

Dedrick O. Rivers, Executive Director

Occupation: Senior Pastor, Ward Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church

Education: A.A., Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service, *Honors*

B.A., Political Science, Benedict College International

School of Honors

M.Div. Howard University

D.Min., Wesley Theological Seminary,

(Expected graduation date – May 2022)

Other Information: Pastor Rivers, is the Senior Pastor of Ward Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, DC. He is a native of Ridgeville, South Carolina and was ordained at Mother Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston, South Carolina by the South Carolina Annual Conference. He served as a legislative aide to Representative J. Todd Rutherford of the South Carolina House of Representatives. After college, he joined the federal government and ultimately rose to the position of Deputy Associate Commissioner in the Office of Strategy, Learning and Workforce Development at the Social Security Administration where he responsible for an annual budget in excess of 10 million dollars in the Office of Human Resources. He was responsible for aligning human resource capital with skills gaps to mitigate any disruption in the delivery of the services provided by the Social Security Administration.

Pastor Rivers is also a licensed funeral director and embalmer in the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia. He previously served as the Executive Director of the St. Jude A.M.E. Community Development Corporation in Germantown, Maryland where he led this group from a dormant status to becoming a viable community partner in Montgomery County. He also led the St. Stephens A.M.E. Church into a long-term partnership to save the church from bankruptcy and foreclosure with a tenant to occupy a daycare facility that now secures the mortgage on all church properties.

Pastor Rivers has a passion for connecting persons with resources to make life better in the communities in which he serves. He continues to provide necessary consulting services in the area of federal human resources through the many contacts he made in the federal government.