



OFFICE OF THE JURISDICTIONAL  
PRELATE

**BISHOP JOHNNY A. TATES**

*Jurisdictional Prelate*

# Texas Greater Southeast First ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

June 16, 2026

## **Official Statement Regarding the Retirement of Mother Dr. Lena I. McClain**

It is with significant appreciation, celebratory reflection, and sincere gratitude that we officially acknowledge the recent request for retirement received from our Supervisor of the Department of Women, Texas Greater Southeast First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, Mother Dr. Lena I. McClain.

After a long and stellar season of faithful service, support, and leadership across two Jurisdictions, we pause to commend Mother McClain for her superior contributions to the work of the Lord, the advancement of women in ministry, and the strengthening of Jurisdictional life. Initially chosen in 2007 by Bishop Rufus Kyles to serve as Supervisor of Women for Texas Southeast First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, she was later selected in 2017 by Bishop Johnny A. Tate to continue serving as Supervisor of Women for the newly formed Texas Greater Southeast First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. Her tenure continued faithfully until June 2026.

The Word of the Lord declares in Proverbs 31:31, “Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.” This scripture fittingly speaks to the record, labor, sacrifice, and spiritual influence of Mother McClain. Her works have spoken with clarity, dignity, and strength.

Please join me in pausing to commemorate the accomplishments of a genuine trailblazer, a faithful servant, and a true icon in the growth, development, and productivity of women in ministry. Mother McClain is not only respected within Texas Greater Southeast First, but is also nationally known as a woman of rare distinction, grace, sophistication, and spiritual excellence. We salute her.

Her record includes a bevy of introductions, innovations, and ministry initiatives that brought advanced ideas to the service and productivity of women in meaningful and significant ways, including but not limited to the following:

- Launching weekly Prayer Ministry coordination.
- Establishing a 24-hour Prayer Ministry for special events and programs.
- Organizing biannual shut-ins and revivals.
- Developing Grief and Sick Ministry coordination to contact, comfort, and support families across Texas.
- Creating project ministries that provided outreach and care to women’s shelters, correctional facilities, medical settings, and other areas of need.



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- Establishing a scholarship program to support college students in their educational pursuits.
- Graduating 97 Missionaries of varying stations and levels.
- Playing a pivotal role in the use of technology to train and prepare a multigenerational technology team for success.

Through wisdom, perseverance, prayer, and steadfast leadership, Mother McClain has helped strengthen the Women's Department and has left a lasting imprint upon this Jurisdiction. Her contributions have produced fruit that shall continue to bless generations to come.

On behalf of Texas Greater Southeast First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, I extend heartfelt appreciation for her years of service, her unwavering commitment, and her faithful labor in the vineyard of the Lord. We honor her, we thank God for her, and we pray continued blessings upon her life, family, and future.

Saved and Striving to Please My Savior,

*Bishop Johnny A. Tate*

Prelate, Texas Greater Southeast First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction