

# THE GENERAL OFFICERS Combined Reports

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**JUNE 19 – 21, 2017**  
**HILTON LOS ANGELES AIRPORT**  
**LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

**Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie,**  
President

**Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram,**  
First Vice President

**Bishop Wilfred J. Messiah,**  
Second Vice President

**Bishop Paul J. M. Kawimbe,**  
Third Vice President

**Bishop Clement W. Fugh,**  
Council of Bishops President

**Bishop McKinley Young,**  
Senior Bishop

**Dr. Richard Allen Lewis, Sr.,**  
Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer

**Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper,**  
General Secretary/Chief Information Officer





# The Combined General Officers' Reports



- I. Treasurer/CFO, AMEC Finance Department**  
Dr. Richard Allen Lewis



- III. Executive Director, Department of Missions  
Global Witness and Ministry**  
Dr. George F. Flowers



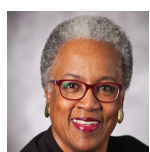
- IV. Executive Director, Department of Retirement Services**  
Dr. Jerome V. Harris



- V. Executive Director, Department of Church Growth and Development**  
Dr. James C. Wade



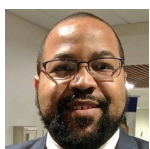
- VI. General Secretary/CIO**  
Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper



- VII. Historiographer/Executive Director  
Department of Research and Scholarship and Editor of the A.M.E. Review**  
Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown



- VIII. President/Publisher, AMEC Sunday School Union**  
Rev. Roderick D. Belin



- IV. Editor, *The Christian Recorder***  
John Thomas, II



- V. Executive Director, Department of Christian Education**  
Rev. Garland F. Pierce





## AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

July 6, 2017

Dear Members of the General Board:

Again, the General Officers of the African Methodist Episcopal Church present a record of our stewardship of the nine departments that we manage. Our reports are compiled in this single volume and they symbolize our spirit of cooperation and our desire to help facilitate the smooth and efficient operation of the General Board.

Enclosed herein is our first combined report following the historic 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference and 200th Anniversary Celebration.

Our General Officers are united with all AMEs in advancing the ministry and mission of our denomination. Contained in these pages are testimonies to our work and commitment to the cause of Christ.

May God richly bless our deliberations.

Yours in Christian service,

Dr. Richard Allen Lewis  
President, General Officers' Council  
African Methodist Episcopal Church



OFFICE OF THE TREASURER/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

### HEADQUARTERS

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### OFFICE

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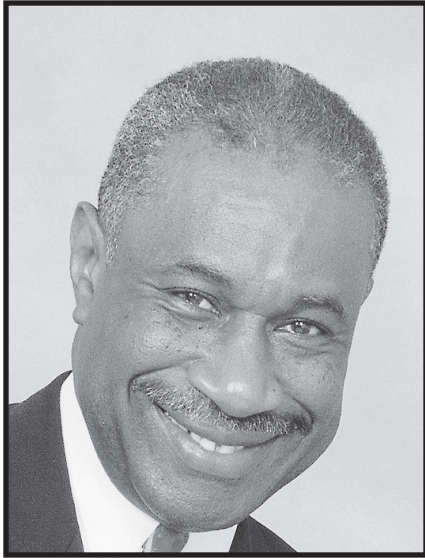




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**Bishop McKinley Young**  
*Senior Bishop*



**Bishop Clement W. Fugh**  
*President of Council of Bishops*  
*Host Bishop*



**Bishop Vashti McKinzie**  
*President of the General Board*





**BISHOPS**  
of the  
**African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc.**  
**2016-2020**

<b>District</b>	<b>Bishop</b>
1st	Bishop Gregory Gerald McKinley Ingram
2nd	Bishop James Levert Davis
3rd	Bishop McKinley Young
4th	Bishop John Franklin White
5th	Bishop Clement Willie Fugh
6th	Bishop Reginald Thomas Jackson
7th	Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green Sr.
8th	Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister Sr.
9th	Bishop Harry Lee Seawright
10th	Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie
11th	Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson Jr.
12th	Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell
13th	Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath
14th	Bishop E. Earl McCloud
15th	Bishop David Rwhynica Daniels Jr.
16th	Bishop E. Anne Henning-Byfield
17th	Bishop Wilfred Jacobus Messiah
18th	Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker
19th	Bishop Paul Jones Mulenga Kawimbe
20th	Bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford Sr.
Eumenical	Bishop Frank Madison Reid III

**RETIRED**

Bishop John Hurst Adams	Bishop Robert Vaughn Webster
Bishop Frederick Hilborn Talbot	Bishop Zedekiah LaZett Grady
Bishop Frederick Calhoun James	Bishop Cornall Garnett Henning Sr.
Bishop Frank Curtis Cummings	Bishop William Phillips DeVeaux Sr.
Bishop Phillip Robert Cousin Sr.	Bishop Theodore Larry Kirkland
Bishop Henry Allen Belin Jr.	Bishop Richard Franklin Norris
Bishop John Richard Bryant	Bishop Preston Warren Williams II
Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry	





## **GENERAL OFFICERS** of the **African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc.** **2012-2017**

Treasurer/CFO AME Finance Department . . . . . Dr. Richard Allen Lewis  
Executive Director Global Witness & Ministry . . . . . Dr. George F. Flowers  
Executive Director Department of Annuity Investments and Insurance . . . . . Dr. Jerome V. Harris  
Executive Director Department of Church Growth & Development . . . . . Dr. James C. Wade  
General Secretary/Chief Information Officer . . . . . Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper  
Historiographer/Executive Director Department of Research & Scholarship . . . Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown  
President/Publisher Sunday School Union . . . . . Rev. Roderick D. Belin  
Editor Christian Recorder . . . . . Mr. John Thomas III  
Executive Director Department of Christian Education . . . . . Rev. Garland F. Pierce

## **RETIRED GENERAL OFFICERS**

Dr. Jamye C. Coleman	Rev. Hercules Miles
Rev. Dennis C. Dickerson, Ph.D.	Dr. Johnny Barbour
Dr. Paulette Coleman	Dr. Calvin H. Sydnor III
Dr. Kenneth H. Hill	Dr. Daryl B. Ingram



## CONNECTIONAL OFFICERS of the A.M.E. Church 2016-2020

President, Women's Missionary Society . . . . .	Dr. Shirley Cason Reed
President, Connectional Council . . . . .	Rev. Leodis Strong
Consultant, Social Action Commission . . . . .	Mrs. Jacqueline Dupont-Walker
President, CONN-M-SWAWO+PK's . . . . .	Ms. Lula Shaw Cleckley
Administrator, Clergy Family Information Center . . . . .	Mrs. Ora L. Easley
Director, Music and Christian Arts Ministry . . . . .	Rev. Anthony B. Vinson Sr.
Director, Young People's Division—WMS . . . . .	Ms. Wanda T. Ringgold
President, Connectional Lay Organization . . . . .	Dr. Willie C. Glover
Executive Director, Health Commission . . . . .	Rev. Natalie Mitchem, M.Div, R.D.
Medical Director, Health Commission . . . . .	Rev. Miriam J. Burnett, M.D., M.Div., MPH
President, Young People's Division – WMS . . . . .	Mr. Chinelo Tyler
President, Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC) . . . . .	Ms. Martinique Mix
Administrator, Christian Debutante-Master . . . . .	Mrs. Lyndajo Jones Watson
President, Judicial Council . . . . .	Attorney Patricia M. Mayberry
Special General Counsel . . . . .	Attorney William A. Marsh Jr.
AME Church General Counsel . . . . .	Attorney Douglass P. Selby, Hunton & Williams, LLP
President, Presiding Elder's Council . . . . .	Rev. Earle H. Ifill
President, Women in Ministry . . . . .	Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford
President, AME Church Chaplains Association . . . . .	Chaplain Kenneth E. Johnson, Jr.
President, Sons of Allen . . . . .	Mr. George Brown
Executive Director, AME SADA (Service and Development Agency) . . . . .	Mr. Robert Nicolas, Esq.
Consultant, General Board Nominating Committee . . . . .	Rev. Dr. Donald Tucker
Fellowship of Church Educators . . . . .	Rev. Joy L. Gallmon





## GENERAL BOARD

2016-2020

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie  
President

Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram  
*1st Vice President*

Bishop Wilfred Messiah  
*2nd Vice President*

Bishop Paul Kawimbe  
*3rd Vice President*

Bishop McKinley Young  
*Senior Bishop*

Bishop John Franklin White  
*Council President*  
*t*

### EX OFFICIO

Dr. Richard Allen Lewis, Sr.  
Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper



# MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL BOARD

## 2016-2020

### 1st District

Reverend David Cousin  
Mrs. Wanda L. Duckett  
Reverend Jocelyn Hart Lovelace  
Mrs. Edna Sharp  
Mr. Keith Costen (Young Adult)

### 2nd District

Reverend Ernest L. Montague, Sr.  
Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell  
Reverend Gregory Edmond  
Mr. William Boykin  
Reverend John I. Swann, Jr.

