



**Reverend James Daniel Spencer II** is from Birmingham, Alabama. He serves as the senior pastor of The First Congregational Christian Church (Montgomery, Alabama). He first preached his ‘trial’ sermon at Greater Shiloh Missionary Baptist where he was licensed in the Gospel Ministry in 1999 and later ordained in 2002 by the Greater Saint John Missionary Baptist Church (both in the communities of West End, Birmingham, Alabama).

Rev. Spencer completed an undergraduate degree in Psychology at Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University earning the designation of Distinguished Military Graduate. He holds a seminary degree from Beeson Divinity School of Samford University, where he received the Master of Divinity. He holds an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Mount Sinai Seminary. He is currently enrolled at Liberty University in the Doctor of Ministry program with a concentration in Expository Preaching and Teaching.

He is a retired thirty-two-year career United States Army Officer that served as an Infantryman and later as a Chaplain reaching the rank of full Colonel. He attended several United States Army schools from Basic Combat Training to senior leadership schools, to include the Army Command and General Staff College and the Army War College. He served in both secular positions and sacred from Platoon Leader to Command Chaplain. He possesses numerous awards and badges; namely, the Legion of Merit medal, six Meritorious service medals, the parachutist badge – ‘Jump Wings’, and the Expert Infantryman’s Badge.

He was consecrated as a Suffragan Bishop in 2009 by the World Council of Independent Christian Churches which endorsed him as an Army Chaplain. During his tenure as Bishop, he served as the Dean of the College of Bishops, and later became a Diocesan Bishop tending to the flock of the Armed Forces.

James is married to the former April Wright and they have four children. He also serves the community through Prince Hall Freemasonry, where he was selected and awarded the Thirty-Third Degree in 2019, he is a Shriner, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. And, he is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

He can be described as highly compassionate servant leader offering experiences in Pastoral and Spiritual Care, Discipleship, Leadership Development, Strategic Planning and Community Outreach. He has been recognized throughout his career for displaying a strong commitment to excelling as a Disciple maker, Counselor, Preacher and Caregiver. He is vastly adept at preaching the Word of God, fostering church growth and discipleship, developing church strategies, and leading congregation members into growing their relationship with Christ. His ministry can be described through the words of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy, Chapter 1, verses 12 and 16, “I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful, appointing me to the ministry” that through this “Christ Jesus might demonstrate his extraordinary patience as an example to those who would believe in him for eternal life.” Amen.