

Brief Biographical Sketch

James L. Lewis

I was born in Jacksonville, Florida. I am the oldest of two sons born to James and Claudia Lewis. At age three, my parents moved to West Palm Beach. Before I turned four, my mother gave birth to my brother. At that time, my father was a laboratory technician but about 1957, he became a colporteur (literature evangelist) selling Seventh-day Adventist religious books. This new position caused him to visit other cities selling the religious material. He eventually moved to Tampa, Florida. My parents eventually separated while living in Tampa. My mother decided to move to Washington, D.C. So she, my brother and I ventured to the nation's capital to live. I will always consider Washington as my home even though I was born in Florida.

I am a product of the Seventh-day Adventist church school system, having attended church school from kindergarten through graduate school. I graduated from Takoma Academy (Takoma Park, Maryland-Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, Maryland, I later transferred to Oakwood College, Huntsville, Alabama. I graduated from Oakwood in 1973 with a B. A. degree In a Theology and a minor in Accounting.

Upon graduation, I was hired as a minister by the Allegheny West Conference in 1973. I served as the assistant pastor in the Dupont Park Church in Washington, D.C., for six months until I was sent to Andrews Theological Seminary in Berrien Spring, Michigan. I graduated with a Master of Divinity in April, 1976. On June 9, 1974 I married the former Sharon Bradford while in attendance at the seminary in Michigan.

I returned back to the Allegheny West Conference territory to pastor for twelve years in churches in the state of New Jersey and Maryland. While we lived in South Jersey during my first pastorate, we were blessed with a son, James, III. While pastoring in Baltimore, I attended the University of Baltimore. During my matriculation, I completed a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in 1985.

I was called to the Allegheny West Conference (headquartered in Columbus, Ohio) to serve as the conference treasurer. This was an answer to a career dream for I wanted to become a

conference treasurer. I stayed in Allegheny West as the treasurer (CFO) and eventually the conference president (CEO) from 1988-2008.

In 2008, I was asked to be the Director of the Office for Regional Conference Ministries in Huntsville, Alabama. This was a new office that the Regional Conferences in the North American Division had opened in 1996. I worked in this position from August 2008 until I retired in March, 2018.

In August 2019, I was asked to serve as an instructor (assistant professor) at Oakwood University in the Business Information System (specifically in the Accounting Department). This is the position that I currently hold. I bring to this position years of experience in the area of Leadership and Management plus the credentials of Certified Public Accountant. I passed the CPA exam in 1994 in the state of Ohio. I am about 15-18 months away from completing my Doctor of Business Administration from Walden University. My area of study is in the area of succession planning.

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