### 3rd District

Reverend Dr. Alphonse Allen  
Sharon Smith Banks  
Reverend Dr. James Harris  
Kimberly Gordon Brooks  
Giselle Lindsey (Young Adult)

### 4th District

Reverend Tyson J. Parks  
Betty J. Tuggle  
Reverend Dr. Reginald Blount  
Michael A. Cousin, Jr.  
(Young Adult)  
Reverend Larry J. Bell

### 5th District

Reverend J. Edgar Boyd  
Randolph R. Scott  
Reverend Frances Carey  
Tamika Jones  
Ka'Dijah Brown

### 6th District

Reverend Dr. William Watley  
Bro. Charles Murphy  
Reverend Dr. Jonetta Prather

Sis. Janice Stewart  
Reverend Conitras M. Houston  
(Young Adult)

### 7th District

Reverend Dr. Norvell Goff, Sr.  
Ms. Vergie Tennison  
Reverend Dr. Williams Smith, Jr.  
Mr. Keith Britton  
Ms. Joi Artis (Young Adult)

### 8th District

Reverend Michele Goodloe  
Ms. Stephanie Burks  
Reverend Demetrese Phillips  
Ms. Darlene Gordon  
Reverend Keith Sanders

### 9th District

Reverend Bobby B. Cox, Jr.  
Mr. James C. Bonner, Jr.  
Reverend Albert L. Hyche  
Ms. Veronica Wiley  
Mr. Jeremy Joseph (Young Adult)

### 10th District

Reverend Tyronda Burgess  
Mr. Carl Davis  
Reverend Roderick Dawson  
Mrs. Kendra Hill-Daughton  
(Young Adult)  
Reverend Mittie Muse, Sr.

### 11th District

Reverend Mark L. Griffin  
Mr. Reginald B. McGill  
Reverend Dr. Julius H. McAllister Jr.  
Mr. Charlie Nichols  
Mr. Jamarien P. Moore



### **12th District**

Reverend Tyrone Broomfield  
Dr. Dorothy Henderson  
Reverend Larry M. Banks  
Nikita Bennett (Young Adult)  
Reverend Marcellus Fields

### **13th District**

Reverend Walter Reid, Jr.  
Ms. LaTanya Germany  
Reverend Troy Thomas  
Mr. Jeffery Norfleet II  
Ms. Anjelica Jones (Youth)

### **14th District**

Reverend Alvin E. Attah  
Mr. Garfield E. Mason  
Reverend Margaret Fadehan  
Mr. Eric Coleman  
Reverend Orlando McCauley

### **15th District**

Reverend Willem Hanse  
Theodore Messiah  
Reverend Innocent Monare  
Ntomethemba Racheal September  
Tshepang Mmusi

### **16th District**

Reverend Andrew Carver Morris Grant  
Sis. Krystel Compton  
Reverend Newton Dixon

Sis. Darosa Bigford  
Reverend Carlene Sobers

### **17th District**

Reverend Martin C. Chama  
Bro. Clifford Mugala  
Reverend Moses Achola  
Bro. David Kafusu  
Bro. Martin Lombe

### **18th District**

Reverend Albert Thwala  
Sis. Aone Sandra Aedige  
Beatrice Motokoa  
Sis. Dudu Motjotji  
Malungisa Auricola Dlamini

### **19th District**

Reverend P.J. Mengoai  
Ms. Thumekile Mthanti  
Makhene Mohale Daniel Thabo  
Mpumelelo Dlamini  
Abraham Phukuntsi Kgaile

### **20th District**

Reverend Eustice Ginya  
Stain Simfukwe  
Reverend Rosetta Swinton  
Passion Musa  
Kwandokuhe Khumal  
(Young Adult)







# MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL BOARD

2016-2020

## Executive Committee

Bishop Richard F. Norris	President
Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie	First Vice President
Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram	Second Vice President
Bishop Preston W. Williams II	Third Vice President
Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper	General Secretary/CIO
Dr. Richard Allen Lewis, Sr.	Treasurer/CFO

## Members

First	Keith Costen (YA)	Eleventh	Bro. Reginald B. McGill
Second	Rev. Ernest Montague	Twelfth	Rev. Tyrone Broomfield
Third	Kimberly Gordon Brooks	Thirteenth	Ms. LaTanya Germany
Fourth	Rev. Tyson Parks	Fourteenth	Rev. Alvin Attah
Fifth	Mr. Randolph Scott	Fifteenth	Tshepang Mmusi
Sixth	Rev. Dr. William Watley	Sixteenth	Rev. Newton Dixon
Seventh	Mr. Keith Britton	Seventeenth	Mr. Martin Lombe
Eighth	Rev. Michele Goodloe	Eighteenth	Rev. Albert Thwala
Ninth	Mr. James C. Bonner	Nineteenth	Mpumeleo Dlamini
Tenth	Rev. Roderick Dawson	Twentieth	Rev. Eustice Ginya

## At-Large

Reverend Dr. Harold Mayberry (5)	Mrs. Sandra Lucas (12)
Reverend Henry Belin (1)	Mr. Larry Hollie (10)
Reverend Dr. Ronald Braxton (2)	Mr. John Autry (8)
Reverend Dr. Ceasar Richburg (7)	Mrs. Ladonna Liggins (3)
Reverend Dr. David W. Green, Sr. (11)	Mr. James A. Alexander, Jr. (6)

## Commission On Statistics And Finance

Bishop Clement W. Fugh	Chairperson
Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper	General Secretary/CIO
Dr. Richard Allen Lewis, Sr.	Treasurer/CFO



## Members

First	Mrs. Edna Sharp	Eleventh	Bro. Reginald B. McGill
Second	Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell	Twelfth	Dr. Dorothy Henderson
Third	Rev. James H. Harris	Thirteenth	Rev. Walter Reid
Fourth	Rev. Larry James Bell	Fourteenth	Rev. Alvin Attah
Fifth	Rev. J. Edgar Boyd	Fifteenth	Ntomethemba Rachel September
Sixth	Rev. Dr. William Watley	Sixteenth	Rev. Newton Dixon
Seventh	Rev. Dr. Norvel Goff	Seventeenth	Rev. Martin C. Chama
Eighth	Rev. Michele Goodloe	Eighteenth	Beatrice Mutokoa
Ninth	Rev. Bobby Cox	Nineteenth	Rev. P.J. Mengoi
Tenth	Rev. Tyronda Burgess	Twentieth	Kwandokuhe Khumal (YA)

## At-Large

Rev. Dr. Harold Mayberry	Mr. Michael A. Cousin, Jr. (YA)
Mr. James Alexander (YA)	Rev. Dr. David Green
Rev. Henry A. Belin III	Rev. Mark Griffin
Rev. Dr. Ronald Braxton	Mr. Larry Hollie
Rev. Tyrone Bromfield	Mrs. Ladonna Liggins
Rev. David Cousin	Rev. Julius H. McAllister

## Commission On Publications

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie	<i>Chairperson</i>
Rev. Roderick D. Belin	<i>President/Publisher, Sunday School Union</i>
John Thomas, III	<i>Editor, The Christian Recorder</i>
Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown	<i>Historiographer/Director of Research &amp; Scholarship, Editor of The A.M.E. Review</i>

## Members

First	Rev. David Cousin	Eleventh	Rev. Dr. Julius McAllister
Second	Rev. Gregory Edmonds	Twelfth	Rev. Marcellus Fields
Third	Ms. Kimberly Gordon Brooks	Thirteenth	Rev. Walter Reid
Fourth	Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount	Fourteenth	Rev. Dr. Katurah Cooper
Fifth	Rev. J. Edgar Boyd	Fifteenth	Rev. William Hanse
Sixth	Rev. Conitras M. Houston (YA)	Sixteenth	Ms. Krystel Compton
Seventh	Mr. Keith Britton	Seventeenth	Bro. Clifford Mugala
Eighth	Ms. Stephanie Burks	Eighteenth	Rev. Albert Thwala
Ninth	Mr. James C. Bonner	Nineteenth	Bro. Mpumi Dlamini
Tenth	Mr. Carl Davis	Twentieth	Sis. Kwandokuhle Khumal (YA)



## At-Large

Rev. Dr. Harold Mayberry

Mr. James Alexander (YA)

Rev. Henry A. Belin, III

Rev. Dr. Ronald Braxton

Mr. Michael A. Cousin, Jr.

