



Rev. Dennis A. Dillon

As one of New York's most effective and passionate communicators who has helped to leverage millions of dollars into the local economy and has pioneered some of the most effective and successful initiatives in the Black community over the past 30 years, Rev. Dennis Dillon has helped to foster the growth of hundreds of businesses and non-profits. He has organized one of the nation's largest homeownership campaigns through the building of a network of hundreds of real estate professionals, bankers and financial service firms, and thousands of churches.

Divinely chosen to be among the God-appointed men in America whose lives are driven by a firm purpose and an unshakable commitment to live in the will of God, Dillon is deliberate about ministry and his desire to help liberate his race. Beyond his reputation and great acclaim as one of the nation's leading advocates for the economic empowerment and spiritual transformation of Blacks in America, Rev. Dillon is a leading voice on Africa's transformation and the linking of the Africa Diaspora with the continent around business and economic development.

As the pastor for the new and growing Rise Church International, Rev. Dillon is co-pioneering a Bible-based Afri-centric seeker-friendly church movement that emphasizes God's great expectation for people to live whole lives and walk in their purpose. A compelling teacher and preacher who lectures extensively on Biblical economics, African theology and Black spiritual transformation, Rev. Dillon was thrice named among New York's top twenty-five preachers (all races) by the Daily News and New York Newsday, and in 2006 and 2007, The New York Daily News named him among the region's 25 most influential Black leaders in religion, politics and civil rights combined.

Rev. Dennis Dillon is noted for challenging and negotiating with corporations and banking institutions to reinvest hundreds of millions of dollars in the Black community. He has also mediated several discrimination and corporate-community settlements including two of the nation's largest cases. He sits on the boards of a number of corporate and not-for-profit organizations, and has developed successful concepts and programs that embrace community economic empowerment. Through the annual *Black Church Means Business Conference* and his business empowerment initiatives, he has helped thousands of Black businesses gain corporate and government contracts, commercial loans and franchising, as well as other business opportunities. He is also the co-founder of the Greater New York Chamber of Commerce and serves on the board of directors for the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to two journalism awards, Rev. Dillon has received more than three hundred awards and citations from national and community organizations as well as corporations.

Rev. Dennis Dillon was an executive producer and co-host for *Easter in New York*, an annual television special formerly co-produced and aired on Fox-5 Television, and has hosted other television and radio shows. A former reporter and news correspondent, he has written for a number of news publications and magazines. He is the chief researcher and co-author of the *Economic State of Black New York*, *Black America* and the *Black World* reports. He has published more than 15 book titles and is co-publisher and publishing consultant on several books and periodicals.

Beyond his accomplishments in the fields of media, corporate leveraging and negotiations, community and business empowerment, and church ministry, Rev. Dillon's primary purpose is the redemption of God's people. Over the past 3 years, he has made more than 20 trips to different parts of Africa. He now helps to guide The DOOR of Our Return movement, an initiative to bridge Africa with Blacks in the diaspora and to help fuel an economic revival and spiritual transformation.

Rev. Dennis Dillon, who was born in Kingston, Jamaica, did his undergraduate studies in Mass Communications and his Master's in Divinity. He is married to Dr. Zienzile Dillon, a former corporate banking executive. They have five adult children.