



**Greater Bethel
African Methodist Episcopal Church**

701 SE 43rd Street Gainesville, FL 32641

Phone (352) 376-8846 Fax: (352) 376-9880

Website: www.GBGville.com Email: ronrawlsjr@gmail.com

Rev. Ron Rawls, Pastor



Last Updated October 7, 2026

Name : The Rev. Ron Rawls

Wife : The Honorable Meshon T. Rawls, Alachua County Judge

Children : Ron III(Alana), Kiara(Cody) & Jamahl

Grandchildren : Bella, Naila, Ayani, Seth, Jai, Kai, and Anaiya

Born : October 15, 1966

Education : B.A. Religion, University of Florida
Licensed Real Estate Agent (Non-Practicing)

Ministry : October 1994- Present (Deaconate Ordination 1997/ Elder Ordination 1999)

Pastorate : August 1999- Present

Current : Greater Bethel AME Church Gainesville, FL (October 30, 2020- Present)



Ministry Responsibilities :

East Conference- Statistician, Board of Trustees (2nd Vice-Chair), Finance Committee, Conference Adjustments Committee, and General Conference Delegate

Pastoral Assignment: Greater Bethel A.M.E. Gainesville, FL

Local Responsibilities:

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. (Member & Social Action Committee Chair)

Alachua County NPHC (Member & Social Action Chair)

Alachua County NAACP (Member and 2nd Vice-President)

Eastside High School School Advisory Council (Chair)

Alachua County Public Schools District Advisory Council



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BIOGRAPHY

Reverend Ron Rawls is a pastor, community activist, and prophetic voice rooted in Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Gainesville, Florida, where he was born and raised. He graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion. Reverend Rawls was ordained as an itinerant deacon in 1997 and an itinerant elder in 1999. He received his first pastoral appointment in 1999 and since, has served congregations in Chiefland, Trenton, Jasper, and St. Augustine, Florida.

As an itinerant elder, Reverend Rawls is fully aware that social justice is in the DNA of AMEs and he continues to exemplify the importance of the church being positioned in the forefront of the pursuit of justice. He is widely known for his intense and aggressive activism in Jasper, St. Augustine, St. John's County, Gainesville, Alachua County and the State of Florida. He is among a small group of civil rights leaders who challenged the city of St. Augustine and won. He follows in the footsteps of Presiding Elder F. D. Richardson, Dr. Robert B. Hayling and Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr in their pursuit of justice.

Reverend Ron Rawls is a locally rooted spiritual leader in Gainesville, Florida who combines **faith-based ministry** with **community activism**. He's known for his deep commitment to justice, generational vision, and a ministry ethos grounded in confronting issues, educating others, and building meaningful, lasting change.

Being mentored by Dr. Robert B. Hayling, the father of the Civil Rights movement in St. Augustine, is an experience that Reverend Rawls values and relies on in expanding his work in the ministry. He approaches ministry from a three-legged perspective believing that our ancestors are pushing us forward by: (1) Confronting (2) Educating and (3) Building. He envisions us being the head and not the tail, being above and not beneath and having the discipline to leave an inheritance for our children's children and a legacy for our descendants. Reverend Rawls is married to the Honorable Meshon T. Rawls, County Court Judge in Alachua County. They have three children and seven grandchildren who completely occupy his heart. GranFriday is his brand.