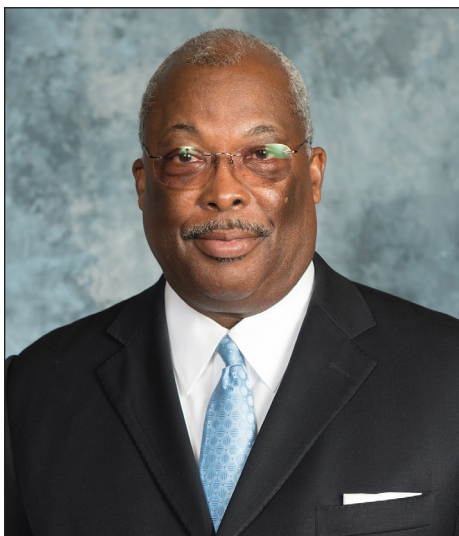


Rutledge named RPD Chaplaincy Operations Manager, Drum retires

In September, Michael Rutledge was named Chaplaincy Operations Manager for TDCJ's Rehabilitation Programs Division. Rutledge had served as Religious Support Services Manager for Chaplaincy since 2013.



Michael Rutledge

Rutledge began working for the agency in 2008 as a chaplain for the Parole Division in the Houston area. In addition to his agency duties, Rutledge currently serves as pastor of the Mt. Ararat Baptist Church in Houston, where he has worked since 2006. Rutledge previously presided over Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Mt. Carmel Community Baptist Church, both in Steubenville, Ohio.

Rutledge has a bachelor's degree from Tougaloo College in Jackson, Mississippi, where he majored in History. He went on to earn a master's degree from Ashland University's Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from New Vision University in Lincolnton, North Carolina.

Rutledge fills the vacancy left by Chaplain Vance Drum, who retired in August after 32 years of service with TDCJ.

Drum began his TDCJ career in 1985 as staff chaplain at the Eastham Unit in Lovelady. He held that position until 2012 when he was appointed as regional chaplain for Region I. In 2014, he was selected as Chaplaincy Operations Manager to oversee the agency's chaplaincy program.

Drum holds a Master of Theological Studies degree from Gordon-Cornwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Abilene Christian University. He is an active member of the American Correctional Association and its affiliate, the American Correctional Chaplains Association, where he served two terms as president from 2013 to 2017. Chaplain Drum has published several articles and is a sought-after presenter of American Correctional Association workshops on ministry and criminal corrections.

RPD Deputy Director Marvin Dunbar commended both Rutledge and Drum, saying "While we were saddened at the announcement of Chaplain Drum's retirement, we

are grateful for all of the years of service and leadership he provided to Chaplaincy Operations and the agency as a whole. We also know that the division is in good hands with Pastor Rutledge, whose experience both within and outside of the agency will serve us well moving forward." ▲



Vance Drum

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