

## **The 2001 Hampton University Minister's Conference: At A New Level**

By Dr. Suzan D. Johnson Cook

The 2001 Hampton University Ministers Conference took us to a new spiritual level. This was my 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive year in attendance and it was strong. The gathering of more than 1,500 delegates representing some 6,000 church leaders, the largest gathering of African American Church leaders in the world, proved to be an exciting endeavor.

Led by President Walter S. Thomas, Pastor of the New Psalmist Baptist Church in Baltimore, MD., and his committed team of officers, the Ministers Conference had as its theme: Reclaiming the Prophetic Position of the Preacher. Invited guest preachers and prophets were nationally acclaimed and spiritually appointed.

Conference Preacher, Dr. Jackie McCullough and Morning Preacher, Rev. John Guns, exegeted the word to help us reclaim our positions. Dr. Dennis Proctor, Pastor of Pennsylvania Avenue AME Church, Baltimore, MD., dealt with reclaiming Prophetic Lifestyles.

His insights, humor and information were substantive. Bishop Adam J. Richardson of the AME Church, with his wonderful scholarship, led us in Reclaiming Prophetic Preparations; and Bishop Noel Jones, of California who is internationally making an impact on Christendom, led us in Reclaiming Prophetic Passion. He was relevant, real and down to earth as he examined some of the reasons we lose our passion.

There was shouting, singing, clapping, a chorus of "Amens" and an overwhelming sense of the presence of God.

With the Conference's Co-Directors for the Choir Directors & Organist Guild, Dr. James Abbington and Royzell Dillard, there was a blend of the sacred.

This year, 2002 will culminate the leadership of President, Dr. Walter Scott Thomas. As an officer who has worked closely with him, I wish to applaud him for his leading efforts and for taking us to new heights in the Lord.