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Reverend Sharon Thompson-Journigan	Reverend William Neill	Prophetess Beverly Gibson	Reverend Yvonne Hodges	Apostle Georgia Walker	Dr. Aaron Johnson

Heritage, History and Service	Words from the President	Community Commitment	Highlights
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## “A Season to Arise and Shine”

### Fayetteville Cumberland County Ministerial Council



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#### *Heritage, History, and a Tradition of Service*

Fayetteville Cumberland County Ministerial Council, Inc. was established in 1957 during the turbulence of the Civil Rights Movement. Founding President, Dr. Aaron Johnson, along with other ministers and pastors, formed the Council to provide help and stability during this difficult stage in our nation’s history. The Council was not only formed to be a voice within the community but was also formed to promote unity and togetherness for the overall well-being for all the citizens of Cumberland County. FCCMC is a non-profit and in its 63 years, FCCMC remains one of the oldest Ministerial Councils or Alliances in Fayetteville and North Carolina, as well. The guiding principle of FCCMC is **We Are Better Together**, fostering the belief that when we come together and work together in unity, we build a better, stronger community that serves the well-being of all its citizens.

- **FCCMC** strives to promote clergy collaboration, fellowship, and unity towards achieving Dr. King’s ideal of the Beloved Community.
- **FCCMC**, with a history of 63 years, remains one of the oldest Ministerial Councils or Alliances in Fayetteville and in North Carolina
- **FCCMC** is a 5013-C, Non-Profit organization designed to serve the community and its people.



## Words From the President



I bring you greetings from the Fayetteville Cumberland County Ministerial Council. Truly the year of 2020 has caused us to navigate uncharted waters; however, despite this unprecedented year, FCCMC has remained committed and focused in holding true to our motto that *We are Better Together*. In this year of COVID-19, social unrest, elevated unemployment, school closings, as well as many places of worship also closing, it seems as though despair and darkness had plunged our community and nation into a season of uncertainty. During this FCCMC still rose to the occasion to be a beacon of light according to Isaiah 60:1, "*Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you*. As an organization, we have arisen to the occasion by continuing our work within the community. FCCMC still gave out scholarships to graduating seniors and provided and continues to provide COVID-19 testing at several of our partnering churches through the community. FCCMC still gave out scholarships to graduating seniors and provided and continues to provide COVID-19 testing at several of our partnering churches through the Cumberland County

Health Department. FCCMC still managed to give a financial grant to a grassroots organization in our community which provides a much-needed service to disenfranchised youth in our community. FCCMC still gave out scholarships to graduating seniors and provided and continues to provide COVID-19 testing at several of our partnering churches through the Cumberland County Health Department. FCCMC still managed to give a financial grant to a grassroots organization in our community which provides a much-needed service to disenfranchised youth in our community. FCCMC sponsored a *Dream to Reality Walk* in collaboration with Fayetteville-Cumberland Human Relations to focus on bringing our community together at the height of social unrest. FCCMC has also continued to be a light and support *Unity in the Community* by working with other community organizations such as Greater Fayetteville United, Fayetteville Police Dept, and Cumberland County Schools. FCCMC also procured sanitizers and masks to give away at testing sites or other community events. Additionally, FCCMC conducted radio talk shows on WIDU to provide experts on coping during the pandemic on such issues as mental health, education, voting, family dynamics, and other pertinent concerns of our community. FCCMC will continue to be that light of hope as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. proclaimed, *Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.* Most importantly, remember, *“We are Better Together,”* and may God continue to bless our community and our nation!

## Our Commitment to Community

FCCMC has a proud history and tradition of serving and giving back to the community. All donations and proceeds received from the community are quickly returned back to the community. Listed below are just a few community activities and acts of benevolence provided by FCCMC.

## Annual MLK Prayer Breakfast and Worship Service

These two events celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his contributions in the Civil Rights Movement. The Prayer Breakfast is one of the largest events held in the community with annual attendance ranging from 1200-1500.

## Annual Day of Service

This is a day of service and outreach within the community which immediately follows the Prayer Breakfast. It is promoted as *A Day on, Not a Day off*, with the hope that the volunteer service selected extends beyond one day.

## Annual Good Friday Worship Service

## Annual Scholarship and Community Awards Banquet

A minimum of \$10,000 is awarded annually to local high school graduates, with each receiving \$1,000 each. For the past five years, 12 scholarships have been awarded through the benevolence of Bill McMillan and Restore Warehouse who give \$2000 in memory of two former long-term employees. The Moses Mathis Community Award is a financial award given to assist individuals and non-profits who

diligently render services to our community. Also, annually, a Minister's Scholarship is awarded to an FCCMC member to assist in seminary pursuits. Since 2010, more than \$120,000 has been returned to our community through these endowments.

## Education Awareness Sunday

FCCMC secured City and County Proclamations naming the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in February as a day of uniting in prayer and support of our schools, Pre-K-College.

### Emergency Contingency

In times of community emergencies or community needs, FCCMC has always been counted on to help, such as assisting during hurricanes, other natural disasters, supporting Hunger and Homeless Stand Down, and most recently, the COVID 19 Pandemic. Beginning September 2020, FCCMC sponsored weekly COVID Testing at alternating church locations. Also, during the pandemic, FCCMC has acted as a liaison in encouraging pastors and churches to help Cumberland County Schools in providing additional sites for students to continue their virtual education during Plan B of alternate weeks of learning.

