

I am happy to forward this information to you in the Gulf Mission Center. Derrick is an invaluable resource that will most assuredly benefit the Southern Field, and more specifically, the Gulf Mission Center. In fact Derrick will be joining us for several weeks to assist in building a leadership team in the Moss Point Emerging Congregation. Earlier in the year Derrick spent time in the Bayou la Batre Congregation as a consultant in assisting those Saints to more ably carry the mission and message of the master to the needs of that diverse community.

I welcome Derrick into our midst and look forward to the ministry that he will be able to bring. I trust that you will give him your full support; and more importantly, that you will call on him to share his special gifts and talents within your unique communities.

Blessings to all as we move forward as committed disciples in community,

Geo

Dear Friends,

I have good news. Several weeks ago at the Multi-Cultural Invitational Ministries weekend at Bluff Springs, Derrick Williams asked to speak with me. He shared a growing sense of call to serve more intentionally in ministry in the Southern USA Mission Field. I was delighted by Derrick's testimony because I knew the impact Derrick's ministry was already having in several Southern field congregations. I also had been telling Derrick when I encountered him in Temple hallways, "Derrick, you should be a minister in the Southern field"

I came back from the Invitational Ministries event and began to engage those people who work with and supervise Derrick's leadership on the Diversity Team (Becky Savage) and African-American Ministries Team (Stassi Cramm), plus Jim Slauter and Scott Murphy. Consensus was reached: 60 to 70 percent of Derrick's time is now assigned to the Southern USA Mission Field, and he will continue to provide leadership on the Diversity Team and African-American Ministries Team (40 to 30 percent).

Derrick and I have agreed that he will serve as a Southern field Congregational Consultant, with specific attention given to diversity opportunities, invitational ministries and witness, leadership development, and the revitalization of congregational life.

Already several of you have experienced Derrick's rich ministry and ability to bridge cultures, build relationships, and help congregations discover missional opportunities and strategize on how to meet God in mission. Even before the decision was made to move Derrick into the Southern Field, he had already agreed to and approval was given for him to spend several weeks in March working with the Moss Point leadership team to develop leaders.

I am celebrating Derrick's new role in the Southern Field, believing that God has been opening doors and that Derrick's transition into the Southern Field began at the Signal Community Events.

Please join me in welcoming Derrick to the Southern Field Leadership Team. After further discussion and after World Conference, you will receive additional information on how Derrick will provide leadership in the Southern field.

Linda