

Living Legend of Cumberland

Mr. Milton J. Phillips



Milton Jay Phillips was born January 27, 1962, in Florence, S.C. to a tailor and a teacher, Willie L. Phillips and the late Corrie R. Phillips. He has two siblings, twins Karen Renee and Keith Reginald. He is the godson of cartoonist, Milton A. Caniff and Esther P. Caniff. He is married to Kathleen Jackson-Phillips and they have one daughter, Shequita.

Milton was educated in the public schools of Florence attending Holmes Elementary School before attending McKenzie Middle School at the start of integration. He graduated from South Florence High in 1980, where he participated on the band, did photography for the school newspaper, played football, basketball, and ran track. The track team finished third in the state in the 4A division his senior year.

After high school, Milton matriculated to North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, N.C. where he graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. Degree in Business Economics. During his stay at A&T, he participated in the Student Government Association, the S.C. Aggie Club and was inducted into several honor societies. He also interned with HUD. He did further study at the University of Wisconsin Madison in Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, Econometrics and Statistics.

After college, Milton was employed with the PGBA Division of Blue Cross Blue Shield for 26 years where he held supervisory and management positions.

Milton is a lifelong member of Cumberland United Methodist Church. As a child and youth, he participated on the children's choir, youth choir, attended Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and was a member of the Boy Scouts as a Troop Leader. As an adult he participated on the James Spears Ensemble, Fifth Sunday Ensemble, soup kitchen, was a steward and held several positions with the Cumberland Federal Credit Union. He currently sings on Voices of Inspiration and the Men's Choir and is the President of the United Methodist Men. He also serves on the ramp ministry, finance committee, trustee board, church council, communications committee, worship team, food bank and the yard crew. He was recognized as Man of the Year by the United Methodist Men in 2016 and 2019 and was honored by the United Methodist Women for dedicated service to the church. In addition to his service in the church, Milton has served on the Advisory Board for Vocational Students and the board for Christmas in April/Rebuilding Together. He also participated in the "Day of Caring" for the United Way for several years and coached men's basketball as well as men's and women's softball.