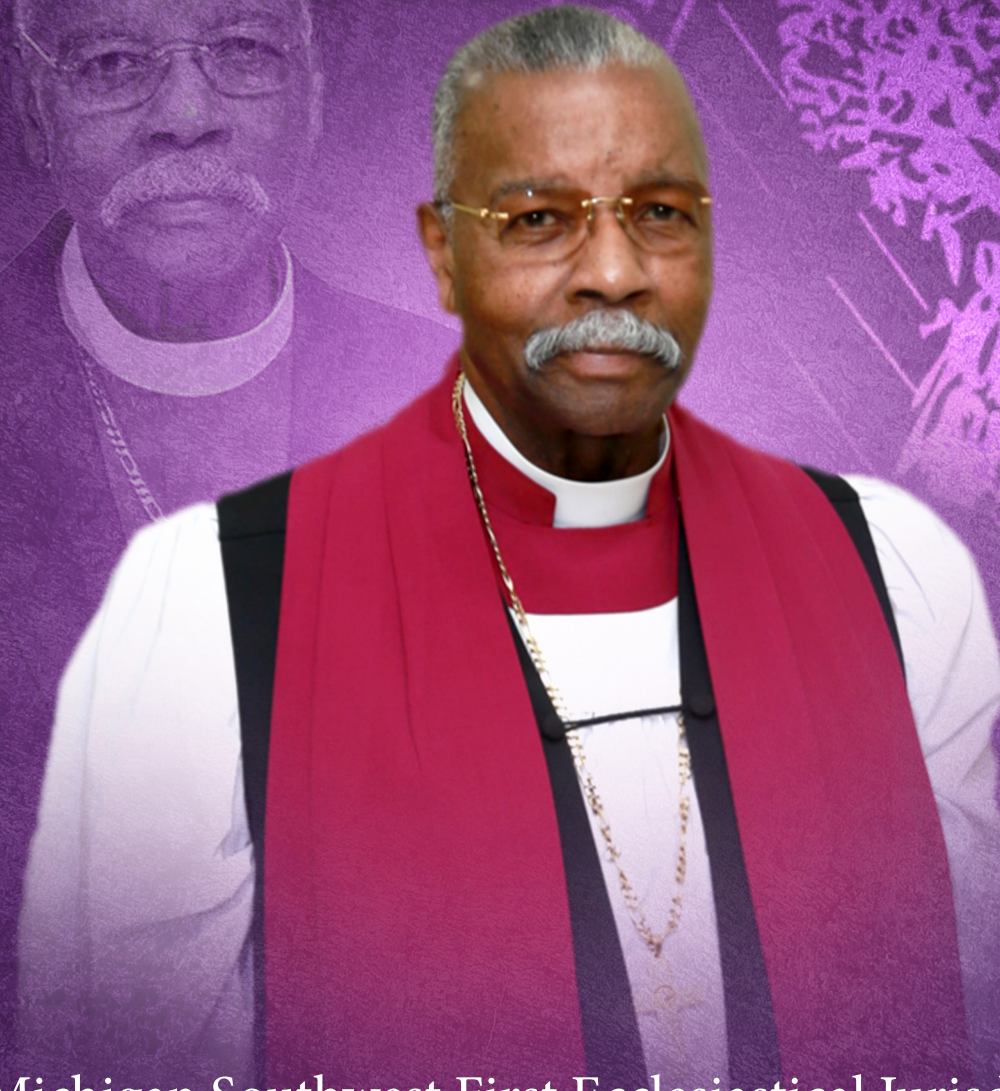




Servant of God
WELL DONE



Michigan Southwest First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

THE RIGHT REVEREND
JOHN HENRY SHEARD

March 27, 1936



November 11, 2021

**THE FAREWELL CELEBRATION
FOR**

The Right Reverend John Henry Sheard
*Prelate, Michigan Southwest First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction
Chairman, Board of Bishops Church Of God In Christ, Inc.*

Friday, the Nineteenth day of November
Ten O'Clock in the Morning
Two Thousand Twenty One
Anno Domini

Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ

*19190 Schaefer Highway
Detroit, Michigan 48235
Bishop J. Drew Sheard, Pastor*

OFFICIANTS

The Right Reverend Lawrence Marcellus Wooten
Second Assistant Presiding Bishop

The Right Reverend Michael Eugene Hill, Sr.
Assistant Secretary, General Board

with

The Right Reverend Brandon Burdett Porter
The Right Reverend Sedgwick Daniels
The Right Reverend Darrell Lynn Hines
The Right Reverend Prince Earl William Bryant, Sr.
The Right Reverend David Allen Hall, Sr.
The Right Reverend Malcolm Winslow Coby
The Right Reverend Charles Henry McClelland
The Right Reverend John Mark Johnson

The Right Reverend
JOHN HENRY SHEARD, A.A., B.S., M.A., D.MIN.

