



Rev. Dr. Kevin M. Northam

Born on April 22, 1967, in Onancock, Virginia, to Willie, Sr., and Minnie Northan, he was the first in his family to be born in a hospital. A typographical error on his birth certificate resulted in the family name being recorded with an “m” rather than an “n”. A small detail that has become part of his unique personal story.

Following high school graduation in 1985, Rev. Northam enlisted in the United States Army, initially planning to serve two years before attending college. That commitment evolved into a distinguished 20-year military career, culminating in his retirement in 2005. During his service, he pursued higher education, earning an Associate of Science degree from Northern Virginia Community College, a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Hawaii Pacific University, and a Master of Business Administration in Finance from Baker College.

Rev. Northam’s connection to Dinwiddie County began in high school when he met Miss Cheryl Lynette Williams of Sutherland while participating in a statewide student government Mock Congress. Their enduring connection led to marriage in 1995. After delivering a powerful eulogy at the funeral of his wife’s uncle, Rev. Northam was invited to serve as Pastor of Olive Branch Baptist Church. For almost 23 years, Rev. Northam has faithfully served the congregation, guiding both spiritual growth and community impact.

In preparation for ministry, Rev. Northam earned a Master of Divinity from the Virginia Union University School of Theology in 2006, followed by a Master of Arts in Christian Education from the same institution in 2010. In June, 2015, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Richmond Virginia Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Northam’s leadership extends well beyond the pulpit. He served as Secretary of the Dinwiddie Chapter of the NAACP, President of the Baptist Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress of Virginia, Moderator of the Unified Shiloh Baptist Association of Southside Virginia, President of the United Churches of Dinwiddie County and Vicinity, and State Director of Young Adults for the Baptist Training Union Congress. He has been recognized as a “Man of Distinction” by the Petersburg Delta Community and received the 2024 United Negro College Fund “Keeper of the Flame” Award.

Rev. Northam has remained deeply engaged in local civic life, serving on the Dinwiddie County Equity and Racial Reconciliation Task Force, the Dinwiddie County Pastors Roundtable, and the Dinwiddie County Faith-Based Initiative. He was instrumental in the initiative that led to Dinwiddie County’s newly opened basketball and pickleball courts. He coordinated the construction of a \$4.3 million edifice at Olive Branch Baptist Church, and joyfully ceremonially burned the note in less than ten years. A passionate supporter of Dinwiddie youth, he volunteers at Southside Elementary School. A supporter of all things “Generals”, he initiated the church’s annual feeding of the Dinwiddie Generals football team, and served as the 2024 Dinwiddie County High School

Commencement Speaker. He also provides annual support to the Dinwiddie Christmas Sharing Program, National Day of Prayer, and One Family community worship services.

In his free time, Rev. Dr. Northam enjoys reading, financial and investment planning, and maintaining physical fitness. Guided by his belief that he can fulfill his “workmanship” and be pleasing to God by living what he learns, preaches, and teaches, he stands firmly on the scripture: *“I am made all things to all men that I might by all means save some.”* (1 Corinthians 9:22b).

Rev. Dr. Kevin Northam is a devoted pastor, veteran, and community leader whose life of service has left a lasting imprint on Dinwiddie County, making him a deserving 2026 Hometown Hero.