

PUBLIC STATEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Council of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church from its meetings held on Sunday, June 26 and Wednesday June 29, 2011, issued the following statement concerning their deliberations and concurrence with decisions made by the General Board at its June 27-28, 2011 Session.

The Council of Bishops wishes to highlight the following issues:

1. The Council of Bishops (Council) encouraged all AMEs to join the Connectional Social Action Commission and AME SADA (Service and Development Agency) on September 21, 2011, for "AMEs on the Hill" during the Congressional Black Caucus week for a day's agenda, which will include a session with key persons in the President's Administration; session with the US Congress on Capitol Hill; constituent visits in legislative offices; and a White House tour, followed by the AME SADA's Annual Founders' Banquet.

2. The Council endorsed the Richard Allen postal stamp initiative and is asking the membership and friends of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to help provide the 20,000+ signatures by November 2011. The U.S. Postal Service told Bishop John R. Bryant that number of signatures was needed by November 2011 for a Richard Allen postal stamp to be considered.

3. The Council released the 2011 edition of *The Anvil, An Incredible Call to Serve: Innovation* with commendation. The annual resource guide of the Council of Bishops was produced both in book and DVD versions; the DVD version includes a bonus the Richard Allen documentary.

4. The Council voted that the \$10,000 proceeds from this year's sale of the 2010 edition of *The Anvil* go to Morris Brown College, Atlanta.

5. The Council went on record in congratulating Morris Brown College in its settlement of the school's \$10 million indebtedness and encourages the AME constituency to assist the College in raising the final \$200,000 to pay off the indebtedness to the Department of Education by August 24, 2011; thereby bringing this chapter to a close.

6. The Council endorsed the celebration of the 100 years of the Lay Organization and supports the "Centennial Celebration" activities outlined to the Council by President Dr. Willie Glover and Dr. Paulette Coleman, Chairperson, which includes a Leadership Summit and Mission Project in Lusaka, Zambia. The "Centennial Celebration" will culminate during the 2012 General Conference. The Council goes on record encouraging all local churches to support the "Centennial Celebration."

7. The Council commended the 12th Episcopal District and Shorter College on being approved by the State of Arkansas to grant degrees and for Shorter College for

becoming a candidate for accreditation by Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS).

8. The Council commended the 10th Episcopal District for the accreditation of Paul Quinn College by Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS).

9. The Council joined the 16th Episcopal District in its endorsement of October 12, 2011, as the "International Day for People of African Descent" in conjunction with the 2009/2010 resolutions and proposals by the United Nations, which declared 2011 as the *International Year for People of African Descent*, encouraging the world community to join in eradicating racism once and for all under the 2011's theme: "Recognition, Justice, Development."

10. The Council approved and adopted recommendation for the AMEC Reinsurance Captive Company which creates a viable financial opportunity and much needed source of protection for the AME Church to be implemented in accordance with the business model presented at this General Board by the Dickerson Group.

11. The Council commended the work of the 16th Episcopal District in Haiti and pledges continued support for the rebuilding of a "New Haiti." The Council encourages all local churches to help keep Haiti and her need for prayer, presence and financial support before its membership. Contributions should continue to be sent to the 16th Episcopal District AMEC or to the Finance Department of the AME Church.

12. The Council acknowledged and supports the Commission on Statistics and Finance request for persons to take advantage of the online registration for delegates and alternates which is now available from the official AME Church Website (www.AME-Church.com).

13. The Episcopal leadership endorsed the Pan-Methodist Campaign for Children in Poverty and encouraged support by all Churches.

14. The Council went on record commending Bishop T. Larry Kirkland for the excellent manner in which he presided over the June 2011 session of the General Board Meeting of the AMEC held in Columbia, South Carolina.

15. The Council extended commendations to its new president, Bishop David R. Daniels for the excellent manner in which he presided. Bishop Preston Williams, Supervisor Wilma Williams and the people of the 7th Episcopal District were commended for the outstanding hosting of the 2011 session of the General Board and Bishops Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

16. The Council celebrated the fact that this is the first time in the 224-year history of the African Methodist Episcopal Church that a West African has been installed as the President of the Council of Bishops; and the first time that a woman who serves as president of a country has spoken at an investiture service. Her Excellency Ellen

Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia spoke at the Installation Banquet of our new president, Bishop David R. Daniels. She is first woman president of an African nation and the only woman sitting as the head of state of any nation on the continent of Africa.

17. A benevolence offering received during the closing worship service was dedicated to the five Episcopal Districts affected by natural disasters during the last several months

18. Finally, the Council announced that CONVO XV and the General Conference Commission meetings will convene in Nashville, Tennessee, December 12-14, 2011.

Submitted by *The Council of Bishops*, the Public Statement Committee of the Council of Bishops:

Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry, Chairperson

Bishop C. Garnett Henning

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie

Bishop Julius McAllister

Additional facilitators: Bishop Sarah F. Davis and Bishop Jeffrey Leath.