

Rev. Dr. Bankole Akinbinu

Pastor Akinbinu is committed to spreading the Gospel because he believes that God's Word is able to transform and empower all who believe. He stands on the promise of Philippians 1:6: "He that hath begun a good work in you is faithful to perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."



Rev. Dr. Bankole Akinbinu is the Senior Pastor of Baptist Grove Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he faithfully leads with vision, purpose, and a deep commitment to the transformative power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Called and set apart to proclaim the Good News, Rev. Akinbinu accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior at the age of 10 and acknowledged his call to ministry at 16. On June 16, 2001, he preached his initial sermon at Community Bible Baptist Church in Prince George's County, Maryland. After serving diligently as a licensed minister for eight years, he was ordained in September 2009.

A devoted lifelong learner and advocate for theological education, Rev. Akinbinu earned a Bachelor of Arts in Bible Theology from Washington Bible College in Lanham, Maryland. He went on to earn his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and later completed his Doctor of Ministry at Duke University in May 2019.

In January 2012, Rev. Akinbinu was called to lead Baptist Grove Church, where he cast the vision of "Living Faithfully and Fully in Christ." Under his leadership, the church has embraced three foundational pillars: Living in Faith, Living in Fellowship, and Living to Serve. Through this vision, Baptist Grove has seen tremendous growth, the development of dynamic ministries, and impactful outreach in the Raleigh community and beyond.

Prior to serving in the pastorate, he ministered as the Young Adult Assistant Pastor at Community Bible Baptist Church and as Minister to Youth and Young Adults at St. James A.M.E. Church in Newark, New Jersey.

Rev. Akinbinu's ministry extends beyond the pulpit. He now pours into future leaders as a professor in the School of Divinity at Duke University and also served as a professor at Campbell University Divinity School, shaping students both spiritually and academically.

He is also the author of the Faith & Leadership article published by Duke University's Leadership Education Department titled, *"Is Your Church Ready When Things Go Right?"* This powerful piece is rich in biblical imagery, anchored in Scripture, and written with a simplicity that deeply resonates with both leaders and laypeople.

Rev. Akinbinu's impactful voice has been heard on national and international platforms, including

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conferences, revivals, universities, and worship gatherings. In 2010, he received the Aaron E. Gast Award in Urban Ministry from Princeton Theological Seminary for his exceptional ministry in urban contexts. In 2014, he was invited by President Barack Obama to participate in a White House Summit on Working Families, aimed at building a 21st-century workplace that serves all Americans.

In August 2007, Rev. Akinbinu married the love of his life, Angel, and together they are the proud parents of Alivia and Elijah.

Rev. Dr. Bankole Akinbinu continues to lead with humility, insight, and a heart for God's people—faithfully stewarding his calling to equip, empower, and elevate others for the glory of God.