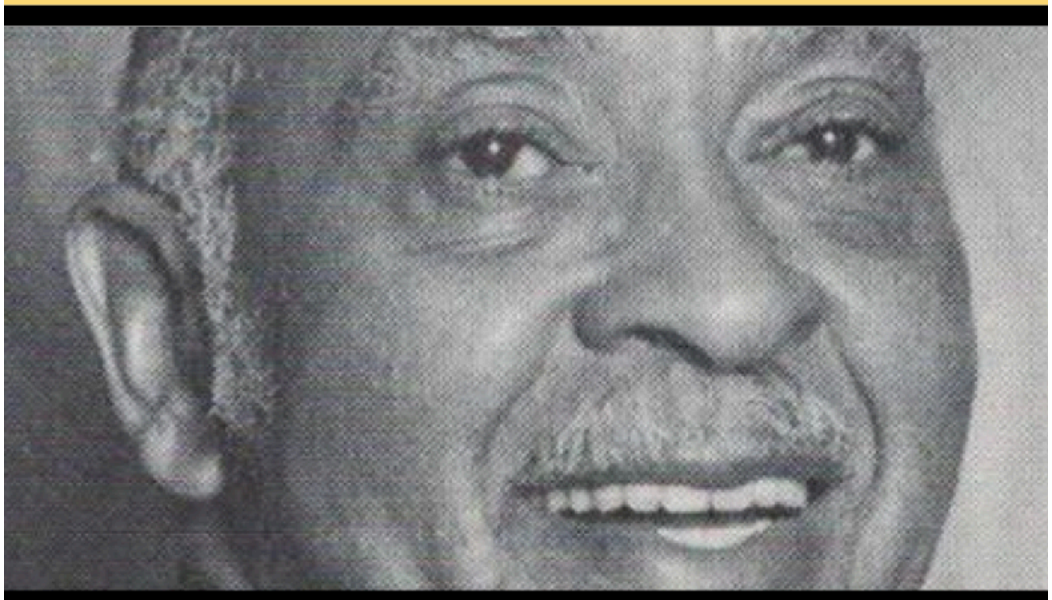
TFPZ PRESENTS

#11

FAITH FORWARD



THE LIFE AND CAREER OF

S. HOWARD WOODSON

TRENTON GAME CHANGER SERIES

Samuel Howard Woodson was born in Philadelphia on May 8, 1916

He received a bachelor's degree from Cheyney Training School for Teachers (now Cheney University of Pennsylvania)

And a master's degree in divinity from Morehouse College in Atlanta

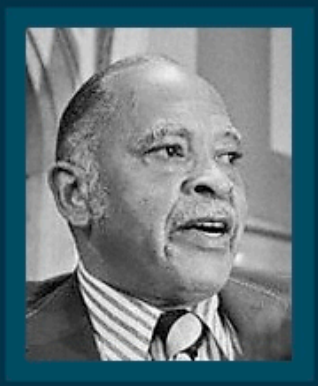
He was ordained as a pastor in 1944

He then moved to Trenton in 1946, where he became the lead pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, a position he held throughout his political career

Reverend Woodson's career in politics began in 1962, when he was elected to the Trenton City Council

This was followed by six terms in the New Jersey Legislature beginning in 1964

He acted as Assembly Minority Leader from 1968 to 1969



In 1974, Reverend Woodson became the first African American politician to be appointed Speaker in the state of New Jersey, a position he held through 1975

In 1976, he resigned from the Assembly after being appointed to the New Jersey Civil Service Commission by Governor Brendan T. Byrne

While in this position, he promoted equity in employment programs and boosted widespread opportunities for minorities

In 1978, a minor scandal occurred when it was revealed that Reverend Woodson had neglected to pay his income taxes, despite being a proponent of a statewide income tax

The matter was investigated and resolved with Reverend Woodson not owing any taxes (in fact the state owed him a refund)

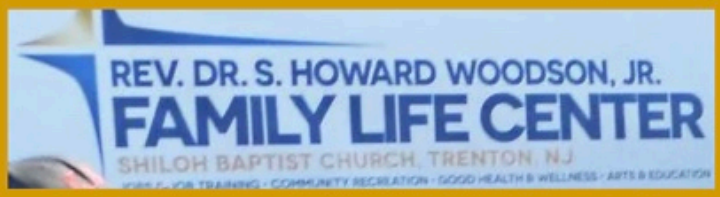
On July 28, 1999, Reverend Woodson passed away in a hospital in Trenton at the age of 83

He was survived by
his second wife, a son,
a daughter, a stepdaughter,
and eight grandchildren

Plus his extended family at Shiloh Baptist Church

Decades later Reverend Woodson's legacy lives on ....

Mayor Eric Jackson presiding over the Center's dedication →



In 2015, Shiloh Baptist Church converted an abandoned building on Bellevue Avenue into a Family Life Center which they named in honor of Reverend Woodson

Additionally, Rev S Howard Woodson Jr Way is named after him

Both stand as a testament to Woodson's determination, faith and love for the city of Trenton

EXPLORE TFPZ!

For more information about
Trenton Free Public Zine
or to view more zines online
vist us at
www.trentonlib.org/zine-library
or call (609) 392-7188

THANKS FOR READING!

Source: Ravo, Nick. "S.H. Woodson, Assembly Chief And Pastor, 83."
New York Times: Aug. 7, 1999.

© TFPZ 2022