

A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Rev. Dr. Clay L. Barrow was reared in Windsor, North Carolina. Upon matriculating through the public school system, and graduating with honors and as a North Carolina scholar from Bertie High School in 1989, Dr. Barrow continued his educational pursuit at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 1993, he received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a double-major in Psychology and Political Science. Dr. Barrow attended the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta Georgia, graduating in 1996, and received a Master of Divinity degree with concentrations in Black Church Studies and Pastoral Care and Counseling. He went on to receive his Doctor of Ministry degree from Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, North Carolina in 2017, with the successful completion of his ministry project titled, *“Implementing a Pragmatic Model for Teaching Pastoral Care and Crisis Management to Candidates in the Western North Carolina Conference Board of Examiners of the AME Church.”* Dr. Barrow was the first Hood student to complete the D.Min. specialization in Pastoral Theology and Care, the first to complete the program in a record five semesters, and the first to complete the program with a 4.0 GPA.

Dr. Barrow’s employment career began in the educational field teaching Old and New Testament at the prestigious Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Georgia. His ministerial career began in Atlanta as a Volunteer Chaplain in the Atlanta Police Chaplaincy Corps. While there, Dr. Barrow initiated the first supervised ministry internship between the Atlanta Police Department and the Candler School of Theology. His employment continued at the Atlanta Urban Ministry, where he tutored children who resided in two battered women’s and children’s shelters, and later served as the Coordinator of Emergency Aid. He also worked as Co-Director of the Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church/Cool Girls, Inc. Joint After-School Program, which provided academic assistance to at-risk females at a local public housing community.

Upon relocating to Sumter, South Carolina in 2001, Dr. Barrow completed an internship and one-year residency of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) totaling five units at Palmetto Health Alliance located at Richland Memorial and Baptist Hospitals in Columbia, South Carolina. After the completion of CPE, Dr. Barrow began working for the Santee-Wateree Mental Health Center as a School-Based therapist, Triage Specialist, Crisis Team member, and the After-Hours Team Coordinator.

Dr. Barrow is an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) having served the pastorates of Mt. Zion in Greeleyville, South Carolina, Mt. Sinai in Lynchburg, South Carolina, Bethel/Red Bluff in Wytheville, Virginia, Clapp’s Chapel in Whitsett, North Carolina, and now delighted to serve as the pastor of Bethel- Greensboro. He serves the 2nd Episcopal District of the AME Church as the Dean of the Board of Examiners and Chair of the Legislative Task Force of the Western North Carolina Conference, Co-Historiographer and Chief Reporter of the 2nd Episcopal District. Prior to his appointment to Bethel, Dr. Barrow served Hood Theological Seminary as an Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, Director of the Center for Chaplaincy, and the Director of Supervised Ministry, and taught in both the Masters and Doctoral programs. His article was published in the magazine, *Church Executive*, where he shared his wonderful experiences at Hood.

Dr. Barrow is married to Tawana Walker Barrow, M.D., who is a psychiatrist in the Raleigh and Rocky Mount areas, and they have one 15 yr old daughter, Maia.