



THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017



Eighteenth Episcopal District

Lesotho

PO Box 223, Maseru 100, Lesotho
Facebook: @ame18th

United States

P.O. Box 2254, Tucker Georgia 30084
Google+Eightenthepiscopaldistrict

www.ame18.org
admin@ame18.org

2017 UPDATE

TO THE GENERAL BOARD & THE GLOBAL COUNCIL OF BISHOP

The 18th Episcopal District continues to focus on the following:

1. **Be Hospitable** - Love the People
2. **Be Good Stewards** - Reposition Financial: Meet All Episcopal Project Budget
3. **Be Productive** - Build Sanctuaries and Facilities
4. **Be Intentional** - Redirect Spiritual Engine
5. **Be Informed** - Make Christian Education Accessible for Clergy and laity

The work of the district is progressing with the spiritual, physical, educational, financial and social development of local congregations, presiding elder's District and the Episcopal ministries. Collaboration within the Episcopal ministry, schools, and presiding elders are promoting the unity and the collective focus of the District.

The goal to "Love the People" is well under way with the collection of email address and contact information of each Annual Conference. An Episcopal District database was created to maintain connection and communication of initiatives, events and other information. The leadership of the district is in the process of establishing budgetary procedures at every level, evaluating local facilities, Episcopal Projects and schools to address the capital improvement needs of the District.

Each Annual Conference have implemented annual Christian Education meetings to equip our leadership. An Episcopal District Christian Education Director was appointed to continue the focus of Christian Education throughout the District for the intentional work of development, leadership and spiritual formation. .

2017 UPDATE

THE REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

The Number of Annual Conferences 5

What is the number of circuits / churches in the District?

What is the number of circuits/churches in the District?	
Botswana Annual Conference	33
Mozambique Annual Conference	16
Swaziland Annual Conference	33
North East Annual Conference	24
Lesotho Annual Conference	47
Total Churches in the District	153

Total Episcopal District Membership

The Amount of the General Budget Fund appropriated

The Episcopal District	R98,626
------------------------	---------

The Amount of the General Fund collected and sent to the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the AME Church, from each of the Annual Conferences.

Botswana Annual Conference	See CFO Report
Mozambique Annual Conference	See CFO Report
Swaziland Annual Conference	See CFO Report
North East Lesotho Annual Conference	See CFO Report
Lesotho Annual Conference	See CFO Report
Total Episcopal District Sent	See CFO Report

If this represents an increase, the same amount, or a decrease as compared with last year's report, list the following, and give details:

What is the number of Preachers tried, suspended and expelled?	NONE
What is the number of Preachers transferred	NONE
What is the number of new congregation organized	NONE
What is the amount of development in the District	TBA
What decisions and ruling have been made	NONE

2017 UPDATE

THE WORK IS ALL DIVINE

The 18th Episcopal District is positioned to move forward with the work of making, nurturing, baptizing, and teaching disciples. At the end of the Annual Conference series, the district gathered for the Post Conference Convocation and the Holiday Celebration. We had a wonderful time as we promoted the necessity of unity in the Episcopal District. Although, we are a diverse district representing several countries and kingdoms on the continent of Africa, we are called to be united.

We have implemented leadership training for each Annual Conference. We have utilized the model, “Whose Holding Your Ladder” to promote the necessity to identify effective leaders and to utilize the full leadership team to move the ministry forward. We celebrate the support of each Annual Conference in their attendance to participate in this training opportunity.

We are working to implement procedures within the district which will create fiscal accountability and develop budgetary processes to ensure accurate reporting and to utilize the resources entrusted to the work of the church. We are developing partnerships in the community and villages to promote financial stability.

Our A.M.E. schools are supporting children throughout the various countries. We are accessing the needs of the multiple schools to determine the Episcopal District and Annual Conferences’ support levels to ensure adequate care for the facilities, personnel and families associated.

