

What is the name of the church and why did you choose to visit there?

The name of the church I visited is Zion Tabernacle Holiness Church in Brooklyn, NY. I chose to visit here because there were some people who I used to worship with in another church that attend here. I chose to use this church as an example of what ministry looks like in its beginning stages of reconciliation work in the community.

What is the mission statement of the church you visited?

The mission statement of the church is to show the love of God through serving the community.

How does the church address racial justice and reconciliation?

Currently the church is still recovering from the pandemic and the Bishop is also recovering from some health issues that have slowed him down in his endeavors to service the community. The goal is to go out into the community and meet the people where they are. They are attempting to build their ministry on the word of God in order to go out into the world and show the justice of the Bible in today's context.

Does addressing social justice issues seem to be part of the church's DNA?

It is a dream of the Bishops to fight for justice and equality, however he is in the beginning stages and doesn't know when, where, or how to start. The Bishop wants to bring services to the community that will definitely assist some problems such as, housing, education and medical needs. Bishop wants to reach the community by first showing them the love of God for themselves and then by exposing them to the needs of the community and the ways that they can get into the fight of seeing justice for the underprivileged community. Although not yet a part of the church's DNA, the Bishop influence within the congregation that he is leading will allow them to begin moving towards the processes of engaging in Racial Reconciliation and Justice. The Bishop is passionate about people's communication and walk with Christ. I believe that this is his way of moving the people of God towards seeking justice and educating the on the need for engaging in Racial Reconciliation.

Was there diversity in the church and if so, how was the power dynamic of the church?

There are currently some Hispanics that are a part of the congregation but it is mostly African American. The Bishop is aware that the community that his church is stationed in is very diverse and is willing to learn what it will take to move his congregation towards the movement of seeing justice prevail in the sense of being reconciled to Christ and to others.

Is the church's diversity pictorial or did you sense authentic community?

There isn't much diversity, but I can sense an authentic community being built on the grounds of love for people and a willingness to be a part of what Kingdom building looks like spiritually and naturally. Bishop Watts also understands what it means to fight for the rights and goals of

the community in need and his congregation's ability to serve and service the community and each other.

What was the composition of the church's leadership?

The church comprises Pastors, Ministers and Ministers in Training, worship leader and ministry leaders. There is currently a need for community leaders and people who are willing to engage in the needs of the community. Bishop Watts is attempting to train up leaders that will be able to reach out to the community at large.

Did you get the sense that reconciliation was important to the church?

I do get the sense that reconciliation is very important to the Bishop and his congregation is very receptive of the goal and journey that the church is embarking on.