Mrs. Sandra Lucas

## Commission On Church Growth And Development

Bishop Adam J. Richardson ..... *Chairperson*

Dr. James C. Wade ..... *Executive Director*

## Members

First	Rev. David Cousin	Eleventh	Rev. Dr. David Green
Second	Rev. Ernest Montague	Twelfth	Rev. Tyrone Broomfield
Third	Rev. Alphonse Allen	Thirteenth	Mr. Jeffery Norfleet
Fourth	Rev. Tyson Parks	Fourteenth	Rev. Alvin E. Attah
Fifth	Rev. J. Edgar Boyd	Fifteenth	Tshepang Mmusi
Sixth	Rev. William Watley	Sixteenth	Rev. Andrew C. Morris-Grant
Seventh	Rev. Dr. William Smith	Seventeenth	Rev. Martin C. Chama
Eighth	Rev. Demetrese Phillips	Eighteenth	Rev. Albert Thwala
Ninth	Rev. Albert Hyche	Nineteenth	Rev. M.D.T. Makhene
Tenth	Rev. Roderick Dawson	Twentieth	Rev. Eustice Ginya

## At-Large

Mr. James Alexander (YA)

## Commission On Annuity Investments And Insurance

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr ..... *Chairperson*

Dr. Jerome V. Harris ..... *Executive Director*

## Members

First	Rev. David Cousin	Eleventh	Rev. Mark Griffin
Second	Rev. Ernest Montague	Twelfth	Rev. Larry Banks
Third	Rev. James H. Harris	Thirteenth	Rev. Troy Thomas
Fourth	Rev. Larry James Bell	Fourteenth	Rev. Garfield Mason
Fifth	Rev. Fran Carey	Fifteenth	Rev. William Hanse
Sixth	Rev. Dr. William Watley	Sixteenth	Rev. Andrew C. Morris-Grant
Seventh	Rev. Dr. William Smith	Seventeenth	Rev. Martin C. Chama
Eighth	Rev. Keith Sanders	Eighteenth	Maluginsa Auricola Dlamini
Ninth	Rev. Albert Hyche	Nineteenth	Rev. M.D.T. Makhene
Tenth	Rev. Tyrona Burgess	Twentieth	Rev. Rosette Swinton





## At-Large

Mr. John Autrey

Mrs. Ladonna Liggins

## Commission On Christian Education

Bishop David R. Daniels ..... *Chairperson*  
Rev. Garland F. Pierce ..... *Executive Director*  
Mrs. Gloria Massey Ward ..... *Administrator, Christian Debutant-Master*  
Rev. George Brown ..... *President, Sons of Allen*  
Rev. Anthony Vinson ..... *President, Music and Christian Arts Ministry*  
Ms. Martinque Mix ..... *President, Richard Allen Young Adult Council*  
(RAYAC)

## Members

First	Mrs. Wanda Duckett	Eleventh	Jamarien P. Moore (YA)
Second	Mr. William Boykin	Twelfth	Rev. Larry Banks
Third	Giselle Lindsey (YA)	Thirteenth	Rev. Troy Thomas
Fourth	Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount	Fourteenth	Bro. Garfield Mason
Fifth	Tamika Jones	Fifteenth	Ntomethemba Rachel September
Sixth	Mr. Charles Murphy	Sixteenth	Ms. DaRosa Bigford
Seventh	Ms. Vergie Tennison	Seventeenth	Rev. Martin C. Chama
Eighth	Rev. Keith Sanders (YA)	Eighteenth	Sis. Dudu Motjotji
Ninth	Mr. Jeremy Joseph (YA)	Nineteenth	Bro. Mpumi Dlamini
Tenth	Kendra Hill-Daughton (YA)	Twentieth	Kwandokuhe Khumal (YA)

## Commission On Global Witness and Ministry

Bishop Paul Kawimbe ..... *Chairperson*  
Dr. George F. Flowers ..... *Executive Director*  
Mrs. Shirley Cason-Reed ..... *President, Connectional WMS*

## Members

First	Mrs. Wanda Duckett	Eleventh	Charlie Nichols
Second	Rev. John I. Swann (YA)	Twelfth	Ms. Nikita Bennett (YA)
Third	Ms. Sharon Smith Banks	Thirteenth	Ms. Angelica Jones (YA)
Fourth	Mr. Michael Cousin, Jr. (YA)	Fourteenth	Rev. Margaret Fadehan
Fifth	Ka'Dijah Brown (YA)	Fifteenth	Ntomethemba Rachael September
Sixth	Janice Stewart	Sixteenth	Rev. Carlene Sobers
Seventh	Ms. Vergie Tennison	Seventeenth	Bro. David Kafusu



Eighth	Rev. Demetrese Phillips	Eighteenth	Sis. Aone Sandra Aedige
Ninth	Rev. Bobby Cox	Nineteenth	Rev. P.J. Mengoai
Tenth	Mr. Carl Davis	Twentieth	Rev. Eustice Ginya

## At-Large

Rev. Dr. Harold Mayberry  
Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell

Rev. Dr. Caesar Richburg









**General Board Report 2017**

**COMMISSION ON**

**STATISTICS & FINANCE**

**to the**

**General Conference**

**of the**

**African Methodist Episcopal Church**



**Airport Hilton Hotel**  
**Los Angeles, California**  
**June 19-21, 2017**

**Dr. Richard Allen Lewis, Sr.**  
Treasurer & CFO

**Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie**  
President, General Board

**Bishop Clement W. Fugh**  
Chairman, Statistics & Finance Commission  
President, Council of Bishops



# THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Submitted by:

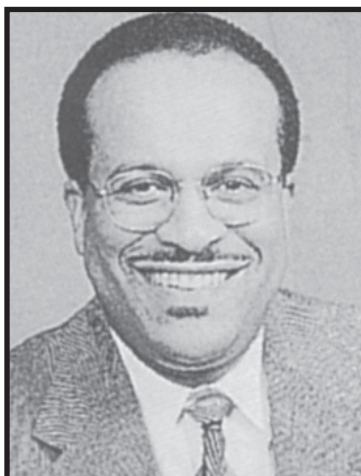
**Dr. Richard Allen Lewis**

Treasurer/CFO, A.M.E. Church, Inc.



**Bishop Clement W. Fugh**

Chairman, Statistics and Finance  
Senior Bishop



**Dr. Richard Allen Lewis**

Treasurer and CFO



**Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper**

General Secretary and CIO

## Commission On Statistics And Finance

Bishop John R. Bryant ..... Chairperson  
Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper ..... General Secretary/CIO  
Dr. Richard Allen Lewis, Sr. .... Treasurer/CFO

## Members

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Rev. Dr. Silvester Beaman | 11. Dr. Samuel Hunter        |
| 2. Mrs. Valerie Gary Bell    | 12. Rev. James Thomas        |
| 3. Rev. Gerald Cooper        | 13. Rev. Walter W. Reid, Jr. |
| 4. Rev. Larry Bell           | 14. Rev. Orlando McCauley    |
| 5. Rev. J. Edgar Boyd        | 15. Mr. Mzwake Quane         |
| 6. Rev. Ernest Davis         | 16. Rev. Wayne Anthony       |
| 7. Rev. Norvell Goff, Sr.    | 17. Rev. Paul Mugala         |
| 8. Rev. Moses Simms          | 18. Mr. Bohlale Phakwe       |
| 9. Rev. Bobby Cox            | 19. Mrs. Ntombizodwa Thula   |
| 10. Rev. N. Jordan Mkwana    | 20. Rev. Noah Nyamaropa      |

## At-Large

- |                             |                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Rev. Dr. Harold Mayberry | 7. Mr. John Thomas, III           |
| 2. Rev. Henry A. Belin, III | 8. Mrs. LaDonna Liggins           |
| 3. Rev. Mark Griffin        | 9. Mrs. Virginia Henderson Harris |
| 4. Mr. Reginald McGill      | 10. Rev. Ernest Montague          |
| 5. Dr. Anna Burnette Graham | 11. Rev. David Cousin             |
| 6. Rev. Thomas Hughes       | 12. Rev Thomas Bess               |



# **JUNE 2017**

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Bishop of the A.M.E. Church, President of the Council of Bishops, General Board Chairman, Chairman of the Commission of Statistics and Finance, and Members of the General Conference**

**From: Dr. Richard Allen Lewis, Sr.  
Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer,  
A.M.E. Church, Inc.**

The Finance Department welcomes Bishop Clement W. Fugh, Chairperson of the Commission of Statistics and Finance and the incoming President of the Council of Bishops and Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie, President of the General Board. Also, we thank Bishop John F. White, immediate past president of the Council of Bishops for his support.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Session of the General Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania was a success. The General Conference was completely paid in full. General Conference had over 10,000 plus registrants, which included delegates, alternates and observers. We were blessed to have Presidential Candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton to speak to the general body during a preliminary session.

Quarterly payments were on time as of March 31, 2017 for Districts 1-13. Districts 14-20 paid their total budgets on time also. Once again I would like to thank each district for persevering to ensure that all budget payments were on time.