Bishop John Henry Sheard, the tenth of eighteen children, was born on March 27, 1936, to the union of Administrative Assistant O. S. and Mother Kizziah Sheard. John Henry spent his formative years in Mound Bayou, Mississippi where he often worked in the hot delta sun picking cotton for a menial wage. As a young adult, John Henry accepted the Lord as his savior and was baptized in water, later receiving the full baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Committed to supporting his parents and finding success, John worked in the field, brought home his wages and gave them to his mother. Shortly after graduating from Mound Bayou Consolidated High School in 1954, John moved to Detroit, Michigan to live with his brother, the late Administrative Assistant Willie E. Sheard. Upon arriving in Detroit, he began fellowshiping with, and later joined, Bailey Temple Church of God in Christ, under the leadership of Bishop John Seth Bailey.

A young man with ingenuity, John took on many jobs to make a living for himself and to send money home to his parents. While attending church, he noticed a young lady who he later described as “light on her feet” would soon become the apple of his eye. After inquiring of her through his uncle, Deacon Earnest Williams, John made his move, and asked Willie Mae Gordon into courtship. In August 1956, the two became one. To their union two sons were born: Bishop John Drew Sheard, Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ Inc., and Superintendent Ethan Blake Sheard, Assistant Pastor of Greater Mitchell Temple Church of God in Christ. Continuing in the ways of holiness, Bishop John and Mother Willie Mae Sheard reared their sons in the church, while serving in ministry. Bishop Sheard took great pride and joy in caring for his family, often working multiple jobs to ensure their care.

Bishop and Mother Sheard made their home in Detroit, Michigan. For sixty-four years, Bishop and Mother Sheard enjoyed a love story like no other. Their union would become a model marriage for generations. Their love for the Lord, each other, and for people made them a magnet for God’s favor and blessings.

In 1974, the young John Henry Sheard acknowledged his call to the ministry. He was ordained an Elder by the late Bishop John Seth Bailey; and in 1982, he was appointed Pastor of the Mitchell Street Church of God in Christ (now Greater Mitchell Temple). Pastor Sheard continued to ascend to new heights of impact and influence in the years to follow. In 1984, he was favored to become District Superintendent at the hand of Bishop J.O. Patterson, Presiding Bishop. In 1984, he was appointed Jurisdictional Youth Department President, and in 1986, he was once again elevated becoming a member of the Executive Board at the hand of the late Bishop Willie L. Harris.

In 1992, at the demise of Bishop Willie L. Harris, Superintendent John Henry Sheard was appointed Prelate of Michigan Southwest First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and consecrated as Bishop, a Prince in the Lord’s Church. Bishop Sheard led with dignity, distinction, and honor during his tenure as Jurisdictional Prelate, which spanned nearly thirty years. Under his leadership, the Jurisdiction enjoyed fiscal solvency, spiritual development, and exponential growth and advancement. Among his most notable accomplishments was the multi-million-dollar renovation and restoration of the Jurisdictional Headquarters, the historic Bailey Cathedral.

In 2004, Bishop John H. Sheard was elected to his first term as Chairman of the Board of Bishops Church of God in Christ, Inc. He would be elected to an unprecedented five terms as Chairman, an honor bestowed upon him by his peers in the College of Bishops. As Chairman, Bishop Sheard provided leadership, facilitating training programs for newly consecrated Bishops, raising the standard of preparation for service. From an abundance of concern and care, he oversaw the implementation of a benevolence fund to support the widows and families of Bishops at their demise. His vision included the creation of a scholarship fund to support young men and women of the church as they pursued higher education.

Bishop Sheard was satisfied and fully engaged at home as Pastor of Greater Mitchell Temple Church of God in Christ. Through his exceptional leadership, and the generosity of he and his lovely wife, a church facility was purchased without the saints ever having to pay a mortgage. Thus, providing the members with a debt free house of worship valued at well over a million dollars. Bishop Sheard fed the membership according to the integrity of his heart and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands. He prayed for, counseled with, married, buried, and blessed countless families for nearly forty years. Over the years, the church grew in size and stature to become a leading congregation in the Church of God in Christ. A consummate educator, leader, and proactive thinker, Bishop John H. Sheard embodied the spirit of a servant leader. As a visionary and entrepreneur, he served his family, community, and church faithfully.

