

Joanne (Hanifah) Hightower is a native of Detroit, Michigan, a mother of three and grandmother of five. Hanifah, which means (“True Believer”) joined the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church, Shrines of the Black Madonna in 1978. As an active member, Hanifah’s participation included Community Outreach, Missionary Outreach, Black Slate Volunteer and Alkebulan Youth Group Leader.

After joining the PAOCC, Hanifah met and married her Spiritual Teacher, Jimmie “Okera” Hightower. Hanifah states: “all relationships are powerful gifts and all relationships mirror lessons that show up to teach you something about yourself. That gift may be something you have recognized or a gift waiting to be developed”, **“there are no accidents”**.

In 1978 Hanifah was employed by the City of Detroit and most recently retired from the Detroit Housing Commission with 35 years of service. In 1991, Hanifah was hired by a powerful Spiritual Teacher, Martha Jean, “The Queen” Steinberg, as a Board Operator for 1400 WQBH Radio. Hanifah was blessed to work at WQBH Radio for 13 years and hosted **“Praise Time”** an on-air broadcast for three years.

In 1992 Hanifah traveled to the West Coast of Africa, Benin, and Togo on a study tour with Wayne State University. In 2009 Hanifah journeyed to the East Coast of Africa, Egypt, touring Cairo, Luxor and Aswan with the African Genesis Group as a chaperon for over one-hundred-fifty students.

In 1999, with “The Queen’s” blessings, Hanifah was sent to study the Ministry with Reverend Dr. Ruth M. Mosley, Founder of West Side Unity Church and Founder of the Unity Urban Ministerial School in Detroit. Rev. “Ruth” has ordained over 100 Ministers in teaching Universal Principles. Minister Hanifah was ordained to spread the “Gospel of Peace, Love and Forgiveness”. She states: **“If you have a testimony, you have a Ministry”, “Just one person standing in a vibration of love & light can shift 750,000 of a lesser vibration”**.

Hanifah, Author/Poet is a member of DUPAAS (Detroit Unity Poets and Authors Society). She has written a book of affirmations and several poems, a favorite entitled **“You Must Forgive”** in 1990. Hanifah states: “my path of spiritual transformation, unfolded after this poem was written, I realized that forgiveness is for **self**”. Several of her poems are written in DUPAAS’s Anthology of 2012’.

Hanifa served as a delegate to the 60th Anniversary Synod in Atlanta, GA. She currently serves as a PAOCC Worship Leader.

Minister Hanifah’s favorite scriptures are: Psalms 91 (“If you dwell in the secret place...”). Isaiah 61: 1 (“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...”) and Ben-Sirach: 2:1-9 (Ecclesiasticus) “when you come to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for an ordeal...” (Apocrypha)