We welcome the six new consecrated bishops: Bishop Harry L. Seawright (133<sup>rd</sup>); Bishop Michael I. Mitchell (134<sup>th</sup>); Bishop Anne E. Henning-Byfield (135<sup>th</sup>); Bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford (136<sup>th</sup>); Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker (137<sup>th</sup>) and Bishop Frank M. Reid, III (138<sup>th</sup>). Five Bishops retired at the General Conference. To God be the Glory for the outstanding service of Bishops Bryant, DeVeaux, Kirkland, Norris and Williams for their untiring service given to the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Enjoy your





Retirement for it is well deserved!

The AME Membership card has registered over 21,486 members. Registration is free, but it will cost \$5 to replace a lost card. There is a cause and effect anomaly with respect to the membership card. The cause is to brand ourselves and the church to ensure the demographics and information a sponsor needs can be provided expeditiously. The effect is the discounts, benefits and coupons we will receive. Once you have registered for your card, you will receive an email from the website, [www.abenity.com](http://www.abenity.com). This web-based site provides an elite collection of local and national discount offers.

Let us continue our tradition of bringing people to Christ as we fight the enemies of injustice, equality and freedom.





# **AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

## **THE DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL WITNESS AND MINISTRY**

**Dr. George F. Flowers**  
Executive Director



**Bishop McKinley Young**  
Senior Bishop

**Bishop Clement W. Fugh**  
Host Bishop & President, Council of Bishop

**Bishop John F. White**  
Commission Chair

**Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie**  
President, General Board

**HILTON HOTEL—LAX AIRPORT  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
JUNE 19—JUNE 21, 2017**



# The Executive Officer of Mission



Dr. George F. Flowers  
The Department of Global Witness and Ministry  
African Methodist Episcopal Church



# Foreword

*Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!*

I'm pleased to submit this annual report on the work and stewardship of the **Department of Global Witness and Ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.**

This report includes all of those things required *per Discipline*, but it goes beyond statistical data. This report will hopefully be a “snapshot” of the real work done, real efforts made and real lives changed.

This report will hopefully show that from disaster ravaged areas in the United States of America to places of struggle in the Caribbean to places of strife and challenge in India to places of struggle on the African Continent, the Department of Global Witness and Ministry has been an agent of change, an advocate for progress and a source of solace and hope and meaningful assistance.

Ours is a world that badly needs the life-changing Gospel to be offered not only by our preaching, but by our work to bring wholeness, liberation and well being. I'm glad that in some small way, the Department – in partnership with the Women's Missionary Society, SADA, Church World Service and like minded ecumenical and nongovernmental organizations has played a role in spreading the Gospel in tangible ways.

I thank God and the Church for the opportunity to serve. I especially thank those of you who have personally been of support and encouragement to me as I have journeyed on this path of mission. I recognize that I have not been alone, but you my brothers and sisters have been a blessing in innumerable ways. I pray God's continued blessings on the church of my birth and choice.

## ECUMENICAL TRAVELS

Havana, Cuba

Traveled with Faith Base Men's Initiative a long time companion to GWM to Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
Chicago, IL

## MEDICAL MISSION TRAVEL

GWM supported Doctor's Fellowship Missions with our “gift of presence” as we provided 2 dentists and 9 med-students to assist in their travels and mission throughout the countries of Ghana and Nigeria, West Africa.

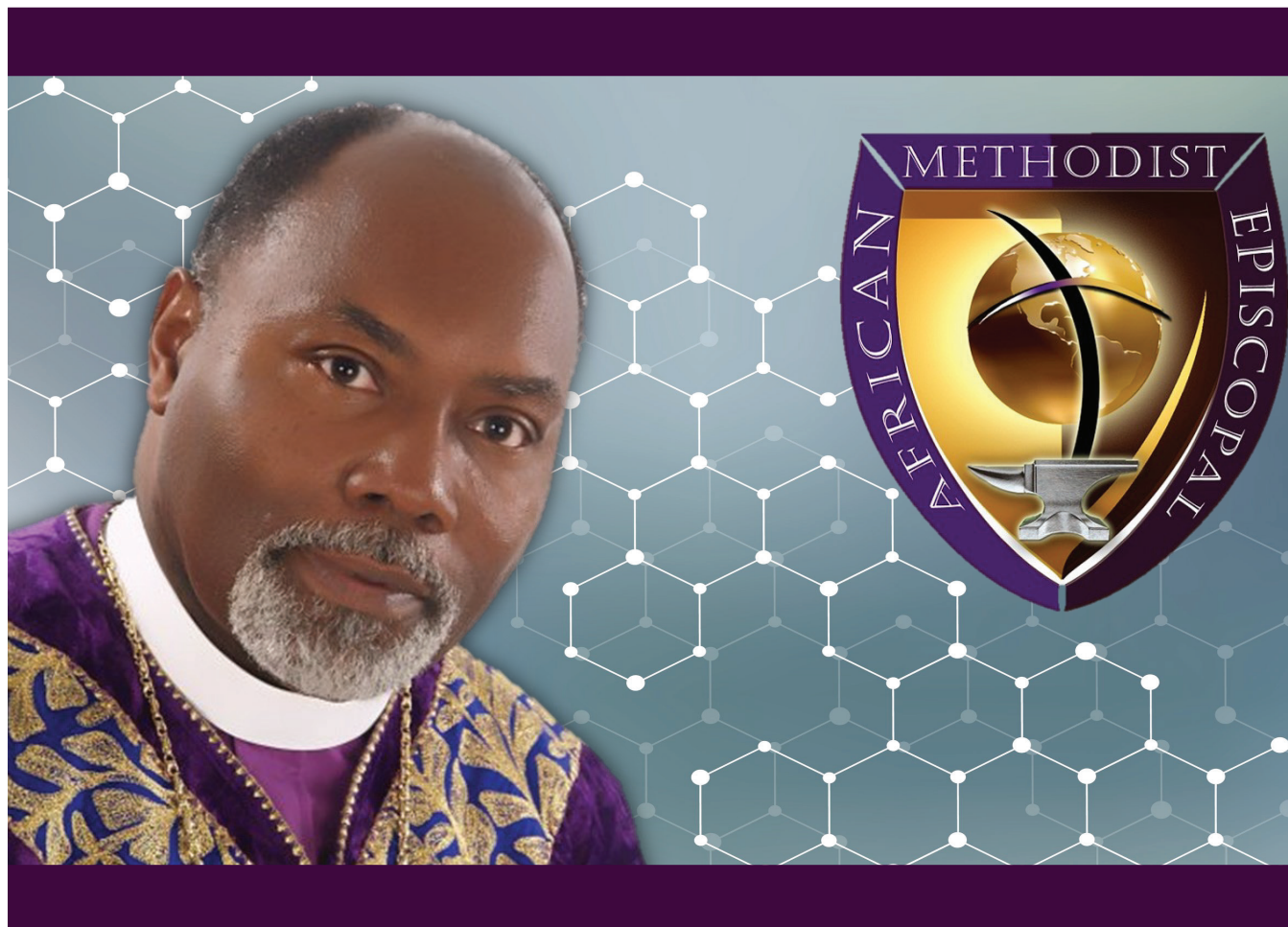
## AME TRAVELS

Chicago, IL—General Board and Investiture of Bishop John F. White  
Washington, DC—Connectional WMS NGO Summit  
Memphis, TN—Church Growth and Development Seminar  
Louisville, KY—Connectional WMS Executive Board  
Atlanta, GA—Turner Theological Seminary Founders' Week  
Johannesburg, South Africa—(GDC) Global Development Council  
Maseru, Lesotho—18<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District  
Ghana and Liberia, West Africa—14<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District—Dedication of AME-SADA Office  
St. Louis, MO—Connectional YPD LTI





# The Global Witness Leader



Bishop John F. White  
The Commission Chairperson



## Mission Statement

*The Department of Global Witness and Ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church represents a liberating and reconciling people who are the sons and daughters of Richard Allen. Through initiatives and programs the department pursues a Global Mission in ministry, witness, and gospel proclamation so that the people of God may be liberated spiritually and materially and reconciled to each other through the Holy Spirit. This is our mandate for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

## Vision Statement

*To see the African Methodist Episcopal Church Movement alive, vibrant, growing and yearning to spread the Good news of Christ Jesus throughout the world by Word, Deed, and Sign for over 200 years.*



# Global Witness and Ministry Commission 2016-2020

Bishop John F. White, Commission Chairman

Dr. George F. Flowers, Executive Director

Mrs. Shirley C. Reed, President, Women's Missionary Society

Ms. Wanda Ringgold, Director, Young People's and Children's Division

Mr. Chinelo Tyler, President, Young People's and Children's Division

Mr. Robert Nicholas, Executive Director, AME-SADA

## Commission Members

The Reverend Dr. Ronald E. Braxton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman

The Reverend Dr. Caesar R. Richburg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman

Mrs. Sharon S. Banks, Recording Secretary

Mr. Michael Cousin, Jr., Assistant Recording Secretary

### *First District*

The Reverend David Cousin

### *Second District*

The Reverend Gregory L. Edmond

### *Third District*

Ms. Sharon S. Banks

### *Fourth District*

Mr. Michael A. Cousin, Jr.

