

# Vashti Murphy McKenzie

## Long Bio (Rev)

Dr. Vashti Murphy McKenzie is the Founder and CEO of *Selah Leadership Encounters for Women* and *Selah Online*, a digital resource for leaders. She is a nationally and internationally renowned speaker and a coach and consultant for leaders, risk takers, change agents, and executives.

Dr. McKenzie is in high demand as a workshop and seminar facilitator, specializing in leadership lifestyle, women's empowerment, and social justice. *Selah Leadership Encounters for Women* is a place for women to renew, refresh and be resourced. *Essence Magazine* named the *Selah Conference* as one of its top conferences for women in 2019.

Known as an electrifying preacher and speaker, Dr. McKenzie has presented workshops to such diverse audiences including as corporate venues, various colleges and universities, congressional caucuses, and national conventions.

Vashti Murphy McKenzie was elected and consecrated as the 117th bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the year 2000, the first time in the 220-year history of the AME church that a woman achieved that office. She has served as the presiding prelate of the 10th Episcopal District in the state of Texas. Bishop McKenzie serves as the Chairwoman of the Board of Trustees for Paul Quinn College in Dallas, Texas. The Richard Allen Cathedral on the campus of Paul Quinn College was renovated and rededicated in February, 2020, just prior to the global Pandemic shutdown. Dr.

McKenzie is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Interdenominational Theological Center, located in Atlanta, Georgia.

Bishop McKenzie is the National Chaplain for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the largest predominantly African American sorority of college-educated women. In that role, she has served as the spiritual guide for over 250,000 women around the world. She has also served as the National Chaplain for The Links, Inc., one of the oldest women's volunteer service organizations working for people of African descent.

In 2015, Dr. McKenzie was named as one of the 50 most powerful women religious leaders in the world by the Huffington Post. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, earned a Master of Divinity Degree from Howard University School of Divinity, and later earned a Doctor of Ministry from the United Theological Seminary.

Dr. McKenzie is the author of six books about the spiritual lifestyle and women's empowerment, including *Not Without a Struggle*, which was revised in 2012 and remains a staple at seminaries and schools of religion.

Bishop Dr. Vashti Murphy McKenzie is married to Dr. Stan McKenzie, with whom she shares three adult children and two grandchildren.