

In October 1967, Rev. John H. Adams, pastor of First AME Church, united several church members in a meeting with a common goal to form a housing corporation. The assembly included Rev. Adams, Harold Franklin, Alfred Petty, Charles Johnson, Leon Bridges, and Joseph Spates. Rev. Adams shared, "Several HUD-insured rehabilitation projects were planned for the Seattle Central District, and HUD sought sponsorship from nonprofit organizations. He urged the assembly to organize quickly to seize these opportunities when they arise." This sense of unity and shared purpose among the church members was palpable.

Attorney Charles Johnson played a pivotal role in the corporation's formation. He was entrusted with preparing the Articles of Incorporation and presenting them to the Secretary of State. His diligent efforts led to the swift formation of the corporation, which was established with the noble objective of serving the community.

In a subsequent meeting, Rev. Adams informed the board that a group of black religious, civic, and business leaders had met with the Mayor and other Municipal leaders to complain about blacks being forced out of the old Model City area (the Seattle Central District). As a result, this meeting gave blacks more representation and consideration in the region's development. Rev. Adams said that FAME was being considered to sponsor a new construction project for a multi-family near the 23rd and Jackson.

In June 1968, Rev. H. Solomon Hill was appointed pastor of First AME Church following Rev. Adams's transfer to Los Angeles. His experience with HUD-insured housing developments in Kansas City proved a tremendous asset to the board, and his expertise reassured the board members about the future of the housing corporation.

The first project seriously considered by the board was known as Cat 12. This was a four-townhouse, eight-unit complex to be built on 20th Avenue between Union and East Pike Street. It was a joint venture between FAME. and the University of Washington School of Architecture. FAME. was to be the non-profit sponsor, and the University was to provide design, plans, inspection, etc. However, the project did not come to fruition, and the purchase option was sold to another group shortly before the forfeiture of earnest money. This experience, though disappointing, provided a valuable lesson for future endeavors, informing the board about the challenges and solutions in housing development.

In 1970, FAME negotiated with H.U.D. to sponsor Imperial Apartments at 1427 East Pike Street, Seattle, Washington; sponsorship was granted. This building is a fifteen-unit brick & stucco Apartment Rehab. Insured under provisions section 236 of the National Housing Act. The rehab. Century Construction did it. Permission to occupy was granted by July 9, 1971. This was FAME'S first venture into actual housing management. Fred White was chosen as the first property manager. Fred later resigned for personal reasons and was succeeded by Gerald Monroe.

Rev. Cecil Murray was appointed pastor of First AME. Church in August 1971 and assumed the board's presidency.

In December 1971, FAME received from The Boeing Aero-Space group soliciting FAME's proposal for non-profit sponsorship of Operation Breakthrough project, a Boeing-built, 58-unit multi-family complex located at 18th & Yesler Way (The original Bryant Manor)

In May 1972, FAME received notification from Boeing, selecting FAME as the sponsor-owner of Operation Breakthrough Project (Bryant Manor). Under the agreement, Boeing's Housing Finance Corporation agreed to transfer all of its rights to breakthrough development to the 18th & Yesler Association, which became the owner. This action gave FAME sole control of the 18th & Yesler Association.

In September 1973, FAME's third acquisition was the Texada Apts, located at 1128 13th Ave. This project included 25 one-bedroom units for Senior Citizens.

Dr. Freel E. Stephens was appointed pastor of First AME Church in September 1977 and assumed the board's presidency. Dr. Stephens has been very helpful, with outstanding leadership qualities and an exceptional ability to deal with problems. Though faced with many difficulties, the board has maintained high performance.

Key People who played a significant role in the formation of First AME Housing Association

- Rev. Samuel B. Kinne
- Rev. Cecu Murray's
- Rev. Adams
- Harold Franklin
- Alfred Petty
- Charles Johnson
- Leon Bridges
- Joseph Spates.
- Ronald Flynn
- Theron Hooks
- Rev. James H. I Oxley
- Rev. Ellis H. Casson
- Rev. John J. Hunter
- Re. Dr. Carey Anderson