

## Demetrio Beach

Demetrio Beach's life is a joyful response to the call of God to serve God and God's people as the Holy Spirit leads. Demetrio is grateful, therefore, for experiences of education and much training that have equipped him for the responsibilities in the community and local church.

Demetrio was born in Grasonville, Maryland located in Queen Anne's County. His life is a reflection of the ancient African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child". The community along with his family nurtured him to be the young man that he is today. Many people cannot say they have been raised by their community and are happy about it. Throughout his early years, Demetrio was cared for by several persons who gave him something extraordinary. That was hope, faith, and love.

His formative education originated in the Queen Anne's County Public School system. In June 2006, Demetrio graduated from Kent Island High School. Queen Anne's Public School system was a great experience for him because many teachers helped prepare him for the real world. When Demetrio was in the fifth grade, his teacher Mrs. Joyce Flamer was an outstanding positive support. She helped him to believe in himself and be courageous. In middle school Demetrio, became involved in various clubs and committees. While in high school Demetrio took the advice of the Apostle Paul when he was writing from prison, "press towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus". In high school, he became Coordinator of the Mentor Advisory Program a leadership program for his high school.

As a student in high school, Demetrio was active in his community serving on boards and committees that foster better relationships for children, youth, and adults. In this capacity, Demetrio was empowered to speak out and stand up for the community that had nurtured him. He became a young activist for education and peace in Queen Anne's County.

Demetrio also is completing his undergraduate studies at John Wesley College in North Carolina. He is currently serving the Peninsula – Delaware Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church as the Associate Conference Lay Leader which works with over 1,000 lay speakers. In 2008 Demetrio made history as the youngest person to ever hold this position in the Peninsula – Delaware Annual Conference and of the United Methodist Church denomination.

In addition to serving in the local church, Demetrio has, at various times, served on community and church-related boards such as the Queen Anne's County Public Schools Task Force for Accelerating Students, Queen Anne's County Public Schools Title I & Parent Task Force, Queen Anne's County Board of Elections, Queen Anne's County Drug Free Community Coalition, Queen Anne's County Family First & Judy Center Board, Queen Anne's County Development Asset Team, Queen Anne's County NAACP, Queen Anne's County We Care Ministerial Alliance, Grasonville Community Center, Clergy & Lay Leadership Committee for the Peninsula – Delaware Conference, Strengthen the Black Church, Black Methodist for Church Renewal (BMCR), and many more.

Demetrio has been a recipient of many school, community recognitions, including those of Queen Anne's County Character Counts Award, Maryland State Department of Education – 2006 Excellence Scholar for Academic Initiative for MD Minority Students and MD Schools, Maryland State Department of Education – 2006 Service Star for Exemplary Service to Schools and Community, Maryland Governor's Award – Volunteer Service Certificate 2006 – Certificate of Appreciation (Volunteered a total of 2,859 hours to the community), 2005 Queen Anne's County Public Schools Recognition Award – Dedication and Commitment to Task Force for Accelerating Students.

Demetrio's forgoing experiences have been cause for deep appreciation of the support of his community, countless friends, and persons and an enduring sense of thankfulness to Almighty God. Demetrio enjoys spending time with his mother Brenda Belt, Stepfather Omari Belt, Sr., and Brother Kim. Demetrio loves people and helping them any chance that he can. Demetrio feels richly blessed on this faith journey.