

James D. Gailliard Biographical Sketch

Visionary, pioneer, leader, humanitarian, and philanthropist, Pastor James David Gailliard has committed his life to helping people and places thrive. At the intersection of pastoral ministry and public policy he has formed a collaborative model of human, socio-political-economic and community development.

He is the Organizing and Senior Pastor of Word Tabernacle Church which has a physical campus located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, and an online campus, known as E-City. Under his leadership the church has grown from a church plant of 14 people to a mega-church serving thousands of families within more than twenty North Carolina Counties, several states including Virginia, New York, and Alaska, as well as internationally including Singapore, India, the United Kingdom, and Nigeria. His vision has given birth to nine independent, yet collaborative Centers addressing Capacity Building; Childhood, College & Career Readiness; Culinary Arts & Hospitality; Faith & Family; Health & Wellness; Leadership Development & Capacity Building; Media & Broadcast and Performing Arts & Worship – all housed within The Impact Center, located in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

Pastor Gailliard served two consecutive terms in the North Carolina General Assembly becoming “living history” as the only person of color to be elected to represent House District 25. During his two terms, the Honorable James D. Gailliard introduced over 35 Bills, co-sponsored numerous others, held two Governor appointments and served on five of the most critical Standing Committees, including Health and Education. As a Commissioner of MyFutureNC, he was one of the architects of the statewide educational attainment goal. Most recently, he was appointed to the North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission.

His academic background is an unusual combination of theology, counseling, and business administration. As a Morehouse man he was named to both Honor Roll and Dean's Lists, and he is a member of the Board of Preachers of Morehouse College.

In 2016, Pastor Gailliard was named the Distinguished Citizen by the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce. Serving on several boards, he is the Founder/Chairman of The REACH Center, Inc, the non-profit int of Word Tabernacle Church. In 2023, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees for Elizabeth City State University. Pastor Gailliard has been recognized for his longstanding and steadfast commitment to his community as the recipient of the 2023 President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award.

James David is a proud husband to Angela; father to Matthew, Jada, Jasmine, and Jacey; and grandfather to Makalya, Kyla and Xada. Affectionately known as Pastor G, he is the mentor, spiritual father, son, and brother to many. To unwind he can be found on his Harley Davidson or shooting a game of pool.