

## Deacon Eric L. McAdams

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January 11, 2016

*The Most Reverend Charles E. Blake, Sr.*

**Presiding Bishop**

Church Of God In Christ, Inc.  
930 Mason Street  
Memphis, TN 38126

***RE: Request for Intervention based on the Denial of Constitutional Rights Afforded to a Local Congregation***

*Dear Honorable Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.,*

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray that this letter finds you in the solemn Peace of God.

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am a lifelong member of the Church of God in Christ. I am a member of **Williams Temple Church Of God In Christ** for over 20 years. I am a State (Texas) Deacon and a son of the Jurisdiction. I have a heart and mind for the success of our church.

The purpose of this letter is to address the appointment of **Bishop Kurt Thompson** to *Williams Temple Church Of God In Christ* as the ***“Administrative Pastor,”*** appointed by General Board Member **Bishop Brandon Porter**.

Bishop Blake, according to my knowledge of the constitution of the Church of God in Christ, there is no such office or position described as ***“Administrative Pastor.”*** The leaders of Williams Temple Church Of God In Christ, Inc., and the greater part of the membership are extremely disappointed and appalled to learn of the appointment of Bishop Kurt Thompson as the Administrative Pastor.

As the Presiding Bishop, you assigned Bishop Brandon B. Porter as the ***Interim Pastor*** of our local church. Now, Bishop Porter has appointed someone else to serve as ***“Administrative Pastor.”*** We, the concerned and faithful members of Williams Temple, are disturbed by the appointment process being implemented.

1. Bishop Blake, you appointed Bishop Brandon Porter as the *Interim Bishop* while Bishop Rufus Kyles is on suspension.
2. Bishop Porter has assumed the role of *Interim Pastor*.
3. Bishop Porter appointed **Bishop Kurt Thompson** as "*Administrative Pastor*" on December 27, 2015. Bishop Porter had Elder Jerry Riggins to read four appointments of which Bishop Kurt Thompson's position was one. Bishop Thompson has fully assumed that role. I have requested a copy of that document but have not received a copy as of this date. Elder Riggins told me that **Bishop Porter** wanted it on official letterhead before I received it.

We find these actions to be disturbing and I see the same cycle being repeated once again! Remember when you assigned Bishop Charles E. Brown I to assist you? Bishop Brown stated that he was not interested in being the Pastor of the Church, but, in the process, he was privately campaigning for the position of "Pastor." This was a direct deceptive act against (1) You, "The Bishop in Charge," (2) Us, "the Church Members," and (3) God Himself.

Bishop Brandon B. Porter has stated that, "*Bishop Kurt Thompson does not desire the pastoral leadership of Williams Temple Church Of God In Christ.*" On one hand, Bishop Kurt Thompson has publicly stated to the membership that he was not interest in being the Pastor of Williams Temple Church Of God In Christ, while on the other hand, Bishop Kurt Thompson has acknowledged privately in meetings with the Deacons, Trustee, and Ministers of this church, which was held on Monday, January 4, 2016 and January 5, 2016 that he (Bishop Kurt Thompson) desires a chance to be the Pastor. We beg of thee, our honorable Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. to sympathize with how we, "*the church Members,*" are viewing these series of events. It appears to us as "*Déjà vu.*"

Bishop Blake, with all due respect, there are many questionable deeds of Bishop Brandon B. Porter that could and should be addressed. However, the focal issue of this letter is the "integrity of Bishop Brandon Porter" and how his actions are being displayed. We have voluntarily entrusted the leadership of our church with the guidance of our souls. We ask, "*What do we, the Members, do when all we see is our church continuously being torn asunder?*" There are great men who are "*Sons*" of this "Church" who maintain their membership here and despite all that is happening, their love for this church remains. **We** are counting on you to help us in this **crucial time of need**.

