



African Methodist Episcopal Church
PUBLIC STATEMENT OF COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

Thursday, June 29, 2006 11:45 A.M.

**The Embassy Suites Hotel Airport
North Charleston, South Carolina**

The Council of Bishops, under the leadership of the newly invested President Bishop Preston Warren Williams, II, met in its annual meeting here in North Charleston, South Carolina. The Council addressed many issues that came before it and made the following resolutions and observations:

- **The Council of Bishops on an inquiry regarding the matter of the size of the 48th Session of the General Conference 2008 affirms that the action of the 47th Session of the General Conference 2004 is sovereign; therefore the law is to be upheld.**
- **The Bishops encourages the preachers and people to continue to support the Quadrennial Theme “Living Well.” The second edition of the anvil, the Annual publication of the Council of Bishops is available in the Episcopal Districts (1-13). The Anvil includes sermons, reflections, worship resources, prayers and meditations authored by the Bishops of the church, the academic team from Payne Theological Seminary and others. Also, the “Serving Well” poster and the book cover were designed by Mrs. Beverly Thomas, former Episcopal Supervisor and Artist Extraordinaire.**

The Bishop Council further encourages the support of the church for all literary publications authored by our Bishops. Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram’s second printing and revised edition of Equipping the Saints for Service, is now available as is Bishop Frederick H. Talbot’s Compact Disk (CD) entitled “A Bishop Sings of His Faith.”

The Council commended the work of Dr. Johnny Barber and the Sunday School Union on the publication of the Thompson Chain Bible, which includes the names of our Bishops. The Council recommends the support of the church in purchasing the Bibles from the Sunday School Union.

- **The Council addressed the need for Justice for Dafur victims and its support for the Social Action Commissions' statement on Sudan which implores the government to continue its world leadership and commitment to guard the precious principles of justice for all people. The Council in support of its position designated that the missions offering at its closing worship be for support of the work that Dr. Gloria White Hammons international chair is doing in the Sudan.**
- **The Council of Bishops stressed the need that all Departments of the Church get proper clearance of meeting dates from the President of the Council of Bishops and the Chief Informational Officer before any contracts are signed.**
- **Finally, the Council applauds the excellent work of Bishop Preston Warren Williams, II, and the 7th Episcopal District for the outstanding and creative ways in which they have hosted the Bishop Council and General Board this week. The ministry of music which included the North Charleston Mass Choir and symphony orchestra were cited for their inspirational musical renderings.**

The Council also expressed appreciation and commended Bishop Adam J. Richardson for the powerful and challenging sermon preached during the closing worship service of the Council.

The Council of Bishops asks the prayers of the Church for the blessings of God upon our collective ministries and for peace and justice around the world.

**Submitted on behalf of the Council of Bishops
The Public Statement Committee**

**Bishop A. J. Richardson, Jr.
Bishop C. Garnett Henning
Bishop Wilfred J. Messiah
Bishop Sarah F. Davis**