

*Celebrating the Life and Legacy of*



*Senior Bishop  
Thomas Lanier Hoyt, Jr.*

*March 14, 1941 - October 27, 2013*

**Memorial Service**  
**Saturday, November 23, 2013 - 6:00 p.m.**  
**Hartford, Connecticut**

*Order of Service*

**Worship Leader**

**Rev. Arthur S. Green**  
Pastor  
Phillips Metropolitan CME Church  
Hartford, CT

**Greetings**

**Rev. Arthur S. Green**

**Prayer**

**Rev. Kelly Littlejohn**  
Associate Minister  
Pilgrim Way Baptist Church  
Windsor, CT

**Scripture**

**Psalm 34:1-8**

**Rev. Thomas A. Mills, Jr.**  
Pastor  
Grace CME Church  
New Britain, CT

**Musical Selection**

**Phillips Mass Choir**

**REFLECTIONS**

(3-5 minutes each)

**Archbishop Leroy Bailey, Jr.**  
Senior Pastor  
The First Cathedral, Bloomfield, CT

**Mrs. Lillian Graham**  
Close and Personal Friend  
Phillips Metropolitan CME Church, Hartford, CT

**Mrs. Deborah Callis**  
Close and Personal Friend  
Phillips Metropolitan CME Church, Hartford, CT

**Musical Selection**

**Phillips Mass Choir**



## **REFLECTIONS**

(3-5 minutes each)

**Rev. Dr. David L. Massey**  
Senior Pastor  
Hopewell Baptist Church, Windsor, CT  
President, Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance

**Rev. David H. Baird**  
President, Board of Directors  
Christian Conference of Connecticut

**Dr. Miriam Therese Winter**  
Professor of Liturgy, Worship, Spirituality and Feminist Studies  
Director, Women's Leadership Institute  
Hartford Seminary

Hymn

**"Blessed Be God"**

Written by Dr. Miriam T. Winter

## **REFLECTIONS**

(3-5 minutes each)

**Rev. Dr. Benjamin Watts**  
Faculty Associate in Religion and Community Life  
Director, Black Ministries Program  
Hartford Seminary

**Rev. Dr. Shelley D. Best**  
President and CEO, The Conference of Churches  
Adjunct Professor, Hartford Seminary Black Ministries Program

**Rev. Dr. Fredrick D. Belcher**  
Presiding Elder, New York - New England Region  
of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Musical Selection

**Phillips Mass Choir**

## **SPECIAL VIDEO PRESENTATIONS**

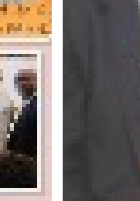
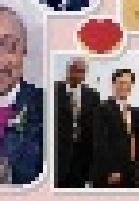
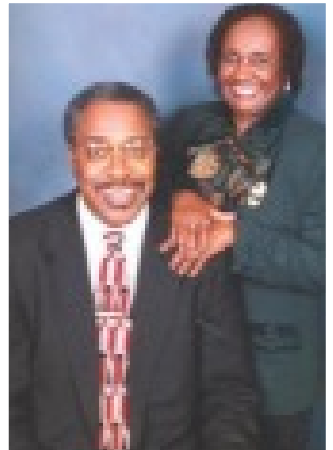
**Bishop James B. Walker**  
Presiding Prelate, Ninth Episcopal District  
of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church  
[Alaska, Arizona, California, Oklahoma, Oregon,  
Nevada, New Mexico and the state of Washington]

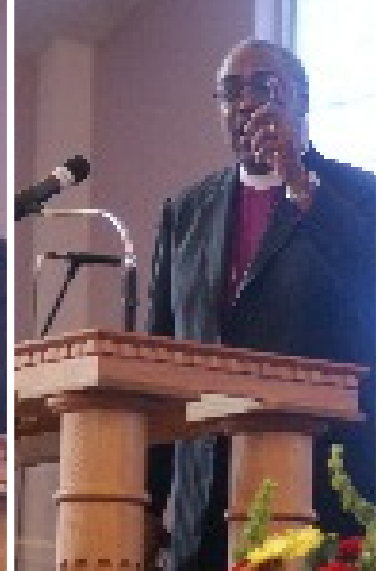
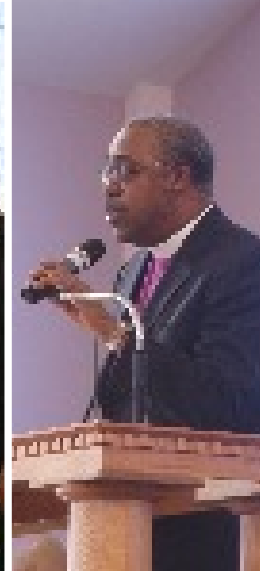
Closing Remarks

Doxology & Benediction

**Rev. Arthur S. Green**

Light refreshments will be served in the Narthex





*Celebrating the Life and Legacy of  
Senior Bishop Thomas Lanier Hoyt, Jr.*

**Bishop Thomas Lanier Hoyt, Jr., age 72, the Senior Bishop and 48th Bishop of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, was called to his eternal rest on October 27, 2013 at 2:47pm at the Specialty Hospital of Washington – Hadley, following a brief illness. The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church under the leadership of Senior Bishop Thomas I. Hoyt, Jr., and its College of Bishops, is a 143-year old historically African American Christian denomination with more than 800,000 members across the United States. The CME Church has missions in Haiti, Jamaica, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and South Africa. Thomas Lanier Hoyt, Jr. was born March 14, 1941 to Reverend Thomas L. Hoyt, Sr. and Ida Wells Hoyt in Fayette, Alabama, who both preceded him in death. Bishop Hoyt came to the Episcopal office as a preacher and distinguished scholar in theological education.**

