

## Biographic Sketch

### **The Reverend W. Kenneth Williams, D. Min. Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Rochester**

Pastor Ken is married to Peggy Nowling Williams, an ordained American Baptist minister. The family includes: daughter, Erin, a paralegal in a downtown Rochester law firm, and her two sons, Gavin, born in 2000, and Brendan, born in 2009; son Adam and his wife, Molly, live in Buffalo, NY, where Adam serves as youth pastor; son by marriage, Gregg Nowling, a public school media specialist, of Indianapolis, IN, and his daughter, Shae, born 1997; daughter, Courtney Bailey, also residing in Indianapolis, an assistant manager of a public school cafeteria, her husband, Jason, and their son, Jaxon, born 1999.



Pastor Ken has published several articles on subjects ranging from the personal spiritual life to religion and public policy:

He has authored a Lay Study Course for the American Baptist Churches of New York State entitled “For Freedom’s Sake: Baptist Heritage in Polity and Practice.”

- He has served as Scholar-in-Residence with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Policy.
- He has been involved in the Building a Covenant for a New America effort, an anti-poverty movement sponsored by Sojourners/Call to Renewal.

Pastor Ken’s career path has provided him with opportunities for self-renewal, service, and leadership responsibilities:

- In his travels, Dr. Williams has visited American Baptist mission stations in Southeast Asia and in Cuba.
- Has served in the Rochester area as Executive Minister of the American Baptist Churches, Rochester/Genesee Region and as pastor of the Baptist Temple in Brighton.
- Earlier in his career he served as pastor of Hyde Park Union Church in Chicago, IL, and as Associate Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Waukesha, WI.
- He has served on the Boards of Cameron Community Ministries, Fairport Baptist Homes, and is a LifeTrustee of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, his alma mater, Class of 1976.
- His Doctor of Ministry degree was conferred by McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago in 1985.
- He is a recent graduate of the Nehemiah Leadership Network training course for transformational pastors.
- He has been a member of the Eastman-Rochester Chorus.

Williams’ vocational interests include roles in emergency services where he has become a specialist in chaplaincy to first responders. In 1979 he received a commendation from the Wisconsin Division of the American Trauma Society for his work as an instructor in field assessment of psychological behavior. Additionally, the Brighton Fire Department, Rochester, NY, has recognized him for his role as Chaplain and Critical Incident Stress Officer. Williams has been an active member of the Brighton Fire Department since 1989. He was an organizer of the Monroe County Critical Incident Stress Management Team.

*“First Baptist Church has a legacy of being theologically progressive, biblically literate, programmatically innovative, and committed to ministries that touch individuals, families, and all of society in the name of Jesus Christ. I look forward to the good labors required to have this congregation continue and build upon this legacy.”*

**Pastor Ken**