

Reverend Neely Williams

Reverend Neely Williams is the Chair of the Nashville Community Coalition for Youth Safety (NCCYS) and serves as the Community Liaison to the Nashville Urban Partnership Centers of Excellence (NU PACE) a Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded project for youth violence prevention. Rev. Williams is also the Program Director of the Interdenominational Ministers' Fellowship (IMF) Peniel Initiative. She serves on the pastoral support staff of Metropolitan Interdenominational Church and the Old Ship of Zion Baptist Church where she serves as *Assistant to the Pastor*. Rev. Williams completed a one year program of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at the Veterans Administration Medical Center; obtaining Chaplaincy Certification, while preparing to receive the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology/Theology from American Baptist College and graduated Magna Cum Laude (1994). After completing her undergraduate work, she continued her pursuit of higher education and completed the work for a Master of Divinity degree from Vanderbilt University Divinity School (1998).

Rev. Williams has served as Program Director of the First Response Center in its earliest years of development, and the Administrator of the IMANI Coalition where she provided leadership to the development of a 35 agency member coalition, and the design and implementation of a linked network of services for HIV, STD and Substance Abuse services and prevention strategies, a CDC funded project. Experiences to the role of Program Director at IMF Peniel Initiative and all crime victims.

Williams is the proud mother of two and equally proud grandmother of eight. She continues to serve out of her love and passion for all people through her work in the community, as well as her work of preaching and teaching.