**Bishop Hoyt's extensive academic training included the B.A. degree from Lane College, Jackson, TN in 1962, the M.Div. degree from Phillips School of Theology of the Interdenominational Theology Center (ITC) in Atlanta, GA in 1965, the Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) degree from the Union Theological Seminary in New York in 1967, and the Ph.D. degree from Trinity College, Rust College, Lane College and the Interdenominational Theological Center.**

**His ministry included pastorates of several CME churches in North Carolina and New York, along with more than twenty-five years as Professor of New Testament Studies. He has served as Assistant Professor of New Testament at the ITC in Atlanta, GA, the School of Religion at Howard University in Washington, DC, and Professor of New Testament and Director of the Black Ministries Certificate Program at Hartford Seminary in Hartford, CT. He has written more than thirty-five articles for professional journals and publications, and has shared in group projects that resulted in published books, including the influential Stony the Road We Trod: An African American Biblical Interpretation, edited by Cain Hope Felder (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992). He was a guest lecturer at Princeton University, Spring 1984. Bishop Hoyt's most renown lectures were the Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale Divinity School in 1993, one of the oldest and most prestigious lectureships in the academic community; and the 2012 Spring Martin Luther King, Jr. Lecture Series at Duke University sponsored by the Office of Black Church Studies.**

Awards and honors bestowed on Bishop Hoyt are numerous, including a visit to Pope John Paul II with a delegation from the National Council of Churches, a delegate to the World Council of Churches in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1987, and CME Representative at the World Council of Churches meeting on Faith and Order at Santiago, Spain. He served as the President of the National Council of Churches from 2004-2005. He was awarded the Consortium Ecumenism Award from the Washington Theological Consortium at the Howard University School of Divinity in 2011. He was a lifetime member of the N.A.A.C.P. and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Upon his election to the Episcopacy, Bishop Hoyt was assigned to the Fourth Episcopal District encompassing the states of Louisiana and Mississippi in 1994. He served as the Chair of the Department of Lay Ministry and Chair of the 125th CME Church Anniversary Celebration Committee. At the 2006 General Conference, Bishop Hoyt was assigned to the Seventh Episcopal District comprising 12 states in the New York-Washington and Carolina Regions. At the time of his death he served as the Chair of the Department of Finance and the Commission on the Concerns of Women in the Ministry for the CME Church.

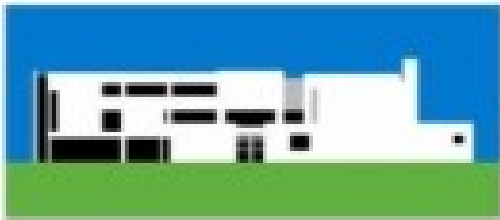
Bishop Thomas Lanier Hoyt, Jr. was a theologian, a preacher, a pastor, a visionary, a teacher, a husband, a father and a friend. He was a man of “compassion.” He stood tall and gave of his all. Bishop Hoyt loved God’s people. He was dedicated to his calling as a minister of the gospel, willing to travel to all parts of the world. As an ecumenical leader he devoted himself to the “Apostles teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers” (Acts 2:42). His legacy will live on in all that he leaves behind.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his beloved wife and soulmate to whom he was married for 49 ½ years, Ocie Harriett (nee Oden) Hoyt, two adult children, Doria of Shreveport, LA and Thomas III of Atlanta, GA; one grandchild, Ayanna; his sister, Evelena Rucker of Atlanta, GA; two brothers-in-law, Courtland Van Oden (Sandra) of California and Aaron Favors (Evelyn) of Washington, DC; one sister-in-law, Emile’ Oden Corzo of Texas; one aunt, Ida Moore (Thirman) of Birmingham, AL; special niece, Annie Doris Hall of Birmingham, AL; special nephews, Ned Hardin of Atlanta, GA and Councilman Steven Hoyt (Daphne) of Birmingham, AL; special family friend, Debra Callis, of Hartford, CT; numerous cousins, nephews, nieces, and a host of friends throughout the United States and the world. He was preceded in death by a brother, Vanderbilt Hoyt, and a sister, Anna Belle Austin, both of Alabama, and a sister-in-law, Remitha Kay Oden of Texas.

# Family Acknowledgements

The family of **Senior Bishop Thomas Lanier Hoyt, Jr.** expresses our sincere heartfelt appreciation of the love extended to our family during our loved one's brief illness and passing. We thank all of you for your prayers, calls, visits, and gifts of love that helped to uplift our spirits during this time of bereavement. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to seek comfort and strength from the Lord. May God bless you always!

First Lady Ocie H. Hoyt requests that any donations to honor Bishop Hoyt be made payable to:  
**Phillips School of Theology [Check Memo: Hoyt Scholarship Fund]**  
700 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Atlanta, Georgia 30314.  
This is the Seminary of the CME Church at the Interdenominational Theological Center,  
where Bishop Hoyt received his M.Div. degree in 1965.



## Hartford SEMINARY

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**Phillips Metropolitan CME Church**  
2500 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06120  
860-246-0049 [www.PhillipsCME.org](http://www.PhillipsCME.org)  
Rev. Arthur S. Green, Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Belcher, Presiding Elder  
Bishop Marshall Gilmore, Presiding Prelate



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