



*New Student Induction Ceremony
Class Of 2027*

**Sunday, August 13, 2023
4:00 p.m.
Chappelle Auditorium**

**Dr. Ernest McNealey
President & CEO**

**Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.
Chairman, Board of Trustees**



Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.

At the 47th Quadrennial Session of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church General Conference, held in Indianapolis, Indiana in 2004, Rev. Dr. Samuel L. Green, Sr. was elected and consecrated the 125th Bishop in the line of succession in the history AME Church dating back to Bishop Richard Allen. As one of the 21 active elected and consecrated bishops, he has served as the Presiding Prelate of the 7th Episcopal District - the state of South Carolina - since 2016. Prior to coming to South Carolina, Bishop Green led the 12th District - Arkansas and Oklahoma - from 2008 to 2016. In his first assignment, (2004-2008) Bishop Green was head of the 15th Episcopal District - Angola, Namibia and South Africa.

The journey to becoming Bishop did not result from some supernatural act of God that compelled him to serve. It was a genuine understanding from a very young age that his purpose was to be a minister of the gospel. Along the way, Bishop Green pastored St. Mark AME Church in Orlando from 1988 to 2004. Under his leadership at St. Mark, a daycare facility and family life center, which housed the church's preparatory school, were added and ultimately named in his honor. He also held pastorates at two other Florida AME churches: Mt. Zion in Green Cove Springs and Mt. Zion in St. Petersburg.

While Bishop of the 12th District, he served as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Shorter College in Little Rock, Arkansas; the only AME junior college. During that period, the institution was accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges (TRAC), and major campus buildings were remodeled and modernized. Upon taking the helm of the 7th District, Bishop Green became Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Allen University. He brought a vision and understanding of higher education governance that lit the spark of resurgence at Allen. The University reaffirmed its accreditation, brought stability to its finances, returned football, launched a marching band, moved from Level II to Level III to offer master's degrees, and launched the fully accredited Dickerson-Green (Graduate) Theological Seminary.

Bishop Green holds a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from the University of South Florida, Tampa; a Master of Divinity from the Turner Theological Seminary, Atlanta; and the Doctor of Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary, Atlanta. He is the father of three adult sons. In addition to a host of religious affiliations, he is also a 33rd-degree Mason; a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity; a member of Epsilon Nu Delta Mortuary Fraternity, and a member of the NAACP.

ALLEN UNIVERSITY
New Student Induction Ceremony
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Presiding

Dr. Sandra Rouse, *Vice President for Student Affairs*

Prelude	Dr. Alan Rudell, <i>Organist</i>
The Welcome	Mr. Leyton Taylor, <i>SGA President</i>
The Invocation	Rev. E. Robert Thomas, <i>University Chaplain</i>
Musical Selection	Dr. Angela Blalock, <i>Chair, Music Department</i> Dr. Alan Rudell, <i>Accompanist</i>
The Occasion	Ms. Jare' Smith, <i>Miss Allen University</i>
Introduction of the Speaker	Dr. Ernest McNealey, <i>President</i>
Keynote Speaker	Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr. <i>Chairman, Board of Trustees, and Presiding Prelate, 7th District of the AME Church</i>
Musical Selection	Dr. Angela Blalock Dr. Alan Rudell
Litany for the Academic Year	Mr. Leyton Taylor

Leader: Almighty God, who has granted our new students a place and a part in Allen university, hallow to them now this hour, when they dedicate themselves to the life and work to which thou last here called them. That they may remember with gratitude the homes and schools from which they come.

New Students: We ask Thy presence, O God.

Leader: That in this new university life they may keep faith with those who have loved them and trusted them, and whose hopes follow them here.

New Students: We ask Thy presence, O God.

Leader: Father God, thank you for all of our new students at Allen University. Give them dreams that are bigger than themselves – so they will have to trust you to make their dreams come true. Give them a will and heart to be all you created them to be. Help them to work hard and be successful.

New Students: We ask Thy presence, O God.