A man of prowess, Bishop John H. Sheard attended Henry Ford Community College and later Wayne County Community College, where he earned an Associate of Arts Degree. He continued his education and earned both a Bachelor of Science and Master's Degree in Education from Wayne State University. His love for education and youth ushered him into a twenty-year-long career as a noted educator in the Detroit Public School System. During his tenure, he introduced the Social Conflict Resolution Curriculum. He served as an advocate for students and fostered relationships with parents to improve student achievement. In 1994, his humanitarian efforts afforded him the distinct honor of being awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. In 2018, Bishop Sheard was honored with a Doctorate of Ministry from the Interdenominational Theological Center.

Bishop Sheard was respected among his peers within and beyond the faith community. He was appointed to the Board of Police Commissioners of the City of Detroit and later selected by former Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer to serve on the City of Detroit Human Rights Committee. Bishop Sheard was a vocal supporter of Detroit, working in concert with other community leaders to improve the neighborhoods and schools. His reach is well documented and spans years. Bishop Sheard advised former Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, the last three Mayors of Detroit, two Wayne County Executives, members of the Judiciary, and other elected officials over the past forty years. On numerous occasions, he was a featured speaker in the Detroit City Council Chambers. During a gala event in which (then) President Bill Clinton attended, Bishop Sheard rendered a prayer so fervent that the President remarked of the impact it had on him personally. Yes, Bishop Sheard believed in the power of prayer! Known as the miracle man, he overcame triple bypass heart surgery and other ailments.

Bishop Sheard loved his family and enjoyed spending time with them. While he enjoyed the holidays, anytime with his family brought him joy. His love and commitment to his grandchildren, Kierra (Jordan), J. Drew, and Madison, great-grandchildren Jacob and Kali Drew, exuded from his smile. Bishop Sheard believed in and loved family and sought to build a righteous legacy for this family.

Bishop leaves to cherish his memory, two sons; Bishop John Drew (Karen) Sheard, Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle of the Church of God in Christ, Superintendent Ethan Blake (Gwenda) Sheard; one grandson, John Drew Sheard II; two granddaughters, Kierra Sheard (Jordan) Kelly, and Madison Sheard; one great-grandson, Jacob Sheard, and one great-granddaughter, Kali Drew Sheard; one brother Deacon Otis R. (Ethelrene) Sheard; sister in law, Mother Jessie Sheard; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins; the members of Greater Mitchell Temple Church of God in Christ and Michigan Southwest First Jurisdiction, and his beloved Church of God in Christ.

ORDER OF HOMEGOING CELEBRATION

† *Where Indicated Please Stand*

QUIET MOMENTS

† THE PROCESSIONAL The Right Reverend Dickerson L.S. Wells
Adjutant General

The Deputy Adjutant Generals
The General Board
The General Secretary
The Chairman of the General Assembly
The Board of Bishops
The Sheard Family

THE SEALING OF THE BIER

† THE HYMN OF COMFORT The Choir and Congregation
“We’ll Understand Better By and By” (page 8-9)

INVOCATION..... The Right Reverend Prince Earl William Bryant, Sr.
General Board

† THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE The Right Reverend David Allen Hall, Sr.
Isaiah 40:28-31 (page 10) General Board

THE CHORAL RESPONSE The Choir
“The Hallelujah Chant”

† THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE The Right Reverend Charles Henry McClelland
I Corinthians 15:51-58 (page 11) General Board

† THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Page 12) The Right Reverend Darrell Lynn Hines
General Board

THE SELECTION..... The Choir

THE NATIONAL TRIBUTES:

The Department of Women Mother Barbara McCoo Lewis
General Supervisor

The General Council of Pastors and Elders..... The Reverend Michael Eaddy
Chairman

The Board of Bishops Represented By The Right Reverend Albert Gailbraith
First Vice Chairman, Board of Bishops

The General Assembly..... The Right Reverend Lemuel Floyd Thuston
Chairman

The General Church The Right Reverend Joel Harley Lyles, Jr.
General Secretary

The General Board..... The Right Reverend Brandon Burdett Porter
Secretary General Board

THE SELECTION..... The Choir

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE EULOGIST The Right Reverend
Lawrence Marcellus Wooten, Sr.

SERMONIC SELECTION Choir

THE EULOGIST..... The Right Reverend Jerry Wayne Macklin
*First Assistant Presiding Bishop
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.*

†THE RECESSIONAL

WE'LL UNDERSTAND IT BETTER BY AND BY

VERSE 1

We are often tossed and driv'n
On the restless sea of time,
Somber skies and howling tempests
Oft succeed a bright sunshine,
In that land of perfect day,
When the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by.

