

# REVEREND DR. GRETA FOWLER

## *Candidate for the Episcopacy*

African Methodist Episcopal Church • Sixth Episcopal District

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Reverend Dr. Greta Fowler is a seasoned pastor, educator, administrator, and shepherd leader whose 26 years of ministry have been defined by one unwavering conviction: the church exists to walk with people — through every valley, every triumph, and every season of change. She now answers a sacred call to serve the African Methodist Episcopal Church in its highest pastoral office, offering the Sixth Episcopal District and the broader connection a leader who is equally gifted in vision and administration, in teaching and care.

### **A MINISTRY ROOTED IN PEOPLE**

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Dr. Fowler's ministry is not built from a distance. Over the course of nearly three decades, she has served as both executive pastor and senior pastor. In each role, her hallmark has been the same: she shows up. She listens. She walks alongside her people not just in celebration, but in the valleys where leadership matters most.

Those who have served under her leadership consistently describe her as a pastor who genuinely cares — one who creates space for others to grow, lead, and become their best selves. Her leadership philosophy is rooted in the tradition of the shepherd — not the shepherd who watches from afar, but the one who knows each member of the flock by name and walks among them with presence, protection, and purpose.

*"I believe the church grows when its leaders are present, not distant — when we walk with our people through the valley, not only celebrate with them on the mountaintop."*

### **THE UNCOMMON COMBINATION: HEART AND STRUCTURE**

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What distinguishes Dr. Fowler as an episcopal candidate is a rare combination that the AME Church needs at this moment in its history: the pastoral heart of a shepherd and the operational excellence of a proven administrator. In a connection that requires its bishops to be simultaneously CEOs and chief shepherds — managing budgets, clergy appointments, institutional strategy, and the spiritual welfare of thousands — Dr. Fowler brings both dimensions in full measure.

Her service to the Sixth Episcopal District and the broader connection reflects this integration. As Admissions Chair for the Board of Examiners, she has shaped the formation of those entering ministry. As Finance Chair for the Augusta North District, she has demonstrated sound stewardship of connectional resources. As Chair of Christian Education for the South Atlanta District, she has invested in the intellectual and spiritual formation of the next generation. These are not ceremonial roles — they are evidence of a leader who can lead systems, not just souls.

### **AN EXTRAORDINARY FOUNDATION**

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Dr. Fowler's academic preparation is as exceptional as it is distinctive. Before answering the call to ministry, she earned both her Bachelor of Science in Zoology (Chemistry minor) and Master of Science in Biology and Microbiology from Alabama A&M University, followed by her Elementary Education Teaching Certification from the University of Kentucky. These degrees — rooted in rigorous scientific inquiry and a passion for teaching — shaped a mind that is analytical, systems-oriented, and committed to excellence.

That same pursuit of excellence carried her into theological training. She earned her Master of Divinity from the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University, followed by her Doctor of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary, where she studied under the mentorship of the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright. As a Wright Scholar, Dr. Fowler brings to her ministry a theological formation grounded in prophetic witness, pastoral excellence, and liberation theology. Together, her academic credentials span the sciences, education, and theology — a breadth that uniquely equips her to engage the complexity of episcopal leadership, the academy, and the communities the AME Church is called to serve.

### **A TEACHER WHO LEADS, A LEADER WHO TEACHES**

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At the heart of Dr. Fowler's ministry is a gift she has carried since long before ordination: the gift of teaching. She is known as a gifted communicator who opens scripture with clarity, depth, and pastoral warmth. Her teaching ministry is not merely informational — it is transformational. She believes deeply that people are capable of growth, and she teaches in a way that calls that growth forth.

This gift has extended far beyond the pulpit. Dr. Fowler has served as an instructor with the Compelling Preaching Initiative of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, teaching workshops across the 6th, 9th, and 13th Episcopal Districts. Her influence in theological education is equally significant: she has served as Adjunct Professor of Preaching at both Candler School of Theology at Emory University and the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University. Most recently, she served as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Assistant Professor at Turner

Theological Seminary, where she shaped the formation of future ministers at the institutional level. Dr. Fowler does not simply teach about ministry — she has built the structures and curricula that train the next generation of pastoral leaders.

This commitment to formation extends to her philosophy of leadership development. Dr. Fowler is not a leader who accumulates followers — she is a leader who builds other leaders. She believes in creating space for pastors, ministry leaders, and lay members to step into their own authority and calling, offering guidance without micromanagement, accountability without control.

### **CALLED FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS**

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The AME Church today requires bishops who can lead through complexity — who can hold together the prophetic and the pastoral, the administrative and the relational, the institutional and the deeply human. Dr. Fowler does not offer a single dimension of these qualities. She offers all of them, forged over 26 years of faithful, present, grounded ministry.

She is called not to lead over the people, but to lead among them — as shepherd, as teacher, as administrator, as servant. She brings to the episcopacy a life shaped by science and scripture, by classrooms and sanctuaries, by the boardroom and the bedside.

Reverend Dr. Greta Fowler is married to Brad Fowler. They are the proud parents of one son.