

# Rev. Dr. Benjamin N. Thomas Sr.

PASTOR | SENIOR MINISTER

HISTORIC TANNER CHAPEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
PHOENIX, AZ



Reverend Dr. Benjamin N. Thomas Sr., was raised and educated in Kansas City, Missouri. Reverend Thomas entered into the United States Army in 1970 and commissioned as an officer in 1982, serving as Chaplain in the Army Reserves until 1993. He has special training in counseling, patient visitation, crisis intervention, and church administration.

Reverend Thomas earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a minor in Psychology from Parks College, Parkville, MO. He began his studies at Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, CA in their Theology program to earn his Master's Degree in Theology. At Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky, through the Beeson Institute, he completed his studies and received his Master's Degree in Theology. He has also received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Southern California School of Ministry, Los Angeles, CA. Rev. Thomas is a D.Min student attending Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky.

Prior to coming to Phoenix to pastor Tanner Chapel, he was the Pastor of Price Chapel A.M.E. Church in Los Angeles, California, Walker Chapel A.M.E. Church in Seattle, Washington, Handy Chapel A.M.E. Church in Joplin, Missouri. During his six (6) years at Price Chapel, Reverend Thomas was actively involved in the community, serving on the Board of Directors for such organizations as Emergency Feeding Program, The Inner City Foundation of Excellence in Education, the NAACP, and as the President of the Southern California Conference Ministerial Alliance.

Since arriving to Phoenix, Arizona, in October of 1991, Pastor Thomas has been dedicated to not only his church family but to the community as well. This has afforded him the opportunity to have served in several capacities on various boards for several organizations:

- National Advisory Board of Directors for Chase Bank;
- Arizona Department of Economic Security Board of Directors;
- Central Arizona Shelter Service – CASS Board for Directors;
- Fifth District Economic Development Board of the African Methodist Episcopal Church;
- Desert Mountain Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Conference Treasurer;
- Arizona Values Foundation - The Collaboration for a New Century 2000 member;
- African American Relations Committee for the Boys Scouts of America Executive Board Member and Chairman;
- Governor's Task Force - Advisory Council member;
- Arizona Ecumenical Council of Churches president;
- Attorney General's African American Community Justice Council member.

Dr. Thomas continues to be involved in the community and in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and currently

- serves as the Dean of Instruction for the Desert / Mountain Conference Board of Examiners – 18 years and running;
- serves as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Board for Tanner Community Development Corporation, of which he founded;
- serves on Mayor Greg Stanton's advisory Board for Phoenix, AZ;

- serves as Commissioner of the Arizona Commission on African-American Affairs;
- serves as Chairperson on the Mayor's African American Task Force;
- is a life member of the NAACP
- is a member of the General Board for the Connectional African Methodist Episcopal Church;
- is a member of the African American Christian Clergy Coalition;
- is a member of the Executive Board and a Life Member of the NAACP;
- is a member of the FOZ – Faith Opportunity Zone's faith initiative
- is a member of the YMCA Board of Directors.

Dr. Thomas' success as a pastor and community leader has afforded him the opportunity to be the recipient of several awards, a few of which are listed below:

- 2005 – 2005 Pastor of the year for the Desert Mountain Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church;
- 2006 Martin Luther King "Living The Dream" Award;
- 2007 Arizona Interfaith Movement Golden Rule Award for Religious Leader;
- 2007 Positive Image Sports "Saving a Generation" Award;
- 2012 Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award;
- J.W. Robinson Society United Black Firefighter Community Award;
- NAACP Millennium Pacesetters Award;

Reverend Thomas is a dedicated family man, married to Beverly K. Thomas. They have one child, Rev. Benjamin Jr., "Rev. BJ", who is a graduate of Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and is now attending Payne Theological Seminary in Phoenix, Arizona. Rev. BJ is pursuing a Master's of Divinity Degree. Rev. & Mrs. Thomas also have one granddaughter, Samara Jean Thomas.