Refrain

*By and by when the morning comes,
All the saints of God are gathered home,
We'll tell the story how we've overcome:
For we'll understand it better by and by.*

VERSE 2

We are often destitute
Of the things that life demands,
Want of food and want of shelter,
Thirsty hills and barren lands,
We are trusting in the Lord,
And according to His word,
We will understand it better by and by.

Refrain

VERSE 3

Trials dark on ev'ry hand,
And we cannot understand,
All the ways that God would lead us
To that blessed Promised Land;
But He guides us with His eye
And we'll follow till we die.
For we'll understand it better by and by.

Refrain

VERSE 4

Temptations, hidden snares
Often take us unawares,
And our hearts are made to bleed
For many a thoughtless word or deed,
And we wonder why the test
When we try to do our best.
But we'll understand it better by and by.

ISAIAH 40:28-31

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

He giveth power to the faint;
and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary,
and the young men shall utterly fall:

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run,
and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

I CORINTHIANS 15:51-58

Behold, I shew you a mystery;
We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump:
for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption,
and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption,
and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to
pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know
that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

† *Where Indicated, Please Stand*

†**The Leader:** *We affirm our faith in the Bible.*

†**The Congregation:** We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible written word of God.

†**The Leader:** *We affirm our faith in God.*

†**The Congregation:** We believe that there is one God eternally existent in three persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

†**The Leader:** *We affirm our faith in the Blessed Hope.*

†**The Congregation:** We believe in the blessed Hope, which is the rapture of the Church of God, which is in Christ, at His return.

†**The Leader:** *We affirm our faith in Repentance and Salvation.*

†**The Congregation:** We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Jesus Christ. We believe that regeneration by the Holy Ghost is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

†**The Leader:** *We affirm our faith in Jesus Christ.*

†**The Congregation:** We believe that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing for the human body in answer to believing prayer.

†**The Leader:** *We affirm our faith in the Holy Ghost.*

†**The Congregation:** We believe that the baptism in the Holy Ghost, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it.

†**The Leader:** *We affirm our faith in Sanctification.*

†**The Congregation:** We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling, the Christian is enabled to live a holy and separated life in this present world.

Amen.

**MINISTRY OF COMFORT
ENTRUSTED TO**

Clora Funeral Home
5801 East Seven Mile Road
Detroit, Michigan 48234
Phone: (313) 368-0100

INTERMENT

Roseland Park Cemetery
29001 Woodward Avenue
Berkley, Michigan 48072
Phone: (248) 541-1154

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

**The Board of Bishops
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.**

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

**National Adjutancy
Church Of God In Christ**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Family of the late Right Reverend John Henry Sheard wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation, the many comforting messages, floral tributes, prayers, and other expressions of kindness and concerns evidenced in thought and deed.

THE PRESIDIUM

THE MOST REVEREND JOHN DREW SHEARD, *Presiding Bishop & Chief Apostle*

The Right Reverend Jerry Wayne Macklin, *First Assistant Presiding Bishop*

The Right Reverend Lawrence Marcellus Wooten, *Second Assistant Presiding Bishop*

The Right Reverend Brandon Burdett Porter, *Secretary*

The Right Reverend Michael Eugene Hill, Sr. *Assistant Secretary*

The Right Reverend Sedgwick Daniels

The Right Reverend Darrell Lynn Hines

The Right Reverend Prince Earl William Bryant, Sr.

The Right Reverend David Allen Hall, Sr.

The Right Reverend Malcolm Winslow Coby

The Right Reverend Charles Henry McClelland

The Right Reverend John Mark Johnson

THE GENERAL BOARD MEMBERS, EMERITUS

The Right Reverend Charles Edward Blake, Sr., *Presiding Bishop Emeritus*

The Right Reverend Roy Lawrence Hailey Winbush

THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The Right Reverend Joel Harley Lyles, Jr.

THE BOARD OF BISHOPS

The Right Reverend Albert Galbraith, Jr., *First Vice Chairman*

The Right Reverend Roger Lee Jones, *Second Vice Chairman*

The Right Reverend William Henry Watson, III, *Secretary*

The Right Reverend Adrian Dumarr Williams, *Assistant Secretary*

THE NATIONAL ADJUTANCY

The Right Reverend Dickerson L.S. Wells, *Adjutant General*

The Reverend Glenn McKinney, *Deputy Adjutant General*

The Reverend Herman Platt, *Deputy Adjutant General*

The Reverend John Smith, *Deputy Adjutant General*

The Reverend Nickolus C. South, *Scribe*

The Reverend Kiamba Knowlin, *Adjutant Apostolic*

