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Karen Kossie-Chernyshev, Ph.D., is a fifth-generation Texan, native Houstonian, and the first African American woman to earn a Ph.D. in the field of history from a Texas institution (Rice University). She serves as a tenured full professor of history at Texas Southern University, where her publications, courses, and community projects focus on African American religion, African American women's intellectual history, and topics in the African Diaspora. She continues to draw inspiration from the commitment to community service demonstrated by spiritual leaders in the Greater Fifth Ward region, especially her late parents, Bishop Roy Lee Kossie, Jr., and Co-Pastor Barbara Lessie Kossie, co-founders of Latter Day Deliverance Revival Church, established in 1966 in the historic Lyons Theater building, 4036 Lyons Avenue. A lifetime member of Latter Day, Dr. Kossie-Chernyshev serves as Minister of Music and Director of Educational and Community Outreach. Her husband of 22 years, Dr. Oleg Chernyshev, M.D., Ph.D., is the Director of both the Sleep Medicine and Vascular Neurology programs at LSU Health (Shreveport, LA) and a fellow of the American Heart Association, American Academy of Neurology, and American Academy of Sleep Medicine. Dr. Karen Kossie-Chernyshev and Dr. Oleg Chernyshev respectively serve as Executive Director and President of USleepAmerica, a non-profit organization promoting freedom of protected sleep as a human right for all.