



Zulema S. Joseph, currently serving as Elder over Ushers and Next Generation (consists of ages 5-30) ministries, is affectionately known as Elder Zu or Elder Z. Her journey with Christ began in middle school, inspired by her mother's remarkable transformation. Together with her family, she started her spiritual journey as a Sabbath-keeper at the Washington Seventh Day Baptist Church in D.C., where Zulema accepted Jesus as her Savior.

A pivotal moment in her spiritual journey occurred during a Marilyn Hickey broadcast, when she called their prayer hotline seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit. During this call, she experienced a profound encounter that transformed her life and ignited her spiritual growth, including her speaky in tongues.

At SDB-DC, Zulema immersed herself in service by welcoming newcomers, feeding the homeless, and mentoring younger youth. Her leadership abilities flourished as she assisted with fellowship meals and represented the youth on the church board. While attending Montgomery Blair High School, she discovered her passion for children, teaching, planning and building up others while pursuing Early Childhood Education.

Longing for a deeper relationship with God, Zulema and her mother prayed for direction which led them to transition to Bethesda International Church in Mount Rainier, MD. Under the guidance of the late Bishop Veronica E. Watson, they found a vibrant community characterized by uninhibited praise and profound biblical teachings. Over her 25+ years at Bethesda, Zulema has taken on various roles, including Minister, teacher, usher, and prayer

intercessor while also contributing to church administration and outreach programs.

In her professional life, Zulema has dedicated over 20 years to the Human Resources sector within the nonprofit arena, and focuses on initiatives that benefit children and youth. She treasures her spiritual journey alongside her family which includes her mother, sister, and husband, all who are active members of Bethesda, as well as her three daughters who are growing in faith. Zulema is also grateful for her earthly father's unwavering support in their ministry.

Her guiding principle is rooted in Colossians 3:23-24 (KJV): “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”

Shorter Version for web.



Zulema S. Joseph, also known as Elder Z currently serves as Elder over the Ushers and Next Generation (ages 3 -30) ministries.

Saved and serving God since a pre-teen, it's been her privilege and honor the past 20 years to continue doing so while at Bethesda International Church in various capacities as it pleases Him. He has gifted her for administration, teaching, praying, helps and service.

Elder Z's life guiding principle is rooted in Colossians 3:23-24 (KJV): “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”

She's been applying this in everything she sets her hand to do whether it be serving the homeless or at shelters, teaching K-12, welcoming people into the family of God and to the house of the Lord, or coaching, encouraging and praying for people at work.