



Spring Convocation

May 8-10, 2025

Emmanuel AME Church

Rev. Carl Garmon, Sr. Host Pastor

Rev. Dr. W. Raymond Bryant, Host Presiding Elder

Bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford, Presiding Prelate

THE D.R.E.A.M. CHURCH

Five Proven Strategies for Growing a
Healthy, Disciple-Making Church



BRIAN MOSS



CONTEXT

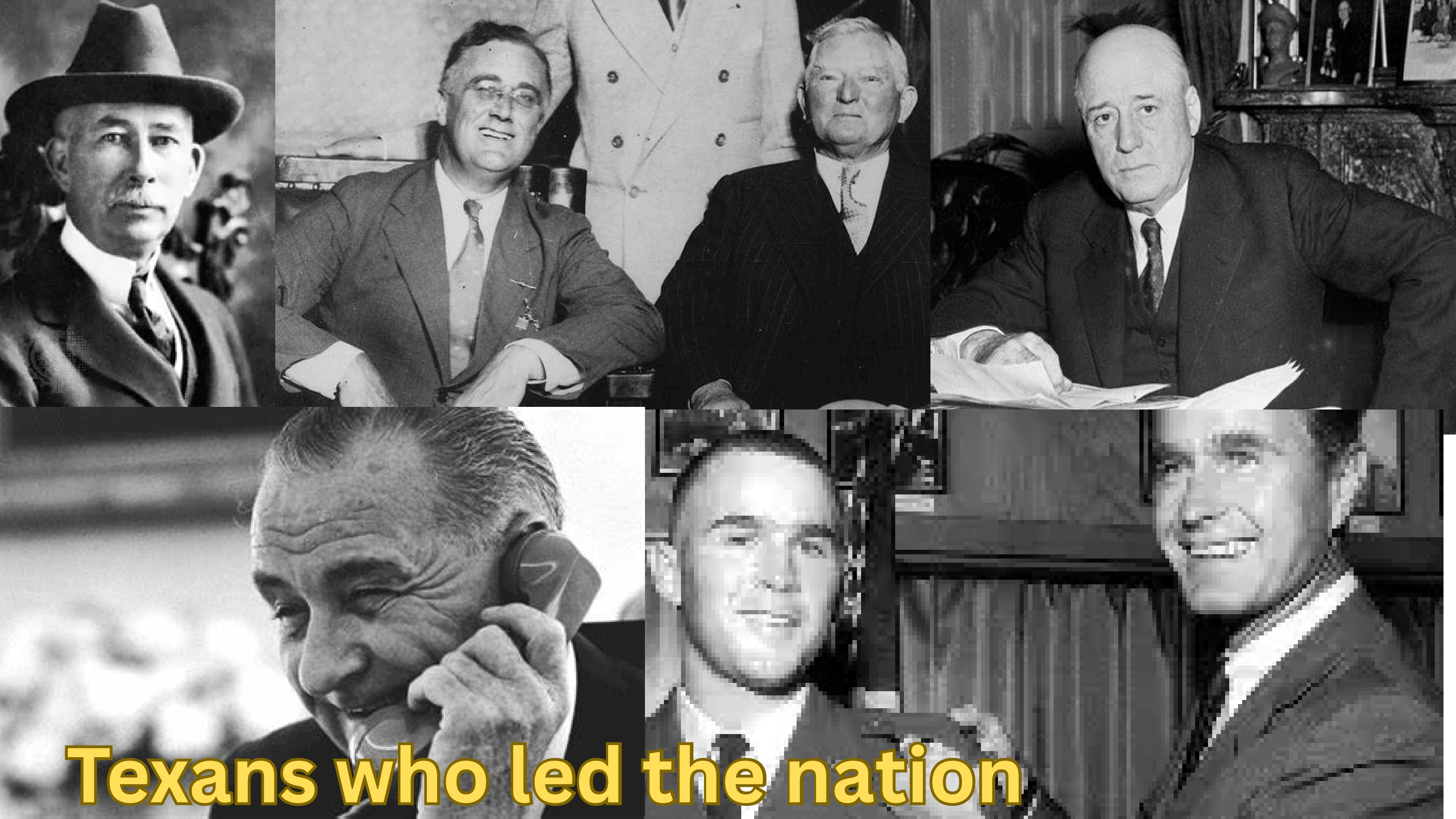
IS



KING



Statistics on the FBI's website reported that Fort Worth was the most hateful city in Texas, with a whopping 14 reported hate crimes in 2012. Of those incidents, 10 were race-related, three were about sexual orientation and one dealt with religion.



Texans who led the nation

CRISIS IN THE VILLAGE

Restoring Hope in
African American Communities

ROBERT M. FRANKLIN



Families: a crisis of commitment --

Churches: a crisis of mission --

Colleges: a crisis of moral purpose --

Strategies: renewing the village





ACTIVATE Every Member into a
MEANINGFUL MINISTRY



Spiritual Gifts Inventory won't work

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Develop A Ministry Connection System

Define your volunteer connection mission.

Who are we trying to connect?

How will we engage them?

What value will serving bring to their lives?

2. Designate a Volunteer Champion

Everything rises and falls on leadership.

Develop a Strategy that Creates a Culture of Serving

Who can serve? When can a person serve?

Where can they serve?

4. Design a Volunteer Connection Process

Healthy Leaders are vital!

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Develop A Ministry Connection System

What Opportunities Do We Offer?

SODSAT

Somebody ought to do something about that!

Provide A Variety of Easy On Ramps

Follow Up Methods/Process

Ascertain the prospective volunteer's best fit.

The sooner the follow up, the better.

Support your Volunteers

Healthy Leaders are vital!

4F = (Family Food, Fun, Focus)



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL *of* DIVINITY

Dr. Melanie L. Harris

Director of the Food, Health, and Ecological Well-Being Program

Professor of Black Feminist Thought and Womanist Theology jointly appointed with Wake Forest School of Divinity and the African American Studies program at Wake Forest University. Her research and scholarship critically examines intersections between race, religion, gender and environmental ethics. She is the author of many scholarly articles and books including *Gifts of Virtue: Alice Walker and Womanist Ethics* (Palgrave), and ***Ecowomanism: Earth Honoring Faiths*** (Orbis).

