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George Augustus Stallings Jr.

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George Augustus Stallings Jr. (born March 17, 1948) is the founder of the [Imani Temple African-American Catholic Congregation](#), an [African-American](#)-led form of [Catholicism](#). He served as a Roman Catholic priest from 1974 to 1989. In 1990, he made a public break with the [Roman Catholic Church](#) on *[The Phil Donahue Show](#)*, and was excommunicated that year.

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Early life and priestly ministry [\[edit \]](#)

Stallings was born in 1948 in [New Bern, North Carolina](#) to George Augustus Stallings, Sr., and Dorothy Smith. His grandmother, Bessie Taylor, introduced him as a boy to worship in a black Baptist church. He enjoyed the service so much that he said he desired to be a minister. During his high school years he began expressing "Afrocentric" sentiments, insisting on his right to wear a mustache, despite school rules, as a reflection of black identity.^[1]

Wishing to serve as a Catholic priest, he attended St. Pius X Seminary in Kentucky and received a [B.A.](#) degree in philosophy in 1970. Sent by his bishop to the [Pontifical North American College](#) in Rome, he earned three degrees from the [Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas](#) between 1970 and 1975: the [Bachelor of Sacred Theology](#) (S.T.B.), a master's degree in pastoral theology and a [Licentiate of Sacred Theology](#) (S.T.L.).

Stallings was ordained a priest in 1974. His first assignment was as an associate pastor at Our Lady of Peace Church, Washington, D.C. In 1976, at the age of 28 years and just two years after ordination as a priest, he was named a pastor of St. Teresa of Avila parish in Washington. He was the pastor of this church for 14 years. During Stallings' pastorate, the parish become known for its integration of African-American culture and gospel music in the Mass. In 1988, he was named to a new position as a diocesan evangelist.

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Departure and excommunication from the Catholic Church [[edit](#)]

In 1989, one year after having received this new appointment, Stallings announced he was leaving it to found a new ministry, the Imani Temple African American Catholic Congregation. He stated that he left because the Catholic Church did not serve the African American community or recognize talent.

In January 1990, Stallings announced on *The Phil Donahue Show* that he was breaking with papal authority and giving up Catholic teaching on abortion, contraception, homosexuality, and divorce. [James Cardinal Hickey](#), Archbishop of [Washington](#), excommunicated him and any Catholics remaining in the Imani Temple. Critics claimed that Stallings had lived extravagantly and that Hickey had ordered him to seek psychiatric treatment.^[2]

Stallings was ordained a bishop in May 1990 by Richard Bridges, a bishop of the Independent Old Catholic Church, a denomination not in communion with Rome, and was given the title of archbishop in 1991 by the same group.^{[1][2]}

Accusations of sexual misconduct [[edit](#)]

In 1989, *The Washington Post* reported that a former altar boy at St. Teresa of Avila Church accused Stallings of sexual misconduct over a period of several months in 1977. Stallings said "I am innocent," declining to answer questions.^[3] In a follow-up series of three articles in 1990, Post reporters [Bill Dedman](#) and Laura Sessions Stepp reported that concerns about Stallings' association with teenage boys had helped lead to his split with the Roman Catholic Church.^{[4][5][6]}

In 2009 the archdiocese reached a \$125,000 settlement with Gamal Awad, who said he was sexually abused at 14 by Stallings and a seminarian.^[7]

Relationship with Emmanuel Milingo and Sun Myung Moon [[edit](#)]

In the year 2001, Stallings married Sayomi Kamimoto, a native of [Okinawa, Japan](#), in a ceremony presided over by [Sun Myung Moon](#), the founder of the [Unification Church](#). They now have two sons. In 2004 he was a key organizer for an event in which Moon was crowned with a "crown of peace". The event was attended by a number of [members of the U.S. Congress](#).^[8]

Stallings regained attention in 2006 due to his association with [excommunicated Roman Catholic archbishop Emmanuel Milingo](#) and his group [Married Priests Now!](#). Milingo consecrated Stallings and three other [independent Catholic](#) bishops conditionally in a ceremony in September of that year.^[9] Stallings is also active in the [Middle East Peace Initiative](#), which promotes conflict resolution between [Israeli Jews](#) and [Palestinian Muslims](#).^{[10][11]}

Media appearances [[edit](#)]

In the late 1980s, George Stallings made numerous appearances in the news media. He was interviewed on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Larry King Live*, *The*

Published works [edit]

- . *I am ... Living in the Rhythm of the god within the key of g minor* (2003, SKS Press).

