

# METROPOLITAN CHURCH PRESENTS:

MIT

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METROPOLITAN INSTITUTE  
THROUGH TECHNOLOGY  
MANAGING COVID-19



Hello!

Thank you for choosing to join us in our Metropolitan Institute through Technology (MIT) program. Metropolitan takes pride in our service to God, each other, and the greater community. We offer several dynamic and distinct sessions to enhance your God-given gifts and talents. We are excited to assist or immediate and broader communities in managing COVID-19. Our Worship and Arts Ministries serve to set an atmosphere of worship in all of our corporate gatherings as a family of faith and this is no different.

Our Technology Ministries bridge media and ministry, utilizing the power and efficiency of Information Technology throughout the church to enhance the winning of souls and development of Christian disciples. We serve in all corporate gatherings in the life of Metropolitan and aim to provide an excellent technological experience as we will for MIT.

It is our desire to make sure that you are spiritually and practically guide you through unprecedented moments like this global pandemic. We pray you will grow through study, virtual fellowship and prayer.





# Youth Programming Schedule



4/20 DJ Sheldon LIVE  
4/27 Jamming with Janae  
5/4 HIT with Hilton's Karate  
5/11 Fire Fitness  
5/18 Acapella Acoustics  
with Lynnette  
6/01 DJ Sheldon LIVE




# MIT SPEAKERS AND BIOS

## Pastor Damone Paul Johnson

The Reverend Dr. Damone Paul Johnson is the Senior Pastor of the Metropolitan New Testament Mission Baptist Church of Albany, New York. Since he began his pastoral ministry in 2003, the church body has increased to over 1200 members. Under his leadership, the church has grown in ministry and mission and has completed a multi-million dollar-building project that will facilitate the ministry needs of this growing and thriving congregation and the beloved community.

Dr. Johnson has earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion and Philosophy with a minor in Music from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, as well as a Master of Divinity degree from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in Rochester, New York. In May 2007, Dr. Johnson was conferred the Doctor of Ministry degree with a concentration in Pastoral Preaching from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana.



# MIT SPEAKERS AND BIOS

## Don Applyrs, Ed.D.

Dr. Don Applyrs, commonly known at Metropolitan as "Deacon Don" is also known as, "DA Fit Educator". Don has been an independent trainer and fitness coach for over five years who "perspires to inspire" others, young and "seasoned", to transform their lives by developing and maintaining a consistent fit and healthy lifestyle.

Don is the creator of the "DA Fit Educator 21-Day Challenge, a monthly fitness program designed to build muscle endurance and strength, tone the body while burning fat. The program is made up of combinations of bodyweight exercises also known as calisthenics to create a high-intensity experience. What began as a challenge with one client in Ohio has grown to nearly 200 people who have accepted the challenge.

Additionally, Don's services include one-on-one personal training and group classes and workouts. At Metro, Don is the co-ministry leader of the "Strength for the Journey" Fitness Ministry. Don has also led the Men's Ministry in a 4-week 6am morning workout program.

For more information, contact Don at [dafiteducator@gmail.com](mailto:dafiteducator@gmail.com).



# MIT SPEAKERS AND BIOS

## Eldon Harris , CPWA®, CRPC®

Eldon joined Merrill Lynch Wealth Management in June 2011, He focuses on the creation of strategies for small businesses, non-profit organizations, individuals and their families that are designed to help them meet their short- and long-term financial goals, including cash management, retirement planning and estate planning services.

Eldon's approach to wealth management is consultative, objective and committed to excellence. He prides himself on his ability to listen to and interpret clients' ideas about their financial situations, preferences and goals, and he uses the vast resources of Merrill Lynch Wealth Management to help them explore a wide range of possible recommendations.

Eldon has a B.A. in Business Economics from the State University of New York at Potsdam. Eldon has earned the Certified Private Wealth Advisor® designation, awarded by the Investments & Wealth Institute™. He serves high-net-worth professionals who seek the latest, most advanced knowledge and techniques, and addresses the sophisticated needs of clients that focus specifically on investing and wealth management. Eldon has also earned the Chartered Retirement Planning CounselorSM(CRPC®) designation from the College for Financial Planning. He resides in Upstate NY with his family.

Eldon follows the deep-seated Merrill tradition of participating in the communities we serve. This drives his interest in spending time volunteering with organizations in our community.



# MIT SPEAKERS AND BIOS

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## Lisa DeJesus

Lisa DeJesus is the founder of King Jesus Press LLC, a publishing company that offers hybrid publishing services to writers looking for assistance publishing quality books. Under her pseudonym Charles Lisa, she released her first book in 2018 with King Jesus Press titled, “A Product of a Pimp and a Prostitute: My Forgiveness Journey”.

