



REVEREND MARK GARDNER

Reverend Mark Gardner lived in New Jersey until moving to Wilmington, Delaware in August 2015. Mark is a proud and loving father of two daughters and a son. He's married to Shirley L Gardner.

In 1984, Mark was licensed in the Gospel ministry and later ordained in 1991. Reverend Gardner studied at Middlesex County College in Edison, NJ, Morgan State University in Baltimore and Rutgers University in New Brunswick, NJ. His combined academic concentrations were history, religion, and some political science. Mark is also Certificate trained in Bereavement Support Group facilitation from the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ, and attended training in Thanatology (Study of Death) at the now closed Mount Ida College in Newton, Massachusetts.

Reverend Gardner's life of pastoral ministry, evangelism and community outreach services have enhanced his organizational skills and leadership abilities, resulting in varied employment such as Victim Rights Program Coordinator/Advocate for the City of Newark, New Jersey, Hospice Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator, and Youth Pastor. Reverend Gardner enjoys working with the multifait community to address common social concerns, his approach is eclectic, and his worldview is ubiquitous.

Some community outreach, evangelism and adjudicated youth initiatives provided by Mr. Gardner are:

- Keynote during Peace Week in October 2023 at St. Elizabeth Roman Catholic Church, titled: "The 3Gs'. Guns, Gangs or God?"
- June 2023, his Criminality vs. Theology! Which Mindset Dictates Your Behavior? TM, conference focused on redirecting behaviors in the lives of adjudicated youth.
- Quarterly talks with adjudicated youth known as Chat & Chew with the Chaplain.
- Bi-Monthly Manhood Meetings (MM) at Delaware adjudicated youth facilities (Ferris School, Stevenson House Detention Center, The Cottages, and the New Castle County Detention Center).
- Weekly Christian Sunday services titled "Suits for Sundays."
- Thawbs for Muslim residents for weekly Salah and during the Holy Month of Ramadan.
- Door to door visitation to invite residential neighbors, and business community to church activities and fellowship.



- 2017 through 2020, monthly youth fellowship named Pizza & Praise at St. Mary's Anglican Church and New Life Christian Center, both in Wilmington, DE.
- August 10, 2019, an outside community wide initiative to provide the sacrament of Baptism.
Nine people were baptized (New Life Christian Center in Wilmington, DE.)
- In October of 2016 and 2017, co-facilitated L.E.A.D., Law Enforcement Appreciation Day at New Castle Free Will Baptist Church in New Castle, DE.
- Father's Day Workshop titled: DADD Advantage, June 14, 2014, Vauxhall, NJ.
- Return to School Fest, I.L.A. Local 1233 Newark, NJ. August 2006. School supplies donated.
- Earth Day 1997, "The Earth is the LORD's Day" Psalms 24:1, empty lot clean up in Newark, NJ.

Reverend Gardner's *Resident Driven* approach can activate self-examination in the lives of adjudicated youth and/or agitate pursuit of restoration found in canon of belief system. Subsequently nurturing pursuit and development of expectant behaviors in the lives of followers from said canon.

