



COUNCIL OF BISHOPS
Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, President



PUBLIC STATEMENT
Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr., Chair

December 8, 2004

- I. Appreciation was extended to Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Supervisor Stan McKenzie, and the members of the Thirteenth Episcopal District for their hospitality in entertaining the General Board and Council of Bishops, as well as the Investiture of the President of the Council.
- II. Commendation was extended to Bishop E. Earl McCloud in recognition of his election to Chairperson of the Pan Methodist Commission.
- III. Support and Prayer were offered for Edward Waters College in its appeal to have the decision of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools reversed.
- IV. A Pastoral letter will be issued by the Council in response to recent National elections. African Methodist are encouraged to remain politically vigilant and active and to VOTE!
- V. Hurricane Relief efforts by the AME Church have generated over \$100,000 in help for Districts 16, 11 and 9.
- VI. A Connectional Calendar will be developed with guidance from the Secretary of the Council of Bishops and the Chief Information Officer.
- VII. A comprehensive budget for Districts 14-20 will be developed with expressed needs and means to implement standardized support.
- VIII. Discussions were held with the General Counsel on matters of property and of employee rights.
- IX. Work of the Compilation Committee is ahead of schedule. One last full Committee meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2005. The new *Discipline* should be available at the June 2005 General Board meeting.
- X. Acknowledgment is made of a proposed partnership with GMAC. Appreciation was extended to GMAC for their support of the General Board and the Investiture.

Support was expressed for AME Software and other Economic Development ventures. A decision supporting ventures to be reposed with the Council of Bishops and the General Board, specifically initiated by the Commission on Economic Development and the Director of Christian Education.

- XI. Support of Archival Development where AME Documents might be reposed for scholastic review was expressed.
- XII. Acknowledged the Homegoing of Bishop C. E. Thomas, Dr. Alonzo Holman, and Mrs. Mollie Brown.