Leader: Enable them to be generous to those who are less fortunate. Give them hearts full of love and compassion.

New Students: We ask Thy presence, O God.

Leader: Give them the strength to say “no” to activities that they would later be remorseful about – that they would do what is right for them and for the world around them. Help them to be kind to others.

New Students: We ask Thy presence, O God.

Leader: Protect them from people who would harm them physically, emotionally and mentally.

New Students: Good Lord deliver us.

Leader: And finally, let them know that allowing You to direct their way is the smartest thing they can do.

All: In Jesus wonderful and powerful name. Amen

PINNING CEREMONY

Dr. Rouse - I now ask the Class of 2027 to take the pin that you were given and pin the right side of your outer garment.

Dr. Rouse - As the Vice President for Student Affairs, I congratulate and duly induct you into the Graduating Class of 2027 and welcome you to the Allen University Family.

The Alma Mater

Allen, to thee, we lift our hearts and voices.

Allen to thee life's choicest gifts we pray.

And ever as we leave thy dear walls

And halls so steeped in glory,

Guard well thy children;

Guard and guide us on our way.

When other sons so true and daughters loyal

Shall to their alma mater shout praises free,

We, too, shall ever stand at thy side

And sing aloud forever, Allen fair mother,

We pledge our love to thee.

Allen, fair mother,

We pledge our love to thee.

ALLEN UNIVERSITY

A Brief History

Allen University was founded by the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in South Carolina under the leadership of Bishop John M. Brown on July 29, 1870. In an effort led by Reverend Simon Miller, 150 acres of land was purchased for the institution in Cokesbury, SC. The newly founded school was named Payne Institute in honor of Bishop Daniel A. Payne, a South Carolinian, and noted advocate for Black education. For its first 10 years, the school prospered in fulfilling its mission of developing an educated clergy in the face of repression and violent opposition during the Reconstruction Era. Delegates to the Annual Conference in Spartanburg, SC in 1880, with Bishop William F. Dickerson presiding, voted to move Payne Institute to Columbia, SC. Concurrently, Payne Institute was renamed Allen University in honor of Bishop Richard Allen, founder of the AME Church.

Into the 20th century, Allen met the needs of students at all educational levels. The curriculum not only included courses in law, theology, and the arts, but coursework at elementary and high school levels. It was possible to enter Allen as a child in first grade and leave prepared to teach, preach, or prosecute/defend in the courts as fully trained educators, ministers, and lawyers. The grammar school closed in the mid-1920s, and the high school in 1933.

An influx of veterans pursued studies at Allen following World War II. In the 1940's, Departments of Humanities, Philosophy, Psychology and Religion were added to existing academic programs. During the 1960's, the University fielded highly successful athletic teams that competed in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC). In 1970, the University marked a century of service with a Centennial celebration, and rededicated itself to the principles upon which it was founded.

Responsive to changes in society, Allen revised its curricula in the 1980s and began to pursue regional accreditation. The 1990s was a period of growth and development, that resulted in the first accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges. During that period, the John Hurst Adams Gymnasium was constructed. In the early 2000s, Arnett Hall received a major restoration, the Williams Residence Halls were constructed, and Chappelle Auditorium and Gallery were restored/renovated.

In 2016, Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr. brought an enlightened system of governance to the institution that fueled dramatic change and growth. Under the leadership of its 30th President Dr. Ernest McNealey, the University moved from Level II to Level III to offer its first graduate program, the Master of Divinity degree via the newly formed Dickerson-Green Theological Seminary. The campus received a dramatic aesthetic facelift, NCAA athletics were returned, Reid and Higgins Halls were renovated, the Seminary attained membership in the Association of Theological Schools, noteworthy capacity in information technology was acquired, the historic Waverly Hospital building was renovated and expanded, and the Boeing Institute on Civility at Allen University was launched.

The University has a distinguished history, rich in the tradition of promoting personal and spiritual growth, and in educating men and women to become productive leaders and citizens in an ever-changing world.