### *Fifth District*

Ms. Ka'Dijah Brown

### *Sixth District*

Mr. Charles Murphy

### *Seventh District*

Ms. Joi Artis

### *Eighth District*

Ms. Stephanie Burks

### *Ninth District*

The Reverend Bobby Cox

### *Tenth District*

The Reverend Mittie Muse

### *Eleventh District*

Mr. Jamerien P. Moore

### *Twelfth District*

Dr. Dorothy Henderson

### *Thirteenth District*

Ms. LaTanya Germany

### *Fourteenth District*

The Reverend Katurah Cooper

### *Fifteenth District*

Mrs. Tshepang Mmusi

### *Sixteenth District*

The Reverend Andrew Morris Grant

### *Seventeenth District*

The Reverend Moses Achola

### *Eighteenth District*

Ms. Sandra Aedige

### *Nineteenth District*

Mr. Abraham Kgaile

### *Twentieth District*

Ms. Passion Musa

## *At-Large Members*

The Reverend Dr. Ronald E. Braxton (2); The Reverend Dr. Caesar R. Richburg (7);  
Mr. James C. Bonner, Jr. (9); The Reverend David Green, Sr. (11); Ms. Sandra Lucas (12)



# *Global Witness and Ministry*

## *Commission 2012-2016*

Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie, Commission Chairman

Dr. George F. Flowers, Executive Director

Mrs. Shirley C. Reed, President, Women's Missionary Society

Ms. Wanda Ringgold, Director, Young People's and Children's Division

Mr. Chinelo Tyler, President, Young People's and Children's Division

Mr. Robert Nicholas, Executive Director, AME-SADA

### Commission Members

The Reverend Marvin C. Zanders, Vice Chairman

Mrs. Sharon S. Banks, Recording Secretary

#### *First District*

Mrs. Edna Sharp

#### *Second District*

Mr. Douglas Bynum

#### *Third District*

Ms. Sharon S. Banks

#### *Fourth District*

The Reverend Larry Bell

#### *Fifth District*

Ms. Faye Brown

#### *Sixth District*

The Reverend David Rhone

#### *Seventh District*

Ms. Joi Artis

#### *Eighth District*

Ms. Stephanie Burks

#### *Ninth District*

The Reverend Bobby Cox

#### *Tenth District*

The Reverend N. Jordan Mkwana

#### *Eleventh District*

The Reverend Marvin C. Zanders

#### *Twelfth District*

The Reverend Larry Banks

#### *Thirteenth District*

The Reverend LaTanya Germany

#### *Fourteenth District*

The Reverend Orlando McCauley

#### *Fifteenth District*

The Reverend Keith Links

#### *Sixteenth District*

Ms. Elvire Douglass

#### *Seventeenth District*

Ms. Amy Zawe Sikazwe

#### *Eighteenth District*

Mr. Amerigo Mauzuze

#### *Nineteenth District*

The Reverend Zoyisile Qoketa

#### *Twentieth District*

Ms. Passion Musa

### *At-Large Members*

Dr. Anna B. Graham

Mr. John Thomas, III





# Words of the Executive Director Dr. George F. Flowers

I bring you special greetings from the Department of Global Witness and Ministry!

Our Risen Savior commissioned us to “go unto all the world” with the message of hope and salvation, and we’ve done that in the Department of Global Witness and Ministry.

In places of poverty and plenty, in places of peace and strife, in places of governmental stability and governmental challenge, we’ve carried the banner of the Lord and labored to change lives, walking in the footsteps of Richard and Sarah Allen who undertook the mission of making the African Methodist Episcopal Church the worldwide communion she has become.

I celebrate the work of feeding those in need, providing support to ministers and ministries who struggle to survive, making what for many may seem to be small gestures that make major differences in the lives of their recipients, helping people to recover from the lingering impact of natural disaster and partnering with committed organizations to make a difference in the lives of those facing massive need.

I count it a blessing to be able to serve, and I seek your prayers and continued support as I stay the course for my Savior and for the church of my birth and choice. I express gratitude to my wife, Phoenicia, who is a major supporter of world missions. Further, I thank my Church for giving me the chance to “*Serve the Present Age.*” I pray that the third century of African Methodism will be our best century yet.

Join me in celebrating the many accomplishments of global missions and ministry such as: feeding those in need as well as providing support to ministers and ministries in our indigenous regions. We have made a difference whether small or major that has impacted the lives of people worldwide. To God Be the Glory! Our goal to assist in the needs of people who are recovering from natural disasters have been achieved. Finally, we are indebted to our partners for having embraced our passion of missions that is evident in all that the office of GWM endeavors.



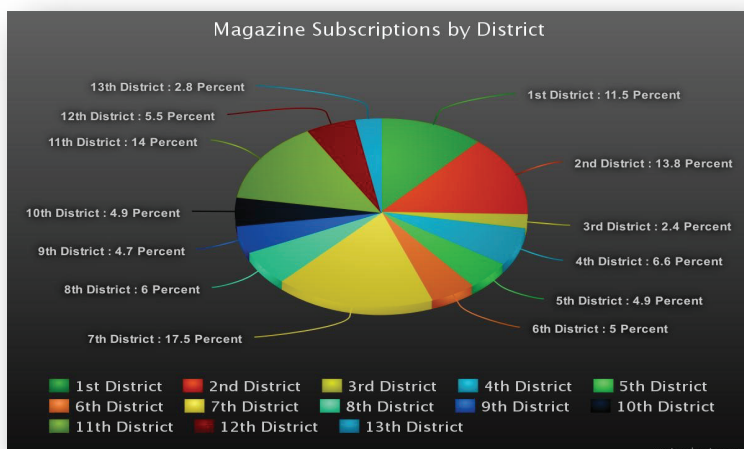


We are committed to getting the Voice of Missions out to you in a timely manner and meeting our deadline. Being on time is very important to us, in fact it is our top priority.

Thank you Bishop John F. White, our chair, Dr. George F. Flowers, and his fabulous staff, for working together to make the Voice of Missions, one of the best publications of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. You have been very kind and supportive of our endeavors.

We fully understand the accomplishments we enjoy, depends on our loyal subscribers. If you are not a subscriber, we ask that you would become a subscriber, as soon as possible. The subscription is only \$25.00 per year. Thank you for your subscriptions and we are appreciative of your continued support.

WE REMAIN YOURS IN HIS SERVICE TO OTHERS



The Reverend Dr. James S. Cooper,  
Editor, Voice of Missions Magazine

The Reverend Jarrett B. Washington  
Co-Editor, Voice of Missions Magazine





# The Report of the Executive Director

*God sees the heart behind the hand and the motive behind the gift.*

Our witness has been strengthened with amazing relationships with companions and partners working collaboratively together to bring resolve, relief, and refreshment to people not as blessed as we are. Together we have set five program priorities, and engaged corporate partnerships for which we believe can generate significant results. All five program priorities are expected to be used to bring help and hope to a global world.

- **Fight Hunger**
- **Respond in Emergencies**
- **Protect and Assist Children**
- **Provide Clean Water**
- **Encourage families with HIV/AIDS**

## *Department Working through Partners to Transform Lives*

I. We couldn't fully sustain our work without the partnerships of:

- **Church World Service**
- **The Christian Men Fellowship Entities**
- **Nazareth AME Church-Georgetown, SC**
- **Greater Gordon Chapel AME Church-Murrells Inlet, SC**
- **Williams Chapel AME Church-Orangeburg, SC**
- **Dental Community Fellowship**
- **Jackson-Davenport Vision Center**
- **Medical University of SC**
- **Water Missions International**
- **Wycliffe Bible Translation**
- **Volunteers and Supporters**



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE



July has been designed as “Christmas “N” July” for the Department of Global Witness and Ministry as we collaborate with corporate sponsors, business executives, and volunteers uniting together for gathering material resources, clothing and toys for boys and girls around the world. This is the 18<sup>th</sup> year un-girding this united effort. We have outgrown our collecting and packing facility and have moved to a larger building in Mount Pleasant. Hopefully this year we will supply 20 containers in countries and regions around the world.

This Christmas themed fundraiser with music, carnival games, refreshments and more will benefit children at Christmastime around the world. This year's theme: “Without Walls Ministry” to highlight our commitment to helping children.

## *The Executive and Director's Words*

To The 50<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church:

I am blessed and humbled to present my 16<sup>th</sup> report of the Department of Global Witness and Ministry for the past Quadrennium. I'm especially pleased to do so as we celebrate two centuries of mission witness by the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Before the incorporation of our denomination, Richard Allen established the Free African Society as a means of assuring that those in need were provided for. Sarah Allen was instrumental in seeing that those who preached the Gospel were physically equipped to do so. Only two years after our incorporation, Daniel Coker carried the Good News to West Africa.

