Bishop Nelson has been pastor to churches in Detroit, Atlanta, Houston and New Haven. He has organized historical projects in conjunction with many colleges and universities through the Shrine Bookstores and Cultural Centers. He is the national director of the Black Slate, Inc. He is a widely sought-after speaker and author. He was designated successor to the founder Bishop Albert B. Cleage, Jr. in 1996. He has served as the second Holy Patriarch since February 20, 2000.

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SHARION IFETAYO BROWN , BOARD VICE-CHAIR,



Rev. Ifetayo currently serves as the Program Manager, Entrepreneurship and Marketing at the Randolph Career Tech Center of Detroit Community School District where she introduces entrepreneurship to Detroit's youth. A Tuskegee graduate, she is a lifelong learner, earning her Master's Degree in Curriculum Development from Wayne State University. A firm believer in the principle of Kujichagulia, she has invested in the art and science of entrepreneurship. She is a graduate of the Harvard University's School of Business' Social Entrepreneurial Program and its' Urban School Leadership program.

Believing that you can only teach what you know, Rev. Ifetayo has extensive hands-on entrepreneurial experience including service as chief operating officer of Ifoma Enterprises, LLC, a real estate investment and property management company. She was the facilitator of the church's constitutional Synod in 2013 and she coordinated the 2017 celebration of 50th Anniversary of the Unveiling of the Black Madonna.

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BISHOP RANDY “MWENDA” BROWN, TREASURER



Bishop Randy Brown is a native of Beaumont, Texas, completing his undergraduate work at Paul Quinn College where he earned a Bachelor of Science, and is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University School of Business where he earned a Master of Business Administration. Following his studies at Clark Atlanta University, Bishop Brown received his theological training at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Georgia, where he earned a Master of Divinity with a concentration in New Testament. He was ordained into the ministry in 1998 and has served as pastor of the Shrine of the Black Madonna in Atlanta since 2007. Prior to accepting the call to lead the Atlanta congregation, Bishop Brown served in Atlanta as Regional Finance Officer, Regional Shrine Administrator, and Chief Executive Officer. He has been recognized in the Atlanta Business Journal as one of the city's "100 Most Influential African American Pastors." He also is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

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MARY ELIZABETH RASHIDA COLE BLACKMON, BOARD MEMBER



Rev. Rashida joined the church when it was known by its' former name, Central United Church, as a child and is a foundational member of the music Ministry. She served for many years as the leader of that ministry. She has been a mainstay of the Black Slate, Inc. She is a nationally respected educational advocate. In 1977 she was elected as an at-large (city wide) member of the Detroit School Board, the first African American woman to do so. She served the children of Detroit until 1988 in that post. In 1981 she also joined the Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency where she serves presently as its' board chair. She has also lent her governance skills to the Detroit Water Board and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments as well as many other civic institutions.

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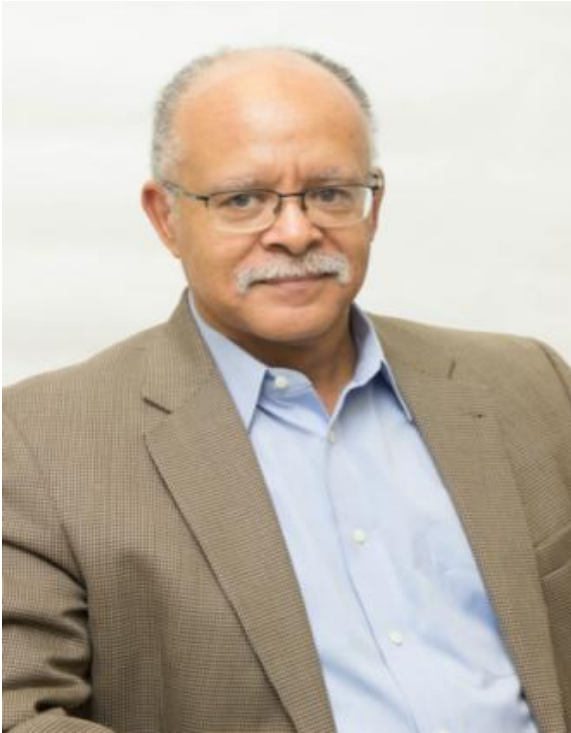
DR. JAWANZA ERIC CLARK, BOARD MEMBER