Mrs. DeJesus is a graduate of SUNY Buffalo State with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Communication and has spent more than 24 years in the communication field. She has also previously launched other businesses in real estate and apparel. Mrs. DeJesus, a native of Buffalo, is currently a member of Metropolitan New Testament Mission Baptist Church in Albany, New York where she serves on the Christian Education Team facilitating Financial Peace University classes and Metro U small groups. She is also vice president of the Edna L. Hamilton Global Mission Ministry.



# MIT SPEAKERS AND BIOS

## Selica Y. Grant, Esq.

Selica Y. Grant is the Chief Risk Officer and Special Counsel for the NYS. Department of Labor. Previously, she served as the Agency's Director for the Division of Equal Opportunity Development and the NYS American with Disabilities Act Coordinator. Prior to her tenure at the Department of Labor, she served as Counsel of the Fair and Equitable Housing office for New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR). She received her Juris Doctor from Albany Law School in 2001 with a concentration in Intellectual Property and is admitted to the New York State Bar.

She is a proud member of the Metropolitan New Testament Mission Baptist Church in Albany, NY, where the Pastor is the Reverend Dr. Damone Paul Johnson. At Metro, she serves as a Youth Advisor, member of the Praise Team and sings with the Metropolitan Music Ministry. She is married to Dwane J. Grant who serves as Metro's Assistant Director of Music and Worship Arts Ministry; together they have two children, Shawn and Jasmyn.

Mrs. Grant is a member of various social and professional organizations, including Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., where she currently is the sitting Vice President of the Albany (NY) Alumnae Chapter. She is a recipient of the prestigious Jefferson Award for her dedication to youth development, community and public service. The Jefferson Award is named after past United States President Thomas Jefferson because the award reflects a spirit of excellence, entrepreneurship, leadership and giving back in America.



# MIT SPEAKERS AND BIOS

## Jermaine Wright

Jermaine Wright is a Dancer, a Celebrity Chef and a social media Influencer from Southside Jamaica Queens NY. He is self-taught, and has learned flavor profiles from being a "fat kid" at heart. He has ALWAYS dreamed of being on the Food Network, and was finally given a chance to compete against 8 TALENTED home cooks from across America, on Food Network's hit television show, All-Star Academy, where he was mentored by celebrity Chef Robert Irvine. Jermaine was also selected as Remy Martin's Circle of Centaurs #RemyChef culinary competition winner, which landed him an exclusive mentorship with Food Network Iron Chef Marc Forgione. Jermaine now brings his bold flavors and creative concepts into the home, delivering Personal Chef Services for private parties and intimate events. With a fully customized menu, and his knack for putting abstract twists on traditional classics, clients leave with a full belly, a smiling face and a cleaned plate, earning him the title of "King of the 95% empty plate rate!" Chef Jermaine's curated culinary experiences take his clients' taste buds on an unforgettable journey through culinary heaven, each and every time.



# MIT SPEAKERS AND BIOS

## Rev. Dr. Brianna Parker

Rev. Dr. Brianna K. Parker – known as Rev. Bri – is a highly sought-after preacher, public speaker, millennial engagement coach and ministry consultant. She is the curator and founder of the Black Millennial Café (BMC), a consulting practice and data resource center for persons seeking healthy engagement with Black millennials and faith.

Through the Black Millennial Café, Rev. Bri has developed a suite of services to improve outreach to millennials. She lectures and presents empirical data on Black millennials and faith nationwide. The lessons from her research and experience as a millennial and millennial expert have been used to create her digital Bible study curriculum for young adults titled, “Open Table: Where Everyone Gets a Seat” and has been culled into a book, “What Google Can’t Give.”

Significant research backs Rev. Bri’s work as she was the first to hold quantitative and quantitative data on black millennials and faith, a neglected research demographic. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Arizona State University, a Master of Divinity in pastoral care and counseling from Fuller Theological Seminary, a Master of Arts in church-state studies from Baylor University, and a Doctor of Ministry from Virginia Union University’s Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology. Reverend Bri served Friendship-West Baptist Church for nearly a decade with Reverend Frederick D. Haynes, III who ordained her. She also served Paul Quinn College for seven years as an adjunct professor and Coordinator of College Assembly.

When she is not leading BMC, Rev. Bri mentors young women in ministry, supports her non-profit in talent and resources to provide statistical data to churches to impact the millennial generation and supports projects on millennials and mass incarceration.