William Paul Quinn braved the winds of racial prejudice to expound the mission of the church beyond the Appalachian Mountains. Henry McNeal Turner and Mangena M. Mokone collaborated to bring the banner of African Methodism to Southern Africa. Christine Smith and Lucy Hughes laid the foundation for the Women's Missionary Society that is now respected around the world for its work.

The story of African Methodism chronicles two hundred years of mission witness, and the Department of Global Witness and Ministry has been faithful to that tradition over the last four years.

During the past Quadrennium, we have traveled the world to assure that the church touches the world with the tangible Gospel. From our response to the Ebola epidemic that ravaged Africa to our response to flooding in the United States, we have been active and

involved in bringing hope, consolation and material assistance. We have done so in collaboration with others in the Methodist family circle, with other minded denominations and with non-governmental organizations. We have done in ways that was fiscally accountable and that displayed the strength of our Zion.

I offer heartfelt thanks to all of those who have supported our work through your prayers, presence, encouragement and material support. Your commitment has been invaluable in touching lives and making mission possible. I also offer thanks and appreciation to Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie for her guidance and direction as Chairperson of the Global Witness and Ministry Commission.

When Jesus sent His disciples out as workers to the harvest field, He did so because, as Matthew 9:36 says, "When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Today's world is still populated by those who are harassed and helpless and who need the assistance of the church. Don't ever feel you're too good to help someone else; remember Jesus has already set the example for us.

I give thanks to God that we have been able to offer that assistance as a Church for the last two hundred years and as a Department of the Church over the last four years. We seek your continued prayers and support, so that we can begin our 3<sup>rd</sup> Century poised to do new things for the cause of mission. May God's grace and peace be with you.





# Report of the General Board

*"And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing."*  
1 Corinthians 13:3

## **Financial Income**

Mission Work /Stipends .....	\$88,248.00
Outside the AME Church .....	\$16,415.00
Gifts to Global Witness .....	\$4,080.00
Endowment Contributions .....	\$9,872.48

## **Global Witness AME Disbursements**

Districts 14-20 Mission Stipends .....	\$76,662.34
Extended Mission .....	\$11,500.00
Mission Work .....	\$1,141.19
Global Support.....	\$24,299.00

## **The Giving of Hope**

Church World Service (CWS) .....	\$1,500.00
Connectional WMS and AME-SADA .....	\$2,500.00
Charitable Contributions .....	\$2,333.00
*Eighth Episcopal District.....	\$5,000.00

## **In-Kind Funds and Donated Materials**

The Corporate Entities Christmas-N-July Distribution .....	\$178,069.00
Low Country Giving Day .....	\$532.00
Water Missions International.....	\$1,112.00



# Global Witness Vision

- Media Outreach
- Short-Term Mission Trips (College Students, Seminarians and/or Medical Students)
- Regional Disaster Teams
- Maintain the “Relationship Status” with the American Red Cross
- CROP Hunger Walks
- Support the Blanket Programs of CWS

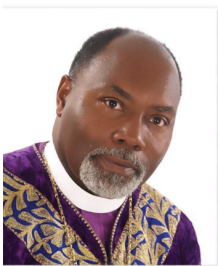
*We believe there is enough food that no one should go hungry;*

*Enough water that no one should thirst;*

*And enough love and resolve to support all children  
in reaching their potential.*

*We believe in the right to peace with justice*

*And a place people can call home.*







GWM is committed to a ministry of service, including sustainable development, disaster mitigation and being an advocate on behalf of the poor and vulnerable.

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach: if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do cheerfully.*

—Romans 12:6-8







## Department of Retirement Services 2017 Annual Report



*"Creating A Better Retirement Future for Those Who Serve the Lord"*  
53 Years of Excellence  
(1964 - 2017)

*Reverend Dr. Jerome U. Harris - Executive Director*



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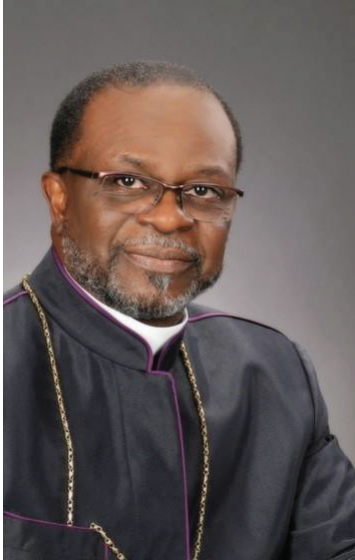
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# The Leaders & Advisors

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*Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.*

Chairman of the Commission

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*Reverend Dr. Jerome V. Harris*

Executive Director



*Mrs. Sandra E. Harris*



# The Staff



*Mrs. Gloria J. Peterson*  
*Executive Administrative Assistant*  
*Office Manager*



*Mr. Irven Wright*  
*Staff Accountant*



*Mr. Christopher Harris*  
*Administrative Assistant*





# BISHOPS OF THE CHURCH

1760



1831

*Bishop Richard Allen – Church Founder*

Bishop John Richard Bryant-Senior Bishop (106)	Bishop James L. Davis (123)
Bishop McKinley Young (109)	Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr. (124)
Bishop William Phillips DeVeaux, Sr. (113)	Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr. (125)
Bishop T. Larry Kirkland (114)	Bishop Sarah F. Davis (126)*
Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr. (115)	Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr. (127)
Bishop Richard Franklin Norris (116)	Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath (128)
Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie (117)	Bishop Julius H. McAllister (129)
Bishop Gregory Gerald McKinley Ingram (118)	Bishop John F. White (130)
Bishop Preston Warren Williams, II (119)	Bishop Clement W. Fugh (131)
Bishop Wilfred J. Messiah (120)	Bishop Reginald T. Jackson (132)
Bishop Paul J. M. Kawimbe (121)	

## RETIRED BISHOPS

Bishop Phillip R. Cousin, Sr.	Bishop John Hurst Adams
Bishop Richard A. Chappelle, Sr.*	Bishop Frederick Hilborn Talbot
Bishop Robert V. Webster	Bishop Vinton Randolph Anderson*
Bishop Henry W. Murph*	Bishop Frank Curtis Cummings
Bishop Frederick C. James	Bishop Henry Allen Belin, Jr.
Bishop James Haskell Mayo*	Bishop Zedekiah Lazett Grady
Bishop Richard Allen Hildebrand*	Bishop H. Hartford Brookins*
Bishop Robert Thomas, Jr. *	Bishop Vernon R. Byrd*
Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry	Bishop Cornal Garnett Henning, Sr.

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\*DECEASED





# GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

## ACTIVE

Reverend Roderick D. Belin  
President/Publisher  
Sunday School Union

Reverend Dr. Teresa Fry Brown  
Historiographer/Executive Director  
Department of Research & Scholarship

Reverend Dr. George W. Flowers  
Executive Director  
Department of Global Witness & Ministry

Reverend Dr. Jeffrey B. Cooper  
General Secretary/CIO

Reverend Dr. Jerome V. Harris  
Executive Director  
Department of Retirement Services

Reverend Dr. Garland F. Pierce  
Executive Director  
Department of Christian Education

Mr. Richard Allen Lewis  
Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

Mr. John Thomas, III  
Editor  
AMEC Christian Recorder

Reverend Dr. James C. Wade  
Executive Director  
Department of Church Growth & Development

## RETIRED

Dr. Sherman L. Greene, Jr.\*

Dr. John W. P. Collier, Jr.\*

Dr. Jayme Coleman Williams

Dr. Robert H. Reid, Jr.\*

Dr. A. Lee Henderson\*

Dr. Paulette Coleman

Dr. Cecil W. Howard\*

Dr. Anderson Todd, Jr.\*

Reverend Dr. George L. Champion\*

Reverend Dr. Ricky Spain\*

Reverend Dr. Kenneth Hill

Dr. Hercules Miles

Dr. Dennis C. Dickerson

Reverend Dr. Daryl B. Ingram

Reverend Dr. Calvin H. Sydnor, III

Reverend Dr. Johnny Barbour, Jr.



