

Hope Beyond Hope: A Pre-Advent Conversation with the Rev. Jabulani McCalister



November 20, 2025

5 p.m. PT / 6 p.m. MT / 7 p.m. CT / 8 p.m. ET

The Rev. Jabulani McCalister was born and raised in Michigan. Pastor McCalister has achieved many things over the years. For example, he received his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Michigan (1994). While attending his junior year his undergraduate program, he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior at New Hope Baptist Church, Ann Arbor Michigan under the leadership of the late Rev. Dr. Albert J. Lightfoot, Jr. (1993). Shortly thereafter, he secured a Master of Social Work from Wayne State University (1998). During this program, he accepted his call to preach the Gospel and was subsequently licensed to preach at Greater Christ Baptist Church (GCBC) under the leadership of Rev. Dr. James C. Perkins (2001). He served in various ministries at Greater Christ Baptist Church and worked as a School Social Worker for the Highland Park School District (Highland Park, MI).

Serving at GCBC sparked the need to pursue more specialized professional training in ministry. Thus, he secured a Master of Divinity from Boston University School of Theology (2005). While in Boston, he served as co-Youth Pastor for the First Baptist Church of Randolph, MA with his wife, Rev. Nikita McCalister. He was ordained in 2005 to the Gospel ministry at GCBC and served as the Assistant Pastor of Ministry Development. He also, served as an Adjunct Professor teaching the Bible at Oakland Community College (Royal Oak, MI Campus). Pastor McCalister mostly recent served as the Senior Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Providence, Rhode Island. On July 21, 2019 he began his ministry as Senior Pastor at The Covenant Baptist Church, West Bloomfield, Michigan.

Pastor McCalister has also been appointed to various leadership roles within the American Baptist Churches (USA). He was a member of the planning team for the National Gathering of American Baptist Youth (2008) and the Administrative Ministries Team (ABC-MI). He served as the Vice President of the Minister's Council of Rhode Island, Vice President of the Minister's Council of Road Island, At-Large Member of the National Minister's Council Board of Governors, member of the Standing Committee on Ordination and Ministry (ABCORI), President of the Ministers Alliance of Rhode Island, and Co-Leader of the Community Chaplain Corps helping to facilitate reconciliation, healing, and communication between, faith communities, law enforcement and the community.

Serving in these ministries, the larger community, and preaching and teaching across the country has allowed Pastor McCalister to use his gifts, skills, talents, and abilities all to the glory of God. Although Pastor McCalister has accomplished many things and has many work experiences, he wishes to fulfill his destiny as a soul winner for Jesus Christ through leading others, by example, to God's throne of mercy. His recent book, *Hope Beyond Hope*, conveys the source of his abundant service.

Pastor McCalister and his wife, Rev. Nikita G. McCalister are the proud parents of two wonderful children.

Pastor McCalister's book *Hope Beyond Hope* is a powerful Christian devotional that speaks directly to weary souls and struggling believers. Written by Pastor Jabulani McCalister, this devotional draws from over twenty years of ministry and real-life challenges in multicultural church leadership. Each entry blends heartfelt storytelling with biblical inspiration, addressing the deep need for faith, perseverance, and emotional healing through God's Word.

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