Dr. Clark currently serves as an Associate Professor of Global Christianity at Manhattan College in New York. After graduation from Morehouse College he received his Master's Degree in Divinity from Yale University and his doctorate from Emory University's Chandler School of Theology. He has authored numerous articles on Black liberation and womanist theology. He is the author of *Albert B. Cleage Jr. and the Black Madonna and Child, and Indigenous Black Theology.*

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BLAIR EVANS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Blair, the nephew of Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman, is Founder and Director of Incite Focus, a production and training lab focused on relationships between: Digital Fabrication, Permaculture, Experiential Learning, and Appropriate Technology. Blair is committed to engaging people in understanding their own ability to live a well-lived life. Issues of self-determination, self-sufficiency, and self-sustainability reflect in his work at Incite Focus. Blair believes in the philosophy, "Work and spend less; create and connect more".

Blair promotes a greater sense of individual autonomy by developing community members' capacity to make the things that they and their communities need; instead of depending upon external resources. Blair empowers community members to create the conditions of change and to make system-level changes which will prepare individuals to operate within a system of individual and group agency.

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BISHOP WILLIAM MBIYU CHUI MOORE, BOARD MEMBER



Bishop *Mbiyu Chui* is the Pastor of the historic Shrines of the Black Madonna #1 of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church. Ordained as a minister at the age of 18, he has pastored churches in both Atlanta, Georgia, and Houston, Texas before returning to his hometown, Detroit. He holds degrees from Clark Atlanta and the historic Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta Georgia. Pastor Chui serves the Detroit community in many capacities including: *Mentor, Teacher, Community Organizer, Lecturer, Master Storyteller*, just to name a few. He currently serves as Academic Administrator for Flip The Script of Goodwill Industries (an educational recovery program for 18 – 30-year-olds.); and operates one of the most influential *Prison Ministry's* in Michigan, serving hundreds of inmates and their families in over a dozen MDOC Facilities for the past twelve years.

Under his leadership, in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Corrections, Pastor Chui established the Youth Deterrent Program in 2011, which serves as an effective therapeutic interventionist program for adolescents designed to address the school-to-prison pipeline in urban areas across the country. As Director of the Pan African Ministries (PAOCC) he travels across West Africa (*Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana, Liberia, Togo, Nigeria*) spreading the gospel of good news and building churches. In January 2011 he opened a church in *Monrovia, Liberia*, and in 2012 two additional churches in *Ganta City, Liberia*. Pastor Chui is currently working on a documentary film entitled: *“The Black Missionary”* in conjunction with the National Swedish TV, which tells the story of Liberia, as she continues to recover from 15 years of civil war.

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REVEREND SYLVIA DJENABA AKIDA BRADSHAW, BOARD MEMBER



Rev. Sylvia Djenaba Akida Bradshaw is a native of Detroit. A graduate of Martin Luther King Jr. High School, she also began her college career at the University of Michigan. She joined the church as a teenager in 1971 and became a member of the University of Michigan College Cadre. She later answered the call of our 1st Holy Patriarch Jaramogi Abebe (Rev. Albert B. Cleage, Jr.) and transferred to Clark Atlanta University to form and develop the Atlanta College Cadre in 1973. She was ordained in 1978 as a minister of the Pan African Christian Church. Bishop Djenaba served at Atlanta's Shrine 9 in multiple capacities including Group Facilitator, Lecturer, Community Outreach and Missionary Coordinator and first director of Atlanta's Computer Technological Center.

In 1998 while engaging in her ministerial duties in Houston, she was elevated to the title of Bishop. She also served as Group Facilitator and a member of the Bishop's Council at Beulah Land while pursuing Master of Divinity studies at Erskine Theological Seminary in South Carolina. Upon returning to Houston in 2002, Bishop Djenaba was also employed as an Elementary School Educator in the Houston Independent School District. Rev. Djenaba was voted as an Area Teacher of the Year multiple times throughout her career, and she continues to offer insight, hope and training to Houston's area youth.

Bishop Djenaba received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mass Communications from the University of Houston and Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree from the University of St. Thomas. She also holds the distinction of earning a Black Belt 3rd Dan in Taekwondo Martial Arts. Her passions include preaching, teaching and singing. Bishop Djenaba currently serves as a Pastor of Shrine #10 in Houston, Texas.

