

*Reception  
to  
Welcome*



*Reverend Richard A. Stenhouse  
And  
Sharon D. Stenhouse*

*Pastor and First Lady  
Of  
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Buffalo, New York*

*Thursday, September 11, 1997*



## PROGRAMME

MASTER OF CEREMONY	NELSON TOWNSEND
LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING (1 <sup>st</sup> verse)	AUDIENCE
WELCOME	BETTYE W. WYATT VICE CHAIRPERSON STEWARD BOARD
THE OCCASION	GARNET H WALLACE VICE CHAIRPERSON TRUSTEE BOARD
REMARKS	
THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY	MARY McCOMB
THE LAY ORGANIZATION	MEREDITH ANDING
CITY OFFICIALS	
AFRICAN METHODIST MINISTERS ALLIANCE	REV. JAMES A. LEWIS, III
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES	REV. DON GARRETT
CHURCH WOMEN UNITED	BOBBIE GRAHAM
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL MINISTERS	REV. WAYNE A. JOHNSON, SR.
SELECTION	VOICES OF METHODISM
INTRODUCTION OF PASTOR	DR. CHARLES ANDERSON
REMARKS	REV. RICHARD A. STENHOUSE
SELECTION	VOICES OF METHODISM
BLESSING OF THE REPAST/BENEDICTION	REV. PEDRO CASTRO
REFRESHMENT HOUR	

## BIOGRAPHY

Rev. Richard A. Stenhouse is an ordained elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. A native of Buffalo, NY, he was educated in the Buffalo Public Schools, SUNY at Buffalo and Cologate Rochester School of Theology, Rochester, NY.

Rev. Stenhouse began his pastorate ministry in 1982 as Pastor of Bethel AME Church, Lackawanna, NY, where he served for two years. In August 1984, he assumed the pastorate of Bethel AME Church, Norwalk, CT, appointed by Bishop Richard Allen Hildebrand.

Rev. Stenhouse worked untiringly in the religious, civic, social and political realms of the Norwalk, CT community. He was affiliated with the following religious organizations: Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship (IMF), where he served as president (four years), secretary (two years), and treasurer (two years); Norwalk Clergy Association (NCA) president (two years), secretary (three years), treasurer (two years); and the Martin Luther King City-Wide Service Committee—Chairperson for twelve years.

In the civic and social realms, Rev. Stenhouse served as a member of the Board of Directors for the following organizations: Human Service Council Mid Fairfield County, secretary (two years); Norwalk-Wilton Chapter of the American Red Cross—President and Vice President; Norwalk Emergency Shelter - Vice President Broad River Congregate Home; NEON (1986); YMCA and Urban League of Southwestern Committee; Chaplain - Norwalk Police Department; Grant Application Review Committee, The Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission; Chairperson - Mayor's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Task Force; Minority Achievement Committee; Coalition for Excellence in Education; UConn-Stamford Downtown Initiatives; Norwalk Homeless Shelter - Vice President; City of Norwalk Fair Housing Advisory Committee - Chairperson; State Department of DCF Regional Advisory Council, Fairfield County Foundation Youth Council and Trial Board for the Norwalk Police Department. He also served as an Adjunct Professor at Norwalk Community Technical College. Rev. Stenhouse received the Stamford Advocate's 1994 Leadership Award for Community Service.

The success of Bethel AME Church-Norwalk, CT and its programs are accredited to Rev. Stenhouse's inspiration and leadership. Under his leadership, the church founded two non-profit corporations, a housing corporation which developed a 1.3 million dollar – 10 unit Cooperative Housing for Moderate Income Families and a two family housing unit. This is the first housing project ever undertaken by a Black religious organization in the City of Norwalk.



A transportation service was started to provide service to the greater Norwalk community with two coach buses. In January 1996, the church expanded its educational building at a cost of 305 thousand dollars. The expansion included twelve classrooms, elevator, state of the art sound system, four restrooms, renovations to equip the church for total handicap accessibility. Rev Stenhouse was Founder and Director of the Educational Center, which housed a summer enrichment program (120 students) for pre-kindergartners through high school.

On the conference level, Rev. Stenhouse held the position of secretary and statistician of the New England Annual Conference, member of the Board of Examiners, Board of Trustees, and instructor for the New England Conference Ministerial Institute.

Rev. Stenhouse is the son of Edward and Thelma Stenhouse and brother of Terrance Stenhouse, all of Buffalo, NY. He is married to Sharon Davis and they have three children and three grandchildren.



**We appreciate your presence  
here this evening.  
God bless you one and all.**

**The Reception Committee**

**Bettye M. Myatt, General Chairperson  
representing  
The Steward Board**

**Garnet H. Wallace  
Majorie H. Butler  
representing  
The Trustee Board**

**Carolyn B. Thomas  
representing  
The Presidents Council**