Bishop Rufus Kyles, Jr. is currently in the appeals process. The Judicial Board has not rendered its final ruling. Any appointments before the ruling is issued results in

improper conduct and will inevitably cause confusion at the church. I feel that Bishop Kyles should be involved in the pastoral appointment process. Also, other men who pastor or have pastored successful churches in our jurisdiction should be allowed to assist Bishop Kyles in the appointment process, namely, **Pastor Ron Eagleton** (*Mt. Rose COGIC*) and **Pastor Willie Collins** (*North Main COGIC*); these are jurisdictional pastors of successful “5-Star” churches in our jurisdiction. **Supt. Eugene Hamilton** (*Greater First COGIC*), **Supt. Johnny Tate** (*Powerhouse COGIC*), and **Supt. Connie Cooper** (*Outreach COGIC*) are also other qualified pastors within our own jurisdiction. They can help with the selection process.

Please take note that our future leader does not need to be a “*Bishop*”. Our pastor needs to be able to grow with the church and devote his time to the church rather than being pre-occupied with national and other church matters that will take him away from the membership. We need someone to nurture and grow with us. We need a *pastor* - one after God’s own heart!

There is another major issue that has Williams Temple Church Of God In Christ in a great uproar, which is, the “**removal of fellowship**” of the Elder Norman White as a member of the church where he has been a faithful supporting member for over thirty-plus years. This was done simply because he respectfully disagreed with Bishop Brandon Porter. While the corporate laws of other states vary, we are held accountable to the State of Texas with regards to our church legal status and its operation in the State of Texas. Williams Temple COGIC, Inc. is a Texas Non-Profit Corporation, accountable to the laws of the State of Texas. All rules pursuant to the Texas Non-Profit Charters must be adhered to. Elder Norman White was only trying to express the obligation of the directors listed on the charter. For his zeal to perform his duties, he was severely chastised and his membership revoked.

I am of the opinion that Bishop Brandon Porter was abrupt and seemingly insecure as to his position of leadership being challenged. Had he listened, he would have understood more clearly what Elder Norman White was trying to say. Elder Norman White simply wanted to convey information that the attorneys explained to him.

Bishop Blake, we are respectfully asking, begging and pleading with you to overturn the imposed non-membership status or “undo” what Bishop Porter has done regarding Elder Norman White. The one thing we do not need is any more lawsuits against the local church, the jurisdiction or the national church.

This letter is submitted on behalf of some concerned and faithful members of **Williams Temple Church of God In Christ**. We pray your prayerful consideration of the issues presented. We appreciate the process engaged in by the Judicial Board. We submit

again, that according to the *Official Manual of the Church Of God In Christ, Part I, Section D., Local Churches*, page 14 states: “The Pastor of a local church shall be appointed by the Jurisdictional Bishop of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church.”

We appreciate your leadership and your love of our Lord and Savior and your immutable teachings and guidance. We will respect the decision of our beloved Church leadership.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (832) 785-4364 (mobile) and/or email at [ericmac3@att.net](mailto:ericmac3@att.net).

Respectfully Submitted,

Deacon Eric L. McAdams  
*ELM/mrs*

cc: Bishop Phillip Aquilla Brooks, First Assistant  
Bishop Jerry Wayne Macklin, Second Assistant

Bishop Frank White, Secretary of General Board  
Bishop Roy Lawrence H. Winbush, Asst. Secretary of General Board

**General Board Members:**

Bishop Sedgwick Daniels	Bishop J. Drew Sheard
Bishop N. W. Wells	Bishop G. D. McKinney
Bishop Ted Thomas	Bishop Lawrence Wooten

Bishop John Sheard, Chairman of Board of Bishops  
Bishop Larry L. Shaw, Secretary of Board of Bishops

Superintendent Thomas Jackson, Chief Justice  
Justice Charles Connor, Secretary of National Judiciary Board

Bishop James W. Hunt, Sr., Chairman of General Assembly

Bishop Joel H. Lyles, Jr., General Secretary of Church Of God In Christ

Bishop Rufus Kyles, Jr., Prelate Texas Southeast First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction