

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SHIVELY AREA MINISTRIES WELCOMES DR. ERIC T. FRENCH, SR.
AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Louisville, KY – October 29, 2025 – Shively Area Ministries (SAM) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Eric Timothy French, Sr., as its new Executive Director. A Louisville native with more than 30 years of leadership experience, Dr. French brings a unique blend of business expertise, pastoral vision, and community service to this role.

Dr. French began his professional career in the corporate sector after earning his B.S. in Marketing from Hampton University and his MBA in Marketing from Clark Atlanta University. He held leadership roles with Ortho Pharmaceutical Company, Otis Elevator Company, and Abbott Laboratories, Inc. At Abbott, he earned multiple national awards for top performance and helped launch Humira into the U.S. market. These experiences gave him a strong foundation in organizational leadership, financial management, and strategic growth.

In 2006, Dr. French transitioned into full-time ministry, bringing his business skills into church and nonprofit leadership. He served nearly a decade as Executive Pastor of Bates Memorial Baptist Church, where he oversaw 30 staff members and volunteers, five departments, and a \$3 million annual budget. Since 2016, he has served as Senior Pastor of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, where he has expanded youth and senior ministries, launched online worship and giving platforms, and led outreach efforts, including COVID-19 testing/vaccinations and voter registration in Shively.

Most recently, from 2023 to 2025, Dr. French served the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness as Community Outreach Coordinator, where he built partnerships, supported healthcare training, and advanced public health initiatives across the city.

Dr. French holds a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary, where his award-winning research focused on addressing poverty through justice and mercy. He also earned a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

A fourth-generation minister, Dr. French is the First Vice Moderator of the Central District Baptist Association, a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and has served on numerous boards, including Metro Bank, the Louisville Planetarium, and the Civilian Review Board organizing team. “We are excited to welcome Dr. French as our new Executive Director,” said Amy Washburn, SAM Board Chairperson. “His rare combination of corporate, ministry, and community leadership will strengthen SAM’s mission to serve families and individuals in need throughout the Shively community.”