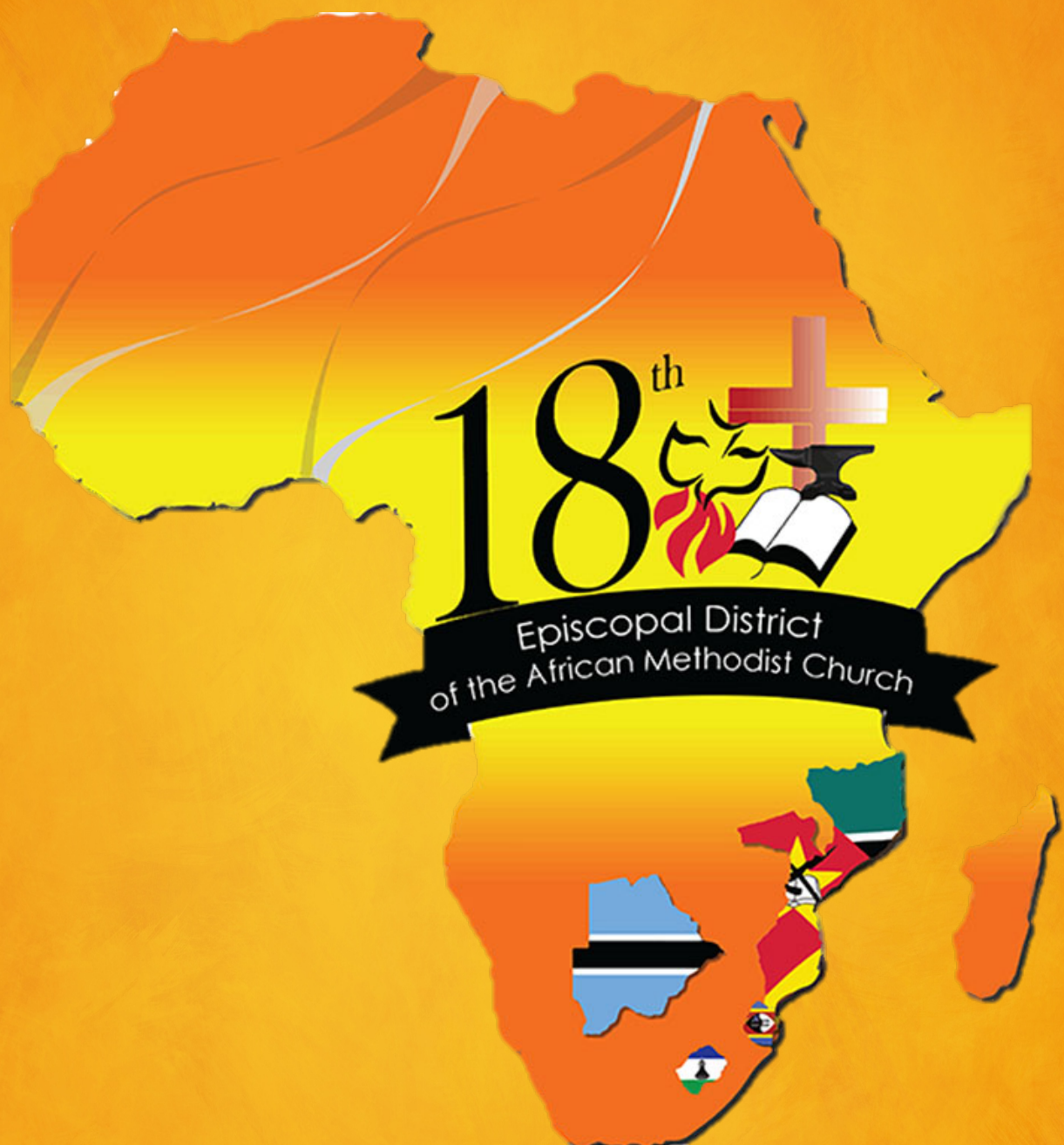
Communication is critical for the Episcopal District and we continue to work diligently to identify areas in which we can connect with the membership and leadership in the district. We have created e-mail distribution to communicate with the membership but with 38% of the email addresses are returned due to the multiple connections necessary to get the message through the internet.

The language barriers in some areas necessitate the need for converting learning materials from English into other languages to ensure every member has access to District information. The cost associated with the translation project calls us to seek partnerships which will assist us in providing materials.

We appreciate the gathering of the Global Development Council and its work. It was rewarding to participate in dialogue among individuals with like interests and concerns. We acknowledge that we must work diligently to provide our clergy accessibility to theological education. We look forward to partnering with our seminaries and utilizing technology to bring resources to clergy and laity in the District.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the Christian Education and the Publishing Departments for providing the quarterly Church School materials to our district. We believe the accessibility to these materials will assist us in making Christian Education accessible to each congregation. We also believe translating this material helps the local congregation to teach.

Finally, we celebrate the Midyear Convocation and WMS Convention where the Episcopal Supervisor was robed in the tradition of the Women’s Missionary Society. It was an emotional and rewarding experience and we give God all the praise and glory.



BOTSWANA - LESOTHO - MOZAMBIQUE - NORTH LESOTHO - SWAZILAND