



# CONNECTIONAL AMEC WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Quadrennial Report  
to the  
48<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference  
St. Louis, MO

# CONNECTIONAL WOMEN IN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

**Bishop Sarah F. Davis**

*Chairperson*

*Commission on Women in Ministry*



**Reverend Dr. Lois A. Poag-Ray**

*Connectional President*

*Women in Ministry*



# HIGHLIGHTS OF CONNECTIONAL ACTIVITIES 2004-2008

## THEME:

### “God’s Women, Launching Out Into The Deep”

Luke 5:4

- Major increases in number of women preachers
- Exciting conferences and workshops
- Celebrations in women receiving first time pastoral appointments
- Positive affirmations of specialized ministries
- AME/WIM fulfilling our mission:
  - *“To define, enhance, support, and expand the presence of women in ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church”*

# AME/ WIM GATHERINGS

- Bishop's Council/General Board Meetings
  - Worship Services and Jarena Lee Awards Breakfasts
    - June 2005- Dallas, TX
    - June 2006- North Charleston, SC
    - June 2007-Columbus, OH
  
- Quadrennial Connectional Conference Meetings
  - June 2006- North Charleston, SC
    - *"Celebrating Herstories: A Legacy of First Fruits"*
  
- Special Meetings
  - Planning meeting with AME/WIM District Presidents and Conference Coordinators
    - December 2004, Nashville, TN



# CELEBRATING THE “FIRSTS”

- 1<sup>st</sup> AME/WIM Website (August 2004)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Campus Chapter established at Payne Theological Seminary (November 2004)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Video Documentary Produced and Screened
  - “Celebrating Herstories: A Legacy of First Fruits” (2006)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Printing of the 1<sup>st</sup> Comprehensive Book of Modern-Day AME Women in Ministry - Authored by Connectional Historiographer, Rev. Barbara Barbour
  - *Herstory: Traveling Down Memory Lane - Remembering the Past; Living the Present; Preparing for the Future*



## WIM MEMBER STRIDES

- *Rev. Dr. Leah Gaskin Fitchue* - 1<sup>st</sup> Woman President of Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, OH
- *Rev. Mary Senkhane* - 1<sup>st</sup> Woman President of R.R. Wright Theological Seminary, Evaton, South Africa
- *Rev. Lois A. Poag-Ray* - Pan-Methodist Member on the United Methodist Church Commission on the Status and Role of Women



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2004-2008 (PROPOSED LEGISLATION)

- AME/WIM By-Laws
- AME Policy on Sexual Misconduct
- Filling of Officer Vacancies in AME/WIM
- Inclusion of AME/WIM in listing of General Conference Committees (2004 Discipline, pp.215-216)



# CONNECTIONAL STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS 2004-2008

- 3 Women on the Council of Bishops
- 27 Women Presiding Elders
- 893 Women Pastors in the Connection
- 3,223 Women Preachers in the AME Church (June 2008)
- Balance in Treasury (as of June 15, 2008)
  - \$3, 266.83 (no current debts!)



## TOWARDS THE FUTURE

- Expand resources to support the work of AME/WIM
- Provide assistance to Women in Ministry from Districts 14- 20
- Affirm supportive contexts for women to be effective in ministry- especially the pastoral ministry
- Validate ministries beyond the pastoral ministry, especially for women



## TOWARDS THE FUTURE II

- Strengthen our extended community
- Continue to bring attention to the reality of the challenges and obstacles faced by women preachers
- Being open and available to new paradigms, new opportunities, and new possibilities that will ensure the health and productivity of WIM



*Thank You*



*From the* **AME/WIM**

*To God be the Glory!*