# GENERAL BOARD COMMISSION MEMBERS

*Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Chairman*

*Reverend Dr. Jerome V. Harris, Executive Director*

## DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES COMMISSION MEMBERS 2016-2020

### DISTRICT

- |    |                                 |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 1  | Reverend David Cousin           |
| 2  | Reverend Ernest Montague        |
| 3  | Reverend James H. Harris        |
| 4  | Reverend Larry James Bell       |
| 5  | Reverend Fran Carey             |
| 6  | Reverend Dr. William Watley*    |
| 7  | Reverend Dr. William Smith      |
| 8  | Reverend Keith Sanders          |
| 9  | Reverend Albert Hyche           |
| 10 | Reverend Tyronda Burgess **     |
| 11 | Reverend Mark Griffin           |
| 12 | Reverend Larry Banks            |
| 13 | Reverend Troy Thomas            |
| 14 | Brother Garfield Mason          |
| 15 | Reverend William Hanse          |
| 16 | Reverend Andrew C. Morris-Grant |
| 17 | Reverend Martin C. Chama        |
| 18 | Maluginsa Auricola Dlamini      |
| 19 | Reverend M.D.T. Makhene         |
| 20 | Reverend Rosette Swinton        |

### AT LARGE MEMBERS

Mr. John Autrey  
Mrs. Ladonna Liggins

\* Vice Chair

\*\*Secretary



## DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES

*"Creating A Better Retirement Future for Those Who Serve the Lord"*



*Greetings To: Bishop Clement W. Fugh - President of the Council of Bishops  
Bishop Vashiti Murphy McKenzie - President of the General Board  
Bishop McKinley Young - Senior Bishop  
Bishops of the Church  
General Officers  
Connectional Officers  
College Presidents  
Deans of Seminaries  
Members of the General Board  
Members of the Commission – Retirement Services  
My Beloved Brothers & Sisters of the Great Zion of African Methodism*

### OVERVIEW

As we take a retrospective view of the past twelve months, to say that it has been a time of turmoil and uncertainty would be a significant understatement. Nearly every aspect of our longstanding and much appreciated American culture has been in a state of upheaval and volatility.

This season of uncertainty and volatility has had a notable impact on financial markets both in the United States and globally, as the interrelated monetary policies and practices between countries have become increasingly dependent on each other. Although the US Stock Market experienced record setting growth during the Fourth Quarter of 2016, it has now just as quickly returned to a more mediocre performance.

It is because of this uncertainty and market instability that the AMEC Department of Retirement Services has continued to adhere to a conservative investment strategy which has been in place since 2001. It is a strategy that has resulted in the continuous and consistent growth of the AMEC Ministerial Retirement Annuity Plan portfolio as reflected in the following pages of this report.

Now in the 53<sup>rd</sup> Year of its revised structure, with the blessings of Almighty God, the Plan will continue to strive to grow ***"From Acorns to Oak Trees"*** for the financial benefit of the dedicated servants of our Church and their families. ***To God Be the Glory!***



# AMEC RETIREMENT ANNUITY PLANS

## AMEC RETIREMENT ANNUITY PLAN – 401(k)

In addition to the economic and global market challenges alluded to in the “Overview” of this report, there has been a notable increase in Plan distributions due to the retirement and death of enrolled participants. While the overall growth and rate of return on investments has continued to outpace the industry average, the vested amount of the increased distributions have had an adverse impact on an otherwise positive Plan performance.

This is confirmed by the following performance results realized during the 2016 Fiscal Year.

As of the 2017 FYE, the total value of the retirement plan portfolio was **\$119,800,961.03**, resulting in an increase of **1.94%** when compared to **\$117,521,777.23** for the 2016 FYE. Total retirement contributions for the period totaled **\$7,857,031.46** as compared to **\$6,147,295.87** last year.

Although these results are noteworthy, the following distribution information had the most significant impact on overall Plan performance:

Full Surrender (Retirement & Voluntary Separation)	\$ 5,557,354.84
Annuitant Death	\$ 576,241.01
Pre-Retirement Hardship Distributions	\$ <u>2,097,543.00</u>
Total Distributions	\$ 8,231,138.85

## AMEC RETIREMENT PLAN FOR PASTORS & PRESIDING ELDERS – 403(b)

Created by the 2000 General Conference as a separate retirement plan exclusively for Pastors and Presiding Elders, funding is provided annually by the General Treasury of the AME Church. All eligible and enrolled participants as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year receive a ***pro rata*** share of these contributions based on a pre-established formula (*only active Pastors and Presiding Elders are eligible to receive these benefits*).

Contributed funds are reflected on the quarterly statements issued by the department and identified as a “Level III Contribution”.

Total annual contributions are approximately **\$600,000.00** and are contingent upon the



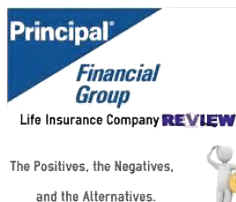


## AMEC GROUP LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

The AMEC Group Life Insurance Plan is a subsidiary benefit of the AMEC Retirement Plan and has been underwritten by the Principal Life Insurance Company under a four year, guaranteed issue contract since April 1, 2013.

Renewal negotiations were initiated in October 2016 and prior to the pending maturity date of March 31, 2017 for the original contract. Renewal was based on pre-established claim ratios for the previous contract period. These claim ratios were beyond acceptable parameters for the company, resulting in a 20% premium increase being offered by the company. Department management found this increase to be excessive and negotiations continued through February 2017.

An approximate increase of 10% in premiums was finally agreed upon with all other Plan benefits remaining unchanged. As of April, 1 2017, the cost of semi-annual premiums was increased from **\$104** to **\$115** for single coverage and from **\$137** to **\$150** for joint/spousal coverage. All participants are insured under a master group policy and individual policies are not issued. However, a Summary Plan Document (SPD) which highlights the important benefits of the Plan is available in downloadable/printable version online at [www.amecdaii.org](http://www.amecdaii.org).



During the review period, a combined total of **\$719,651.90** in premiums was remitted to the Principal Life Insurance Company with an average quarterly premium of **\$179,912.98**. However, death benefit claims paid by Principal totaled **\$652,615.23**.

## GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE STATUS UPDATE

As previously reported, an affordable group health insurance plan remains a top priority and a primary area of focus for the department. This has become even more important now given the increasing uncertainty of the Affordable Health Care Plan (“Obamacare”) under the current presidential administration. Although aggressive efforts to provide this benefit for the Church will continue, all uninsured participants are strongly encouraged to enroll in the Affordable Health Care Plan as soon as possible while it is still available.



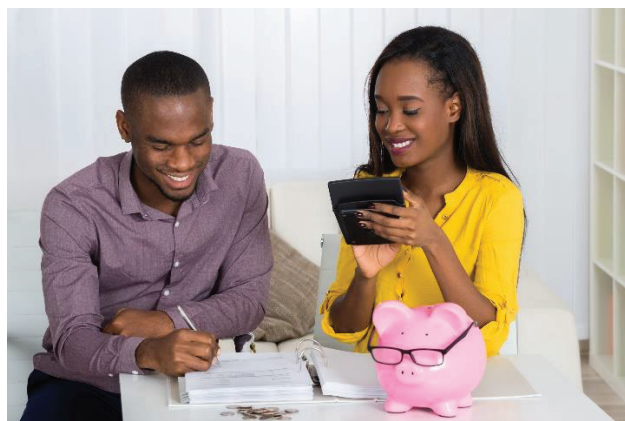
# ONLINE FINANCIAL CALCULATOR APP



*"The Goal of Retirement Planning Is to Create a Plan"—Mike Piper*

All participants are reminded and encouraged to take advantage of the free Financial Calculator App available online at [www.amecdaii.org](http://www.amecdaii.org).

Important financial projections, although hypothetical, can easily be determined as a means of developing a sound financial plan.





## AMEC RETIREMENT ANNUITY PLAN

*Episcopal District Summary – Retirement Annuity Contributions Received*

April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

<b>Episcopal District</b>	<b>Amount</b>
First	\$ 748,184.37
Second	\$ 880,358.89
Third	\$ 243,389.70
Fourth	\$ 492,190.59
Fifth	\$ 172,479.92
Sixth	\$ 604,317.53
Seventh	\$ 1,499,013.72
Eighth	\$ 249,962.71
Ninth	\$ 307,930.09
Tenth	\$ 378,578.22
Eleventh	\$ 1,490,423.37
Twelfth	\$ 149,899.41
Thirteenth	\$ 242,260.12
Bishops & General Officers	\$ 356,042.82
Others	\$ 42,000.00
<b>Total Retirement Annuity Contributions Received For Period</b>	<b>\$ 7,857,031.46</b>



# AMEC RETIREMENT ANNUITY PLAN

## Retirement Annuity Benefits Paid

### *Episcopal District Summary – Retirement and Death Distributions*

#### April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

Episcopal District	Retirement			Death	
First	\$	444,628.58	*	\$	-
Second	\$	373,300.91	*	\$	196,750.67
Third	\$	76,529.51	*	\$	47,097.31
Fourth	\$	192,347.52	***	\$	21,190.07
Fifth	\$	115,232.91		\$	12,342.76
Sixth	\$	522,215.73	*	\$	62,022.57
Seventh	\$	931,807.32	*	\$	13,098.98
Eighth	\$	201,024.42	*	\$	-
Ninth	\$	128,632.93	*	\$	42,136.23
Tenth	\$	140,982.88	*	\$	4,979.62
Eleventh	\$	581,076.89	*	\$	101,998.74
Twelfth	\$	111,690.40	*	\$	60,536.88
Thirteenth	\$	479,873.20	*	\$	14,087.18
Bishops	\$	1,147,823.87	*	\$	-
General Officers	\$	110,187.77	*	\$	-
<b>Total Retirement Annuity Plan Contributions Paid for Period</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,557,354.84</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>576,241.01</b>

