



# OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

Monday, December 21, 2020

## CHURCH MERGER AND NAME CHANGE

*Two churches become one under new brand!*

On January 1, 2021, Greater Apostolic Faith Temple in Detroit, Michigan (founded 1972) will merge with Mt. Zion Apostolic Church in Indianapolis, Indiana (founded 1922). Both churches are under the leadership of Bishop Lambert W. Gates, Sr., and will become one church operating at separate campuses under a new single-name brand. The new name will be announced December 31, 2020.

Over the past few years, the churches' standard operating procedures have increasingly melded for greater efficiency and stewardship practices. The needs of its online campus, which is experiencing new membership growth due to the pandemic shutdown of in-person worship gathering, has expanded the necessity for practical consolidation. After careful consideration and prayer, strategic planning, and meetings with its legal team, official boards, and congregations, the decision to merge was solidified.

The current brands of Mt. Zion Apostolic Church and Greater Apostolic Faith Temple will be officially retired but will remain the properties of the new brand for historical preservation. For the foreseeable future, the name of the onsite daycare in Indianapolis will remain Mt. Zion's Loving Daycare.

*"We are excited about this change and look forward to the addition of campuses and church plants as God gives the increase. We solicit your prayers as we move into this next and new season of our ministry!"*

Bishop Lambert W. Gates, Sr., Senior Pastor