

FEATURE

Ministers Give Perspective on Speaker Blue

By Dorothea Vanhooke
Staff Writer

Daniel Blue, native of Durham, North Carolina, was recently elected North Carolina Speaker of the House. Blue is the first Black man to hold that position.

Many ministers around have mixed feelings on the appointment of Blue.

Rev. William Elder of Middlefork Christian Church in Winston-Salem says that it is a privilege to have a Black man in that position. "We all just need to hope and pray that he fulfills his duties of the position to the fullest."

Rev. Larry Johnson of Union Grove Baptist Church in Hurdle Mills, NC, said that he has prayed over the situation. "I'm happy and proud to be part of North Carolina now that they have appointed the first Black man to a position as such. I feel that this is a big step for North Carolina, but we can't take it for granted that he's going to come in and make a big difference. I hope he will use the office in the best way. That would be what is best for the state and not what the whites meant you to do. He must not act as a token Black and appease the white people."

Rev. Jimmy Cummings of Galilee United Methodist Church in Hillsboro, NC held the strongest misgivings in the situation. "I feel that Blue will not make much difference in North Carolina. In my



photo provided by Winston-Salem Chronicle

Daniel Blue, North Carolina Speaker of the House.

opinion he was just put in the position because of the times we are in now. Black citizens are always complaining that we do not have enough of our own in high positions, so they feel that this is one way to satisfy the Black community. There might be a few changes in North Carolina, but not a whole lot of significance."

Rev. Reginald Burnett of Lees Chapel

Baptist Church of Cedar Grove, NC, had little to say. His main theory is that you can't prejudge a person. "We will just have to wait and see what he does while in office. People (white people) have the tendency to change others. If he is a good man, time will tell. I am happy of the selection of Blue into office and I feel good about it. From all reports I have

been hearing, expect him to do well, but as I said earlier, we will just have to see what happens in the end."

There seems to be a lot of anticipation on the outcome of Blue's election as Speaker of the House. It is a big step for North Carolina and the rest is left in the hands of the man himself, Daniel Blue.

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