

# Reverend Shakeema North

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A native of Newark, New Jersey, Reverend Shakeema North serves as the Youth Pastor of the historic Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn, New York under the pastoral leadership of The Reverend Doctor Gary V. Simpson.

“Shak” as she is so affectionately known, has dedicated herself to helping the younger generation. In her preaching, teaching and mentoring, she has made it abundantly clear how important it is for young people to know who they are, whose they are and to commit themselves to something beyond themselves.

Shakeema is committed to reaching inner city youth from disadvantaged backgrounds and believes that the church can be a quality place where they can come to receive living water. Under her leadership and vision, the youth ministry of Concord Church has grown rapidly – reaching over 100 youth in its weekly youth bible study – and at every turn, youth from every walk of life are empowered to be agents of change and encouraged to strive for greatness in every area of their lives.

Rooted and grounded in the church, Shakeema was baptized at the age of eight at the First Hopewell Baptist Church in Newark, New Jersey, which was then under the pastoral leadership of the late Reverend Robert H. Johnson. Shakeema was an active member of First Hopewell for fourteen years.

Shakeema later joined the Elmwood United Presbyterian Church in East Orange, New Jersey where the Reverend Robert N. Burkins, Sr. is pastor. It was there that Shakeema received her call to ministry. She was elected and ordained to the office of elder at the age of 24, making her one of the youngest persons ever to be elected to that position in the history of Elmwood Church. During her time at Elmwood, Shakeema served as the leader of ‘The Truth’ Ministries, the youth and young adult ministry of Elmwood Church.

Shakeema has an exceptional ability to develop holistic and inclusive youth development initiatives. She is skilled at designing strategic programs, preparing thought-provoking workshops and seminars, facilitating community-based campaigns, and improving overall organizational productivity. The favor of God has given Shakeema opportunities to preach, teach and provide leadership in various settings and in places as near as Newark, NJ and as far as Nairobi, Kenya.

Shakeema earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science (cum laude) from North Carolina A&T State University; where she also was a member of the Lady Aggies Women’s Basketball Team. In addition, she holds a Certificate in Internet Technologies from New York University and a Certificate in Christian Ministry from New York Theological Seminary; where she also received the Master of Divinity degree. She was ordained to the gospel ministry on May 18, 2014 by The Concord Baptist Church of Christ (American Baptist Churches). She is a Fellow of the Black Theology and Leadership Institute at Princeton Theological Seminary, a certified Youth Chaplain under the National Association of Youth Chaplains, Inc. and an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.