

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 a ministry looks like in the beginning stages of reconciliation work in the community.

The mission statement of the church is to show the love of God through serving the community. The goal is to reconcile people back to an understanding of their true roots in Christ so they will be able to build and flourish in God. Bishop stated that one must know where they are strong and start there with the hopes of being able to build on those strengths. As we come together as one body we will, with the assistance of our brothers and sisters in Christ, be able to help one another build so that through family and working together we can build a solid foundation. With God all things are possible and unless there is a solid foundation, everything we labor for will be in vain.

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 continuing to build their ministry on the word of God to go out into the world and show the justice of the Bible in today's context. There must be a visual presence of the church in the neighborhoods that they worship in, because then it can't be called fellowship but spaced ship. My definition, taking up space in someone's neighborhood or backyard and expecting them to come to you in greeting.

It is a dream of the Bishops to fight for justice and equality, however he is in the beginning stages and is learning when, where, and 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 them on the need for engaging in Racial Reconciliation.

There are currently a couple of Spanish Americans that are a part of the congregation, but it is mostly African Americans. 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 to seeing justice prevail in the sense of being reconciled to Christ and to others. Although there isn't much diversity, I feel and see the 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.

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.

I do get the sense that reconciliation is very important to the Bishop and he and the congregation are very receptive of the goal and journey that the church is embarking on. The next step for the congregation is to begin the groundwork in the community by picking up where they left off and also coming up with creative new ways of engaging the community by showing what the Kingdom looks like from God's perspective.