

# Guest Preacher



*Rev. Dr. Alonzo R. Smith* began his ministry in his hometown of Baltimore, Md under the leadership of Rev. Leslie Barnett Davis at Patterson Asbury AME Zion Church. While attending Patterson Asbury he met and married the love of his life the former Regina Renee Jones in September 1990. The couple are the proud parents of four children and four grandchildren.

Dr. Smith answered the call to preach in 2000 and preached his initial sermon "Don't Get Out The Boat" (Matthew 8:23-27).

He was ordained a Deacon in the AME Zion Church under Bishop Warren Matthew Brown in 2005 and ordained an Elder under Bishop Brown in 2007.

In 2007, Rev. Dr. Smith planted Damascus AME Zion Church in Baltimore, Md. God blessed the ministry with growth especially with the unchurched, unaccounted for and the unappreciated. In 2012 Bishop Brown transferred Rev. Dr. Smith to Historic Price Memorial AME Zion Church in Roanoke Virginia where he is presently pastoring.

There are challenges that Rev. Dr. Smith has to deal with as there are at many of our rural churches, but Rev. Dr. Smith embraces challenges.

Rev. Dr. Smith is on the front line in South West Virginia dealing with Social Justice issues. He co-founded the group "Justice for Keontae", a Black teenager who was gunned down by Roanoke county police. For the past 5 years, Rev. Dr. Smith has sat on the Executive Board of the Roanoke Branch of the NAACP as its religious chairperson. Rev. Dr. Smith was recognized as Roanoke's NAACP citizen of the year in 2015. Rev. Dr. Smith also sits on the board of directors for Habitat for Humanity Roanoke office. Rev. Dr. Smith taught African American Affairs class at William Fleming High School in Roanoke from 2014-2019. Rev. Dr. Smith currently is employed by Heartland Hospice where he works as a licensed and certified Spiritual Care Coordinator and Chaplain.

Rev. Dr. Smith's favorite scripture is 2nd Corinthians 5:17, Therefore, if any man be in Christ he is a new creation, old things are passed away and the new has come.



## **QUADRENNIAL THEME**

***"The Freedom Church: Refocusing on Our Purpose, Reviewing Our Practices, Retooling Our People, Reaching Our Potential"***