

## Reverend James H. Cantrell Retirement Celebration: June 2022

### Description

Reverend Cantrell retired from the Zion Baptist Church in Avondale on April 30, 2022 after 25 years of service. Zion Baptist is the 2nd oldest African American Baptist Church in Cincinnati.

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Reverend James H. Cantrell

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Reverend James H. Cantrell is a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee where he received his childhood education in the public schools of Chattanooga. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana, and a Master of Divinity from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester, New York. During his studies at Colgate-Rochester he completed independent study on the life, theology, thoughts, and values of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his "Beloved Community."

Reverend Cantrell was licensed to the Christian ministry in April, 1969, and ordained in December, 1970.

Prior to accepting the call to the pastorate of Zion Baptist Church in 1997, he pastored in Chicago, Illinois and Savannah, Georgia. During these pastorates, Pastor Cantrell conducted summer day camps for youth, and started a \$300,000 head start program, and food pantry for the needy. He was a former trustee of Memorial Medical Center (now Memorial University Health, Savannah, Georgia).

Under previous pastorate, Zion Baptist Church increased her fellowship with other churches in the community, participated in the Amos Project, and partnered with Carmel Presbyterian Church in the Avondale Caring Network (Every Child Succeeds). On each first Sunday, Zion had a 'Community Giving Table,' in that its members gave food, clothing, and monetary gifts. Pastor Cantrell has secured grants from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health to address ongoing health and wellness issues in the church and community. Among these have been health fairs which address Diabetes education, childhood obesity, good nutrition and glucose, HIV-Aids, and blood pressure screenings. Health forums are held to address cardio health for seniors, Medicare, social security, the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) information, and healthy eating. Reverend Cantrell invited other religious denominations to participate in Zion's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Interfaith Vesper, "Keeping Dr. King's Dream of One Nation."

In the summer of 2007, a six-week Zion Summer Enrichment Program (ZSEP) was begun stressing reading, math, bible truths, and career exploration for community children, grades 4-7. Pastor Cantrell named Zion's Chapel, "The Reverend Dr. L. Venchael Booth Chapel," in honor of its former pastor and founder of the Progressive National Baptist Convention. The Chapel is used for our Children's Worship service for ages 12 and under which was begun in 2013 by Rev. Cantrell. Rev. Cantrell is a life member of the NAACP; a member of the Board of Directors of Housing Opportunities Made Equal (H.O.M.E.); treasurer of the Greater Cincinnati and Vicinity Baptist Minister's Conference; Concerned Clergy of Avondale; and was the two thousand fourteen recipient of the Health Humanitarian Award from the University of Cincinnati. During the pandemic, Rev. Cantrell made arrangements with Closing the Health Gap to allow Covid 19 testing to take place at Zion Baptist Church.

Rev. James H. Cantrell is married to Carol B. Cantrell. They have two adult children and one grandson.



**Sunday, June 12, 2022**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Oasis Conference Center**

**902 Loveland-Miamiville Rd,  
Loveland, OH 45140**

**Tickets: \$45 Adults,**

**\$20 Children**

**Tables of 10: \$450**

**Call the church office  
for additional information**

**513-751-8608**

**Date Created**

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**Author**

northavondale

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