See also [edit]

- . Imani Temple African-American Catholic Congregation

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- ↑ ^{**a**} ^{**b**} Cramer, Jerome; Ostling, Richard (May 14, 1990). "Religion: Catholicism's Black Maverick". *Time Magazine*.
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- ↑ Bowie resident pushes for peace
- ↑ Muslim cleric from Edison works for peace in Middle East

External links [edit]

- . Imani Temple's bio of Stallings

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General themes	Religion in Black America · Historically African-American Christian denominations · Clergy
Methodist	African Methodist Episcopal Church (John Adams Sr. · Richard Allen · Sarah Allen · Benjamin W. Arnett · George Lincoln Blackwell · Morris Brown · Jamal Harrison Bryant · John Richard Bryant · Richard H. Cain · Archibald Carey Jr. · Daniel Coker · James H. Cone · James Levert Davis · Jordan Winston Early · Orishatukeh Faduma · Floyd Flake · Carolyn Tyler Guidry · Sarah E. Gorham · William H. Heard · Reginald Jackson · Henrietta Phelps Jeffries · Absalom Jones · Ben Kinchlow · Vashti Murphy McKenzie · Biddy Mason · Lena Doolin Mason · Robert Meacham · Lyman S. Parks · Daniel Payne · Charles H. Pearce · Clementa C. Pinckney · William Paul Quinn · Reverdy Cassius Ransom · Richard Henry Singleton · Charles Spencer Smith · Theophilus Gould Steward · Henry McNeal Turner · William Tecumseh Vernon · D. Ormonde Walker · Lewis Woodson) · African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (Julia A. J. Foote · James Walker Hood · Thomas James · John Kinard · Jermain Wesley Loguen · William Henry Singleton · John Bryan Small · Jeffery Tribble · James Varick ·

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexander Walters) · A.U.M.P. Church (Peter Spencer) · Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (William Yancy Bell · William H. Miles)
Baptist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dexter Avenue Baptist Church (Vernon Johns · Martin Luther King Jr.) · First African Baptist Church (Richmond, Virginia) (Lucy Goode Brooks) · First African Baptist Church (Savannah, Georgia) (David George) · First Baptist Church (Petersburg, Virginia) · Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship (Paul S. Morton) · Fundamental Baptist Fellowship Association · Joint National Baptist Convention · Lott Carey Foreign Mission Convention (Clinton Caldwell Boone · Lott Cary) · National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (Stewart Cleveland Cureton · Joseph H. Jackson · T. J. Jemison · Willie James Jennings · Henry Lyons · Benjamin Mays · W. J. Simmons) · National Baptist Convention of America, Inc. (R. H. Boyd) · National Missionary Baptist Convention of America (S. M. Lockridge) · National Primitive Baptist Convention of the U.S.A. · Progressive National Baptist Convention (Ralph Abernathy · William Augustus Jones Jr. · Martin Luther King Jr. · Gardner C. Taylor) · Silver Bluff Baptist Church · United American Free Will Baptist Church (Benjamin Randall) · United American Free Will Baptist Conference
Pentecostal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apostolic Assemblies of Christ · Apostolic Faith Church (William J. Seymour) · Church of God in Christ (Charles Edward Blake Sr. · Andraé Crouch · Sandra Crouch · J. Delano Ellis · Robert Michael Franklin Jr. · Samuel Green Jr. · Edwin Hawkins · O. T. Jones Sr. · John P. Kee · Charles Harrison Mason · Chandler David Owens Sr · Gilbert E. Patterson · J. O. Patterson Jr. · Wayne Perryman · Ted Thomas Sr. · F. D. Washington · Dickerson Wells · Timothy Wright · Lennox Yearwood) · Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith (Robert C. Lawson) · Church of Universal Triumph, Dominion of God (James F. Jones) · Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas · Mount Sinai Holy Church of America (Ida B. Robinson) · Pentecostal Assemblies of the World · Reformed Zion Union Apostolic Church · United Pentecostal Council of the Assemblies of God, Incorporated · United Holy Church of America · United Sabbath-Day Adventist Church
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