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Local Pastor Is Elevated To Bishopric

Rev. D. O. Walker is Recipient of Honor

Special to The Courier-Express

Kansas City, Kan., May 22—The Rev. Dougal Ormonde Walker, pastor of Bethel AME Church, 551 Eagle St., Buffalo, today was named a bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the faith's quadrennial conference here.

The Rev. Mr. Walker was elevated to one of six vacant bishops on the first ballot. Two other clergymen, the Rev. L. H. Hemingway, Washington, and the Rev. Joseph Gomez, Cleveland, also were made bishops.

Out of a total 1,846 ballots cast, the 75-year-old Buffalo churchman received 918, or 34 more than the 924 required for election.

Bishop Walker, married and living at 227 Cedar St., is well known in the Queen City for both his religious and political activities. In November of 1945 he made a determined but unsuccessful bid for nomination as coalition candidate for Buffalo's Ellicott District councilman. He also was in the forefront of efforts to get more educational and recreational facilities in the district.

Prior to this, he had served on the Buffalo War Council and the Housing Authority Advisory Committee. Born in Layou Vincent, British West Indies, Bishop Walker entered the United States in 1908. He was naturalized in 1930. A graduate of several colleges, he is a past president of Wilberforce (Ohio) College and has a law degree.

Dr. Harry J. White, pastor of Bethel AME Church, said Bishop Walker, while in Buffalo, established the building fund that made possible the purchase of the new Bethel Church at 1325 Michigan Ave. two years ago. The church formerly was located at 551 Eagle St. He lauded Bishop Walker as a great educator and champion for minority rights and said the Fifth District showed "unprecedented growth" under his leadership.

Bishop D. O. Walker; Pastor Here 1942-48

Special to The Buffalo Evening News

WILBERFORCE, O., July 2—Funeral services for Bishop Dougal Ormonde Walker of the Fifth District, African Methodist Episcopal Church, will be held Thursday at the campus of Wilberforce University, where he served as president from 1936 to 1941.

Bishop Walker, who died Tuesday in Kansas City, Kan., was pastor of Bethel AME Church, Buffalo from 1942 to 1948, when he was elected to the episcopacy. His territory covered all states west of the Mississippi. All bishops of the church, except those abroad, are expected to attend the funeral.

In 1945 Bishop Walker made a determined but unsuccessful bid for nomination as coalition candidate for Buffalo's Ellicott District councilman. He called for city-state-federal teamwork to clear up the area by whole neighborhoods. He also was in the forefront of efforts to get more educational and recreational facilities in the district.

He served on the Buffalo Housing Advisory Committee and the Buffalo War Council. Sunday afternoon civic forums in his Buffalo church attracted large crowds.

Born in Layou, Vincent, British West Indies, Bishop Walker came to the United States in 1908 and was naturalized in 1930. He held honorary degrees of doctor of divinity and doctor of laws. Surviving are his wife, Eva; daughter, Mrs. Yvonne Roberts of Kansas City, and several brothers and sisters.

Dr. D. ORMONDE WALKER, pastor of Bethel AME Church, 551 Eagle St., will be elected a bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the 33d quadrennial conference of the church Saturday in Kansas City. He and five other bishops were consecrated Sunday. Dr. Walker formerly served on the Buffalo War Council and the Housing Authority Advisory Committee. He was formerly president of Wilberforce (O.) College.