



FIFTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE RIGHT REVEREND CLEMENT W. FUGH
PRESIDING BISHOP

April 2, 2018

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE LINDA BROWN THOMPSON
c/o Reverend Shirley Heermance, Pastor
St Mark African Methodist Episcopal Church
Topeka, KS

Dear Family:

*“Some are born great,
Some achieve greatness,
And some have greatness thrust upon them.”
(William Shakespeare)*

The Connectional African Methodist Episcopal Church, in general, and the Fifth Episcopal District, in particular, join with you in the celebration of the life, loves and labors of the late Mrs. Linda Brown Thompson.

Those who knew her best, and those who observed her attitude toward service, all attest that the notoriety that was *thrust* upon her did very little to change the core values that inspired her from a very early age. All Linda Brown wanted that year was an opportunity to attend Summer School. Her parents, the Rev. Oliver and Mrs. Leola Brown, had the courage to take on the challenges of the racial cast system of the 1950's to make her dream a reality. In so doing, they opened the door to “equal education” for her and for generations following. Her life would never be the same. Her story will be forever chronicled in the pages of American history as a drum major for education.

Mrs. Brown-Thompson continued to serve St Mark AME Church, Topeka, KS, in whatever capacity she was needed, including that of church musician for over forty years, and to share her story as a source of inspiration to all who asked.

Thank you, Brown Family, for sharing Linda with the Church and the World.

Sincerely,

Clement W. Fugh

Clement W. Fugh
Presiding Bishop, Fifth Episcopal District
President of the Council of Bishops
African Methodist Episcopal Church