

The History of St. Luke A.M.E. Church

The AME church in the Virgin Islands, as was mentioned in the resolution, was established out of a crisis, in the year 1920.

From then to now, ten ministers have pastored St. Luke, leaving their mark on the church and the community they served. I wish to highlight these ministers and their most notable contributions.

Our Founder, Rev. Reginald Barrow, was appointed the first pastor of the first AME church in the Virgin Islands, St. Luke.

The second minister to pastor St. Luke was Rev. Samuel Christian Chase. He is noted for securing the deeds to the church property and building the stone walls of the church.

The third minister was the Rev. Arthur F. Roberson. Rev Roberson died while pastoring at St. Luke. His wife, Mrs. Anna Roberson, continued the work under the supervision of the presiding elder.

In 1940, Rev. David S. Williams became the pastor of St. Luke. He is noted for saving the property from being sold at Public Auction and completing the building of St. Luke.

In 1956, Rev. Vincent H. A. Gordon, a native of St. Croix was appointed to St. Luke. He pastored St. Luke for 22 years. He is noted for completing the parsonage, rebuilding the altar and pulpit out of stone, organizing boy scout and girl scout troops. He is also noted for bringing the Caribbean Community school

under the administration of St. Luke and for having it certified by the department of Education.

In 1978, Rev. Peter J. N. Stephens pastored St. Luke for four years. He is noted for renovating the building and establishing a nursery in the parsonage, the St. Luke Child Care Center.

In 1982, Rev. Louis A.C. Davis was assigned to St. Luke. Under his leadership, Rev. Joycelyn Dowdye and Rev. Arner Boissiere were ordained ministers in the AME church. Rev. Davis served for 28 years until his passing on October 27, 2010. He is noted for paying off the church mortgage, renovating the parsonage, adding two extensions to the church, providing a kitchen, fellowship hall, office/classroom spaces, adding additional restrooms, constructing a ramp at the back and front entrance of the church, establishing a feeding program and an afterschool program.

On April 10, 2011, Rev. Phillip Walcot was assigned to St. Luke. He pastored St. Luke for four years. He is noted for establishing a class leader system and the appointment of a Junior Stewards Board

On May 28, 2015, the Rev. Carlos W Perkins, a native of Jamaica, was assigned to St. Luke. Rev. Perkins served for three years, working to empower others through planning and implementing ministry opportunities and activities. He is noted for leading the church in a vision campaign to raise funds to purchase a new parsonage, remodeling the altar, renovating

the bathrooms, and adding Air-conditioning to the fellowship hall.

On September 28, 2018, the Rev. Jermaine Mulley, the second native son of St. Croix, was assigned to St. Luke. Rev. Mulley served for eight years. He encouraged creative leadership in ministry that catered to the people's needs. He is noted for establishing a Media Ministry with livestream services on Facebook and YouTube and establishing online giving.

The AME church is still ministering to the spiritual, social, and emotional needs in our community. On March 20, 2026, St. Luke AME Church will be celebrating its 106th Anniversary. We have come this far by faith. To God be the Glory.