



COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
5450 Executive Place | Jackson, MS 39206

Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry
PRESIDENT, COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

Bishop John Richard Bryant
SENIOR BISHOP

At the close of the Annual Meeting of the Council of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, held on Monday, June 22, 2009 at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans, LA, the following statement was released concerning the Bishops' deliberations.

I. The Bishops of the Church, recognizing the different kinds of insurance needs of our Pastors and their families and congregations, met with representatives of various insurance organizations to better understand the diversity of products that could be available for health, property and liability and other insurance needs of the people of the A. M. E. Church.

II. Bishop Richard Norris, Chairperson of Board of Trustees of African Methodist Episcopal Church, Incorporated, and Bishop McKinley Young, Chairperson of Commission on Annuity Investments and Insurance presented the Dickerson Insurance Group of Los Angeles to explain the concept of Captive Insurance and the A.M.E. Church having its own insurance company. This idea is not new to the church. Captive Insurance was first introduced to the Bishops and the AME Church under the leadership of now retired, Bishop Philip R. Cousin. The Bishops of the Church and the General Board authorized the Dickerson Insurance Group of Los Angeles to do a feasibility study of the A.M.E. establishing a Captive Insurance Company.

III. The "Cathedral" of African Methodism, Metropolitan A.M. E. Church, Washington, D. C., was built in 1880 as a planned denominational effort, and each annual conference throughout the connection contributed funds to its erection. Because of some major deterioration of the building, the Bishops gave authorization for a connectional funding campaign to restore and repair this major edifice of A.M. E. history. The ad-hoc committee for this project includes Bishop Adam J. Richardson as chairperson, Bishops William DeVeaux, Jeffrey Leath, Sarah Davis, and Senior Bishop John R. Bryant, and President of the Council, Carolyn Tyler Guidry.

IV. The Council of Bishops are in agreement with the General Board in approval of a recommendation from the Social Action Commission, Ms Jacqueline DuPont-Walker, Consultant, to establish a non-profit entity to seek funding from foundations and philanthropic agencies for the purpose of bidding and hopefully acquiring the Rosa Parks archives for the A.M. E. Church. The entity (possibly 501©3) will have the responsibility of maintaining the collection if acquired.

V. The Council of Bishops gave commendations to Bishop Vasti Murphy McKenzie for the continued success of developing the Anvil, the publication of sermons, prayers, and meditations of the bishops and other scholars of the A.M. E. Church. The 2009 edition under the theme, "Inheritance," includes reprinted copies of the AME magazine, first



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published in the 1840's. The magazine includes poetry and prose of our earliest leaders, Bishops Richard Allen, Morris Brown, and Henry McNeal Turner. We extend sincere thanks to historiographer Dr. Dennis Dickerson and Dr. Mark K. Tyler, pastor of Mother Bethel in Philadelphia for their assistance in negotiating with the Schonberg Collection for copies of these wonderful works.

The Anvil is the current work of Bishops and leaders of our church, in keeping with the legacy of our fore parents. The bishops voted that the revenues of \$30,000.00 from the sales of the Anvil would be distributed to our educational institutions. This year's gifts went to Morris Brown College, Atlanta, GA, A.M. E. University, 14th Episcopal District, Africa, and to Metropolitan A.M.E. Church in Washington, D. C., our "national cathedral."

VI. Senior Bishop John Bryant has been invited to be the speaker at the 100th Anniversary Religious Leaders luncheon of the NAACP on Monday July 13, 2009, 1-2:30 p.m. at the New York Hilton Hotel. The Bishops of the A.M. E. Church voted to continue support of the NAACP in the on-going struggle for Civil Rights.

VII. Several legal issues were brought before the Council and were referred to the appropriate committees for deliberation and action. The president of the Council was requested to respond to several correspondences received.

VIII. The Council spent a time of quiet prayer for the family of Bishop Vernon R. Byrd who passed away in May 2009. While we mourn his loss, we rejoice that he has joined the heavenly Council of Bishops to deliberate in eternal rest.

IX. The Council extended commendations to its new president, Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry, for the excellent manner in which she presided. The 8th Episcopal District is also commended for the outstanding hosting of this 2009 session of the General Board and Bishops Council of the A.M. E. Church.

The Council of Bishops

Bishop John R. Bryant, Senior Bishop
Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry, President of the Bishops Council
Bishop James L. Davis, Secretary of the Bishops Council
Bishop William DeVeaux, President of the General Board