

## **Friendship Missionary Baptist**

**Frank McGinnis Jr.**, is a native of Pensacola, Florida. He received the Master of Arts degree in Music from Florida State University. From Oakwood University, he received the Bachelor of Arts degree in Music, and the Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. At Oakwood, his piano instructors included Drs. Wayne Bucknor and Frank Contreras. As a student of the university, he was afforded the opportunity to serve as an accompanist for The Aeolians, the University's Concert Choir. While matriculating through his undergraduate and graduate studies, he served as the music director for several musical groups, touring with them across the United States, Canada, Bermuda, The Bahamas, and Costa Rica. Mr. McGinnis has gained wide-ranging experience within sacred music holding church positions as pianist, organist, and music director. Currently, he serves as the Director of Music and Arts at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The choral tradition of **Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (FMBC) Choir** is known for its long standing diversity of repertoire that includes, but not limited to Anthems, Spirituals, and Gospel. Over the decades, its tradition has seen choral travel that extended nationally, and internationally, while also gracing the stage with some of the most prominent voices in gospel and sacred music. One of the choir's greatest treasures is being a musical voice within the Charlotte community. The FMBC Choir is thrilled and honored to be a participant and collaborator in this year's North Carolina ACDA Fall Conference.

## **Myers Park Baptist**

**James Kevin Gray**, born in 1976 in Westminster, South Carolina, is a multifaceted music educator, composer, and minister. A graduate of Winthrop University, he has taught chorus at various educational levels and directed the Winthrop University Jazz Voices. Since 2003, Kevin has served in full-time ministry roles at several churches, currently acting as Minister of Music and Worship at Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC. His leadership in church and community music has earned him numerous accolades, including Layman of the Year (2012) and a leadership role in the Charlotte Interfaith Pride Services (2021–2023) and Alliance of Baptists National Gathering (2024). Kevin is also a published composer with works released by major publishers and has had performances at prestigious venues like Carnegie Hall and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival. Kevin is known for community engagement through music. He has conducted national fraternity conferences, directed the Charlotte Chorale, and founded the Power of Song Collaborative Arts Movement to promote unity and charitable giving through music. He has collaborated with Opera Carolina, local artists, and diverse choirs in large-scale community projects like the MLK Celebration and Carolina Voices' Big Sing.

The **Music Ministry at Myers Park Baptist Church** has deep roots in traditional, classical, and sacred music but also continues to expand its repertoire to include diverse styles of music from classic rock and jazz to musical theater and folk music. We believe all music is sacred. Although we partner with many musicians throughout the city, our flagship ensemble is our Chancel Choir which has served the congregation since its founding over eighty years ago.

## **St. Paul Baptist**

**David Scott Gibson** is a musician, singer, songwriter, and choral director who has served as Minister of Music at St. Paul Baptist Church in Charlotte, NC since 2003. A graduate of Elizabeth City State University with degrees in Music Education and Criminal Justice, he has taught and led music programs across all school levels in North Carolina. Known for his passionate and spiritually enriching leadership, he continues to inspire through worship, community performances, and his gospel project BELIEVE. He is also the leader of the jazz/R&B ensemble Five Story Building.

The **Mass Choir of St. Paul Baptist Church** is a Christ-centered community of singers committed to sharing the Word of God through music. From hymns and anthems to spirituals and traditional/contemporary gospel, our ministry serves to uplift, encourage, and remind believers of God's abiding presence. Whether in worship or beyond the church walls, we sing to inspire faith, strengthen hearts, and call all people to live out God's love in everyday life.