

Rev. Ricardo Burns

Rev. Ricardo Burns, born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, is the son of the late Raymond Burns and the late Georgette Curry. He grew up immersed in Kingdom living and accepted Christ at the age of 12. Rev. Burns was baptized at Calvary Baptist Church in Philadelphia, PA.

Rev. Burns is happily married to Tamara DeShields-Burns, and together they have three children: Malika, Bryan and Kyeemah (Deceased). They also take great joy in being grandparents to three beautiful grandchildren, Rikki, D'Acea, and Davell.

In 1978, Rev. Burns graduated from William Penn High School in Philadelphia. He pursued higher education and earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education from Pennsylvania State University, followed by a Master's Degree in Education Administration from Cheyney University. Currently, he is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Payne Theological Seminary.

On April 18, 2012, Rev. Burns answered his calling to preach under the guidance of Rev. Brian Thomas. His Trial Sermon took place on June 17, 2012, and in May 2013, he was admitted into the Board of Examination of the Baltimore Annual Conference. Rev. Burns received his ordination as an Itinerant Deacon in the AME Church on April 15, 2016.

Rev. Burns has dedicated over 30 years to public education, serving as a teacher, principal, and administrator within the School District of Philadelphia. He also held the position of Superintendent for the School District of Lancaster in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Additionally, Rev. Burns played a pivotal role in the establishment of CollegeReadyMath, a national organization that provides academic support to students while offering professional development for educators and administrators.

In April 2018, Rev. Burns was appointed as the Pastor of St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church in Havre de Grace, MD. During his five-year tenure, the church experienced remarkable growth in all areas. Recently, on May 27, 2023, Rev. Burns was appointed as the Pastor of Wright's AME Church in Elkton, MD. He played a significant role in founding the Elkton Colored School Museum and Cultural Center and currently serves as the Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors.

