

Reverend Stephanie Butler Adams

Stephanie Butler Adams is the Executive Director of **The Long Beach Unity Festival Incorporated**, a 501c3 non-profit organization which she manages together with her husband, Steve Adams (Founder/President & CEO). She is an ordained Itinerant Elder in the AME Church.

Stephanie holds dual undergraduate degrees in Journalism (B.S.) & Dance (B.A.) from the University of Maryland College Park (UMCP), and a postgraduate Masters in Theological Studies (M.T.S.) from the United Theological College of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica.

Prior to transitioning from professional dance and quality assurance consulting for Fortune 500 companies, to full-time missions ministry, Stephanie sat under the tutelage of some of the best choreographers, dancers, movement analysts, and institutions across the nations including the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance (NYC), Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre (NYC), Kei Takei & Moving Earth (Japan), Improvisations Unlimited (Washington, DC), the Laban Institute of Movement (NYC), and many others.

During her more than two decades of tenure in the AME Church, Rev. Adams has served in the 10th, 16th, & 5th Episcopal Districts under the leadership of Bishops Bryant, DeVaux, Guidry, Davis, Byfield, and Fugh in numerous leadership capacities including: Pastor, Presiding Elder, Missions Coordinator & Liaison, Episcopal Administrator, and Instructor for the Board of Examiners Class on Admissions. Rev. Stephanie was one of the first candidates of the WMS Sojourners Missionary Initiative, which was the catalyst for her career and passion for international outreach and evangelism. To date, Rev. Adams holds the distinction of being the longest-serving African American Female Minister from the AME Church to serve in a FULL-TIME MISSIONARY capacity outside of the United States. She is featured in the book, **“UNASHAMED: A Global Faith Formation Window to Contemporary Missionaries”** authored by her beloved mentor, Spiritual Mother, and dear friend the late Rev. Dr. Cecelia Williams Bryant.

As Founding Director of **Spirit of Praise Sacred Artistry International**, Immediate past Connectional Director of Liturgical Dance for the Music & Christian Arts Ministry of the AME Church (MCAM), creator of **The Dancer In Me Sacred Arts & Music Training Institute**, and Immediate past **Dance Council Chair for the California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (CAHPERD)**, Rev. Stephanie creates technically sound curriculum models for dance, performing arts, & fitness. Her ministry and work have been recognized worldwide spanning Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America, and extensively throughout the Caribbean for her in-depth teaching on choreography, dance theology, Arts-evangelism, liturgical worship, cross-cultural outreach ministry, and the preached Word.

Rev. Stephanie has written and published three books: **My Body is the Temple: Encounters and Revelations of Sacred Dance & Artistry**; **Breathe, Balance, and STRETCH: Movement Meditations & Daily Devotionals for Living**; and her full-color children's book, **The Dancer in Me**, all of which are available on Amazon. She is the host and creator of a web-series and talk show, "Sistahs on Sacred Grounds", which focuses on culture, conversation, spirituality, and empowerment of women facing real-life issues and challenges in today's world.

Her signature afterschool arts enrichment program, **“Sky Kids Creative Arts in Action”** has now been implemented in 9 LBUSD elementary schools to over 500 children ages 6-12, and at the

Northpointe Community in Long Beach through collaboration with COR CDC serving over 100 youth year-round.