

The Reverend Canon Frederick B. Williams Episcopal Church of the Intercession

“At the Episcopal Church of the Intercession where I have served as senior priest since 1972, this ministry is the continuation of work started in 1846.

Religious institutions in Harlem are dedicated not just to the spiritual support of the community but also to providing economic development, housing and social services for the enrichment of the lives of our residents.

Leaders of faith throughout the centuries have been seers and visionaries. Their radical sense of justice and their uncompromising belief in the human potential are their trademarks. This is especially true of the American Black Community in general and the Village of Harlem in particular.

If we are not faithful in this ministry, then we become unfaithful to the call of God.”

The Very Reverend Dr. James A. Kowalski, Dean The Cathedral of Saint John the Divine

“The Cathedral is proud to be at the gateway of Harlem. Built to be a cathedral for all people, this exhibit helps tell the story of the enormous contributions of Harlem to American and to world culture. Even before the 1892 Ellis Island experience that launched the building of this Cathedral, Africans and African-Americans were part of the fabric and foundation of this Nation. May the great Gospel Tradition and the art of Harlem help all of us focus on how freedom, opportunity and justice will make this Nation stronger, and brighten our light as a beacon of hope to the world.”

Imām Al-Hājj Tālib 'Abdur-Rashīd Mosque of Islamic Brotherhood Inc.

“When one examines the role that religion, religious institutions and spiritual and religious leaders have played in Harlem, it must be understood that like the African continent itself, Harlem is and always has been a village of diverse spiritual and religious traditions. Major amongst these religions and traditions have been those of Al-Islām, the faith of the Muslims.

At least a third of those Africans brought by force across the Middle Passage from the Senegambian region of West Africa to North America, were Muslims.

African Americans who historically declared themselves to be Muslims have been and continue to be, part of the historical legacy and consciousness of Harlem. There are now nine mosques in the village of Harlem, whose collective population surpasses that of Atlanta, Georgia. Harlem’s vibrant Muslim presence should surprise no one. The seeds of the Muslim faith were planted there long ago, and they have now blossomed into a still-growing, mighty baobab tree.”

The Reverend Dr. James. A. Forbes, Jr. The Riverside Church

“Believing that the future lies with our children, The Riverside Church has made a major financial commitment to teacher training in Harlem. We have also demonstrated our deep concern for the health of our neighborhood via the Community Health alliance, which has received major funding from Riverside and maintains close ties with the church. In addition, we are working to show that multicultural cooperation can be a powerful enrichment within a community, and our doors are always open to people of the neighborhood for religious and social services. Many of our members are area residents, so it is a vibrant, win-win relationship that we trust will benefit us all well into the future.”

**The Late Reverend Dr. Ollie Wells, Sr.
Union Baptist Church**

“There would never have been any social/racial justice without the church. There would never be any indication of it. Imperialism, racism, capitalism and all kinds of prejudicial social practices would run rampant if it weren’t for the church.”

**Bishop Norman N. Quick
Childs Memorial Temple Church of God in Christ**

“The Harlem community has become a small example of the melting pot idea. It is estimated that there are 400 churches in Harlem. I have had the privilege to pastor one of those churches, Childs Memorial Temple Church of God in Christ, since 1973.

Our programs have consistently included education, social and political involvement in the church and the community. I believe the impact has been significant and has extended to more than two thousand children enrolled in our educational programs. The programs include, Grace Temple Day Care Center, Childs Memorial Christian Academy and the New York Southeast Bible Institute.

Childs Memorial for me is the greatest place in the world, and it is in Harlem. I thank God, He has given me a meaningful and significant life in Harlem.”

Imam Izak-EL Mu'eed Pasha Masjid Malcolm Shabazz

“Masjid Malcolm Shabazz, founded by Malcolm X, himself, in 1956, has pioneered unprecedented bridges of partnership between municipal / state government, and faith-based community organizations that have led to the emergence of Lower Harlem as a viable place to live and work.

Masjid Malcolm Shabazz has been a builder of bridges between the Muslim Community and critical socio-economic and political institutions of our society on the international, national and local levels.

In the past ten years, Malcolm Shabazz Development Corporation has sponsored, rehabbed or developed numerous units of affordable housing in the Harlem corridor. Malcom Shabazz Development Corporation is a sponsor of the Malcom Shabazz Gardens and Renaissance Plaza.

The Community of Malcom Shabazz Masjid continues to provide an influential voice and vision in the Harlem Community for a better future through mutual cooperation and the coalescence of community resources.”