

## **BISHOP JEWELL H. THOMAS, JR.**



Bishop Jewell H. Thomas, Jr., is a native of Gadsden, AL. After graduating from the Etowah County School System, he attended Gadsden State in Gadsden, AL, where he majored in Mathematics and minored in Chemistry. Then he acquired a seminary degree from Daniel Payne College in Birmingham, AL. In 1969, Bishop Thomas married the former Gwynn Stegall. They were blessed with two biological children and six adopted children.

After serving in the Vietnam War and being honorably discharged from the military, he worked as an engineer at the Goodyear plant in Gadsden for 22 years before starting a construction and remodeling business that has been in operation for over 40 years. In 2018, he also became the owner and general manager of House of Solace Funeral Services, LLC.

In 1964, he joined Lula Street A.O.H. Church of God under the leadership of Elder Lovely Crowe. In 1967, Bishop Thomas was called into the ministry and ordained an elder. In 1976 under the auspices of Senior Bishop Jasper Roby, he began pastoring churches in Etowah, Talladega and Calhoun counties. During his tenure with the A.O.H. Church of God, he also served as an overseer and member of the National Executive Board. Following the split in the A.O.H. Church of God, Bishop Thomas helped to form the Apostolic Church of Promise, Inc., in 2002. After being set aside as a bishop-elect for two years, he was consecrated as a bishop in 2004.

Besides being a member of the Board of Bishops and the National Executive Board, Bishop Thomas currently serves as the diocesan bishop over the Alabama Diocese and the supervisory bishop over the National Mothers Department, National Missionary Department, National Publication Department and National Licensure Board. He also pastors Greater Lula ACOP in Gadsden, Smith Chapel ACOP in Anniston and Washington Street ACOP in Alexander City, AL.