

# 1st Bergen Federal Credit Union

## 11th ANNUAL MEETING

### GUEST SPEAKER



### Reverend James T. Golden, Esq.

Reverend James T. Golden, Esq. has been a community leader for more than 25 years. He has been a Manatee County Public Schools substitute teacher across all grade levels and served as Chairman of the School Advisory Council at Louise R. Johnson Middle School.

Born in Jacksonville and raised in Daytona Beach, Florida, he learned the values of hard work, leadership and service from his parents and considerable extended family. His father, Reverend James C. Golden, Jr., was a pastor and public school teacher. His mother, Vivian, is a retired high school guidance counselor.

After completing 10<sup>th</sup> grade, James T. Golden was accepted as an early entrant to Fisk University in Nashville, TN. In 1967, he volunteered to serve in the US Army, and was honorably discharged in 1969.

Following his military service, James received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Stetson University in 1970. He earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1974 from the University of Florida's Frederic G. Levin College of Law. James T. Golden has been a practicing attorney since he was admitted to The Florida Bar in 1975. After answering his call to ministry in 1981, he began attending the Turner Theological Seminary at Atlanta University where he received his Master of Divinity degree in 1984.

Between 1993 and 2014, James T. Golden served as pastor of Ward Temple A.M.E. Church in Bradenton, FL. However, desiring to service more than just his congregation, he also served two terms on the Bradenton City Council. While there, he led the way in establishing the Central Community Redevelopment Area that created more than \$50 million in funding for central Bradenton's capital needs. Additionally, he led efforts to annex local industries like Tropicana and Mixon Fruit Farms into the city to broaden the tax base and increase revenue without raising taxes. James T. Golden served as the city's Fire Commissioner, Chaplain, and the city's representative on the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

James T. Golden has served on a number of charitable and non-profit boards, including Manatee Glens Mental Health Hospital (now Centerstone), Meals on Wheels, and Just for Girls. He now serves as pastor of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church in Port Tampa.

As part of his mission for social justice, James is passionate about opposing predatory lending practices and supporting the credit union movement. He has provided expert testimony to the Florida legislature regarding the dangers of predatory lending.

James is married to Mildred Moten-Golden, the owner of two small businesses in Bradenton. They have six children, including a Manatee County Public School teacher, and twelve grandchildren.

###