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CYNTHIA TALIBAH STEPHENS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



A 40-year member of the church, Judge Stephens was the church's first General Counsel and facilitated the church's first Constitution and By-Laws at our first Synod. She was ordained at that Synod. A member of the Houston expansion cadre, she is a graduate of the University of Michigan where she was a leader in the historic BAM movement. She attended Atlanta University as a Ford Fellow and was privileged to teach several members of our current leadership core including Pastor Mbiyu and Houston Co-pastor Djenaba.

Rev. Taibah was first elected judge in 1982 after a two-year term as vice-chair of the Wayne County Charter Commission and Service as the Associate General Counsel for the Michigan Senate. She was appointed to the Circuit Court in 1985 and to her current post as judge in the Michigan Court of Appeals in 2008. She has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the State Bar of Michigan's highest honor, the Robert P. Hudson Award.

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DIANA NILAJA BROWN STEWART, SECRETARY



Diana Brown Stewart has over 40 years of experience working in the religious, non-profit, public and private sectors. Diana was born and raised in Detroit, MI and attended Detroit Public Schools. She joined the Shrine of the Black Madonna in 1967, and received her African name, Nilaja (peaceful and friendly) in 1971. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Davenport University and completed one year of coursework at Wayne State University's Master of Education Counseling Program. She received training and certification in small business entrepreneur development from Grand Valley State University and leadership training from Leadership Detroit, a Detroit Regional Chamber initiative, and LISC Midwest Executive Leadership Training Institute.

Rev. Nilaja has served as church secretary for over 40 years. During this 40-year period, Diana's responsibilities included: economic and community development initiatives, specialized program development & implementation, office management, staff training and supervision, budget development and oversight, project management, fundraising, grant writing, business consulting and training, and service as one of the facilitators for the church's 2010 Second Sacred Cycle Synod.

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ERIKA NIRETI LORRAINE BUTLER, GENERAL COUNSEL- ASSISTANT SECRETARY



General Counsel Erika Nireti Lorraine Davis has been a Michigan lawyer for almost 20 years, with a thriving solo practice in which she represents local non-profits, small businesses, and individual clients throughout metropolitan Detroit and beyond. She is a court-certified civil mediator and serves as a commercial arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association. She joined the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church on Sunday, January 7, 2001 and was given the African name “Nireti” (Hope). For the past 17 years, Sis. Nireti has served the church in various capacities, including: Youth Minister, Candidate in the Holy Order of the Maccabees, Group Leader, and Assistant Group Leader. Currently, Sis. Nireti serves as the PAOCC’s General Counsel and Assistant Secretary. She is also a Worship Leader and member of the Jaramogi Abebe Agyeman Scholarship Committee.

Sis. Nireti earned her Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of Michigan Law School (1998), and her Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), *magna cum laude* from Amherst College (1995). Erika has received recognition for her various accomplishments, including the State Bar of Michigan’s and Wolverine Bar Association’s Outstanding Young Lawyer Awards, as well as Presidential Awards from the National Bar Association and was the inaugural recipient of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church Cynthia D. Stephens Outstanding jurist Award. In 2017, Erika was recognized among Michigan Lawyers Weekly’s Women in the Law.

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MILTON AHDWELE FANN, BOARD MEMBER

In Memoriam



Rev. Fann is co-pastor of Shrine #9 (in Atlanta Georgia). He graduated from George High School in 1972 and attended DeKalb Community College from 1972 to 1974. Rev. Fann served in the U. S. Army and was honorably discharged in 1978. In 1978, Rev. Fann joined the Shrines of the Black Madonna of the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church (PAOCC) where he continues to serve.

A 39-year member of the PAOCC, Rev. Fann has held several leadership positions. He was ordained in 1985 and has served as regional commander, group leader, full-time missionary, finance officer, youth worker, Bible class instructor, president of the Male Action Coalition (MAC) and president of the PAOCC choir. In 2011 Rev. Fann earned a Certificate in Theology from the Interdenominational Theological Center (I.T.C.). He was chosen by his classmates to accept the Charge for the Class of 2010-2011 at its Commencement Ceremony. That year he also became a published writer, with his testimony and charge printed in April/May 2011 issue of *Christian View* magazine.