

THE REVEREND ALICIA MARIE JOHNSON

The Reverend Alicia Marie Johnson is a pastor, scientist, and educator. She proudly serves as the 24th Senior Pastor of the Messiah Baptist Church of Brockton, MA, and is the first woman to hold this position in the church's historic 127-year existence. A native of Athens, Georgia, Reverend Johnson has always had a motivation for excellence and a caring and compassionate spirit and is committed to finding sustainable, creative and ethical ways to build healthy and thriving individuals and communities.

Reverend Johnson has earned a Bachelor's of Science in Chemistry from Howard University; a Master's of Theological Studies with a concentration in Religion, Ethics, and Politics from the Harvard Divinity School; a Master's of Sacred Theology from the Boston University School of Theology; and a Master's of Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Her focus in the study of religion is driven by her interest in the intersection between memory, identity, and religion.

As an avid learner in all aspects of her life, in addition to her formal education, Reverend Johnson has completed numerous professional fellowship programs including serving as a Pastoral Fellow with the Lewis Center for Pastoral Leadership and Excellence at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC and a Boston Bridges Fellow with the Miller Center for Interreligious Learning and Leadership at Hebrew College in Newton, MA. She also received the distinguished honor of being inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers in the 37th College of Ministers and Laity at Morehouse College and is a 2024-26 fellow in the Pastoral Innovation Network of New England at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace.

Reverend Johnson's ministry is not limited to the walls of the church. In addition to her pastoral ministry, Reverend Johnson works in the field of educational neuroscience. She sees her work as helping to bridge the gap between neuroscientific research and educational practice. Recognizing that such a gap is exacerbated in under-resourced communities, she specializes in developing evidence-based programs, initiatives, and interventions that can function outside of traditional classroom contexts. Currently, she serves as the Director of the MIT/Wellesley Upward Bound Program.

She is immensely grateful for her loving family and friends whose nurture and support have left an indelible mark on her life and prays that she will be able to find ever-expanding ways to share the joy her pursuits and connections bring with others her life touches.