



*The Place Where Life Begins*

**Bishop W. James Thomas, II, D. Min.**  
*Senior Pastor*

**BISHOP'S MISSIVE #203**  
**(Released May 1, 2026, A.D.)**

In light of recent Supreme Court decisions affecting voting laws—including ongoing changes in how the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is interpreted, and the most recent ruling in *Louisiana v. Callais*, it is necessary for the Church to speak with clarity, both pastorally and as a voice within the Black community.

We cannot ignore what we are seeing. There is credible concern that these rulings will make it more difficult for Black communities to secure fair representation and equitable access within the democratic process. History reminds us that access to the ballot has never been automatic for our people—it has been fought for, prayed for, and paid for with sacrifice. Because of that history, indifference is not an option.

As a Church, we affirm that justice is not a political talking point; it is a biblical mandate. We are commanded to “do justice.” When systems raise legitimate questions about fairness and equity, we do not retreat—we respond with clarity, conviction, and the understanding that this is a sacred matter. Any effort that diminishes or silences the Black voice must be taken seriously and addressed with urgency.

Let me be clear: our response must be both faithful and responsible. We will not be silent. We will not be careless. We will not be divided. We will remain informed, engaged, and anchored in our faith.

We must also insist that those entrusted to represent us act decisively to protect and strengthen voting rights, ensuring safeguards against racial discrimination. Prayer remains essential—but it is not our only response. We must also organize, educate, and mobilize to preserve what others have sacrificed to secure.

Civic engagement is not a replacement for our faith; it is an expression of stewardship. We honor God not only in worship, but in how we participate in the world. Our voice matters. Our vote matters. Our presence matters. Our witness matters.

So let us pray with clarity, engage with wisdom, and stand with courage.

With pastoral conviction and care,

Bishop W. James Thomas, II, D.Min., Senior Pastor