Ecowomanism is an approach to environmental justice that centers the perspectives of women of African descent and reflects upon these women's activist methods, religious practices, and theories on how to engage earth justice. As a part of the womanist tradition, methodologically ecowomanism features race, class, gender intersectional analysis to examine environmental injustice around the planet. Thus, it builds upon an environmental justice paradigm that also links social justice to environmental justice. Ecowomanism highlights the necessity for race-class-gender intersectional analysis when examining the logic of domination, and unjust public policies that result in environmental health disparities that historically disadvantage communities of color.

As an aspect of third wave womanist religious thought, ecowomanism is also shaped by religious worldviews reflective of African cosmologies and uphold a moral imperative for earth justice. Noting the significance of African and Native American cosmologies that link divine, human and nature realms into an interconnected web of life, ecowomanism takes into account the religious practices and spiritual beliefs that are important tenets and points of inspiration for ecowomanist activism that aim for ecological reparations.

ACTIVATE: Village Renewal with an Ecowomanist- Centered approach



Installation of a Heritage Garden at Sherman AME Church April 8, 2025

The first step in the ecowomanist method is to uncover one's **eco-memory**. This is a reflection upon your own relationship with the earth and recollection of a story from your childhood or your life when you experienced a connection with nature.



Quotes from the experience

We want to return in the Fall semester to witness the growth and work in the garden.”

undergraduate

“A student who rarely speaks was radiant in class when he shared with us that he helped to install a garden at a small church.”

- professor

“Working with the older men in the garden was a wonderful experience, it was good for my soul.”

- undergraduate

Can the students return and help us form a choir?

- member