\* Includes RMD

\*\* Includes QDRO

\*\*\* Includes RMD & QDRO

RMD – Required Minimum Distribution at Age 70½ or Later

QDRO – Qualified Domestic Court Order Mandated by Federal Law to Spouses Following Divorce





## AMEC RETIREMENT ANNUITY PLAN

Retirement Annuity Benefits Paid

*Episcopal District Summary – Hardship Distributions*

April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

<b>Episcopal District</b>	<b>Amount</b>
First	\$ 195,926.00
Second	\$ 89,256.00
Third	\$ 84,778.00
Fourth	\$ 129,189.00
Fifth	\$ 22,127.00
Sixth	\$ 181,834.00
Seventh	\$ 379,374.00
Eighth	\$ 73,180.00
Ninth	\$ 47,701.00
Tenth	\$ 48,712.00
Eleventh	\$ 566,320.00
Twelfth	\$ 37,700.00
Thirteenth	\$ 176,446.00
Bishops	\$ 65,000.00
General Officers	\$ -
<b>Total Emergency Hardship Benefits Paid for Period</b>	<b>\$ 2,097,543.00</b>



## AMEC RETIREMENT ANNUITY PLAN

*Episcopal District Summary – Group Life Insurance Claims Paid*

April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

<b>Episcopal District</b>	<b>Amount</b>
First	\$ 10,003.06
Second	\$ 20,005.77
Third	\$ 120,082.36
Fourth	\$ 30,000.00
Fifth	\$ 20,004.18
Sixth	\$ 82,432.85
Seventh	\$ 100,038.55
Eighth	\$ 30,003.81
Ninth	\$ 70,020.59
Tenth	\$ 60,000.00
Eleventh	\$ 110,024.06
Twelfth	\$ -
Thirteenth	\$ -
Bishops	\$ -
General Officers	\$ -
<b>Total Group Life Insurance Claims Paid for Period</b>	<b>\$ 652,615.23</b>





*Department of*  
**CHURCH GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT**  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*General Board Report*



**Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel**  
**Los Angeles, California**  
**June 19-21, 2017**

**BISHOP ADAM J. RICHARDSON**  
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

**JAMES WADE**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





# THE GENERAL BOARD REPORT

Submitted by:  
**Dr. James C. Wade**



**Bishop Adam J. Richardson**  
Chairman



**Dr. James C. Wade**  
Executive Director, Department of Church  
Growth & Development

## Members

First	Rev. David Cousin	Eleventh	Rev. Dr. David Green
Second	Rev. Ernest Montague	Twelfth	Rev. Tyrone Broomfield
Third	Rev. Alphonse Allen	Thirteenth	Mr. Jeffery Norfleet
Fourth	Rev. Tyson Parks	Fourteenth	Rev. Alvin E. Attah
Fifth	Rev. J. Edgar Boyd	Fifteenth	Tshepang Mmusi
Sixth	Rev. William Watley	Sixteenth	Rev. Andrew C. Morris-Grant
Seventh	Rev. Dr. William Smith	Seventeenth	Rev. Martin C. Chama
Eighth	Rev. Demetrese Phillips	Eighteenth	Rev. Albert Thwala
Ninth	Rev. Albert Hyche	Nineteenth	Rev. M.D.T. Makhene
Tenth	Rev. Roderick Dawson	Twentieth	Rev. Eustice Ginya

## At-Large

Mr. James Alexander (YA)

## The Department of Church Growth and Development's Bible Literacy Campaign

Presents

### TOP 10 REASONS TO GET THE GREAT BIBLE RACE

- ☒ The world's #1 Bible knowledge game
- ☒ Revolutionizes Bible study and Sunday school
- ☒ Gets kids and adults excited about Bible study
- ☒ The most endorsed Christian game ever
- ☒ Answers to more than 18,000 biblical questions
- ☒ Covers every book, topic and issue in the Bible
- ☒ The perfect Christian gift for any occasion
- ☒ Ideal for family game nights & social gatherings
- ☒ The easiest and most fun way to be Bible Literate
- ☒ A video game that can change lives & save souls

For more information on the Great Bible Race and the Bible Literacy Campaign, contact DCGD executive director Dr. James Wade at (901) 523-2777. Or visit us at <https://goo.gl/Hz4zU3>. We can also be reached at 800-470-8948.



## Great Bible Race Frequently Asked Questions

### General Questions

1. Q: How many games are on the Great Bible Race disc?  
A: Three. There is the Great Bible Race, the Amazing Bible Study and the Ultimate Quiz Challenge. All three games draw questions from the game's database.
2. Q: How many questions are in the game's database?  
A: More than 18,000, making it the world's largest database of Bible knowledge questions in a video game. This number is especially significant since the Bible only has 30,000 verses.
3. Q: Will the game indicate the correct answer if the wrong answer is chosen?  
A: Yes. The correct answer is always shown before the player is allowed to move on to the next question. The game is designed as a teaching tool and this is a very important feature.
4. Q: How much time does a player have to answer each question?  
A: 25 seconds. The countdown clock starts at the 20-second mark.
5. Q: What is the game played on?  
A: The Great Bible Race is a computer game played on both Windows and Mac computers. Versions of the game for smart phones and tablets are being developed. The game cannot be played on game consoles or DVD players.
6. Q: From what version of the Bible are the questions taken?  
A: The King James Version.
7. Q: Are questions drawn from all books of the Bible?  
A: Yes. There are questions from every book.
8. Q: Is there a way for players to look up the biblical basis for answers?  
A: Yes. After a question is answered, a player may click on the "Biblical Text" box to highlight the verse from which the question was derived.
9. Q: Does the game keep track of high scores?  
A: Yes, in the race game only. In this game, the five highest scores are recorded and stored by the game.
10. Q: How long does it take on average for someone to learn the rules of the three games?  
A: You can learn how to play each game in a matter of minutes. The



instructions for each game are just a few paragraphs long.

11. Q: Does each game require players to select avatars?

A: Yes. Players select from 16 avatars, 8 of whom are male and 8 female.

12. Q: Does the Great Bible Race come with an audio-digital Bible?

A: Yes. It comes with a complete audio-digital KJV Bible.

13. Q: What are the features of the GBR audio-digital KJV Bible.

A: Users can select the book and chapter they wish to hear or research. They can also do research by book, chapter or verse.

14. Q: How many 3D iconic Bible images are in the game and can I view them without 3D glasses?

A: 30. Yes, the game allows you to view the images in 2D, without glasses.

## **THE RACE GAME**

15. Q: How many people can compete in the race game?

A: 1 to 6. Players are allowed to play alone or against up to five opponents.

16. Q: Can a player choose the degree of difficulty of the questions he or she faces?

A: Yes. Players can choose from 4 degrees of difficulty – children, easy, moderate or difficult.

17. Q: Can a player choose the length of track on which he competes?

A: Yes. Players can choose from four different length tracks – 200 meters, 400 meters, 800 meters and 1600 meters. A player needs 200 points to complete the 200 meters, 400 for the 400 meters, 800 for the 800 meters and 1600 for the 1600 meters. By choosing the length of the track, a player determines the length of the game he or she plays. Note: the maximum number of points a player can receive per round is 100.

18. Q: How does a player score points in the race?

A: In the race game, a player's points on each question is determined by the time left on the countdown clock. The quicker a player answers correctly, the higher the score. For example, if a player correctly answers the question with 15 seconds on the clock, his score for that question will be 15 points.

## **THE BIBLE STUDY GAME**

15. Q: How many questions must a player answer to complete a Bible study





game?

A: 15.

16. Q: How many categories and subcategories are there in the Bible study game?

A: There are 8 categories and more than 200 subcategories from which players can choose to answer questions. The categories include books of the Bible, people, spirit beings, events, places, miracles, parables and general topics.

17. Q: How are results displayed in the Bible study game?

A: The game generates a report card that gives alphanumeric grades and comments.

## **THE BIBLE QUIZ GAME**

1. Q: What is the object of the quiz game?

A: Players begin the game with a predetermined number of lives and attempt to climb from level 1 to level 20 without losing all their lives. Players lose a life with every incorrect answer they give.

2. Q: How many correct answers must a player give in order to go up a level in the quiz game?

A: 10.

3. Q: Can a player earn additional lives in the game?

A: Yes. A player earns additional lives with each level completed.

4. Q: Can you choose the degree of difficulty of the questions you face in the quiz game?

A: No. But the questions are designed to get increasingly difficult as you go up levels.

## **About US**

### **The Creator**

The Great Bible Race is the brainchild of Pulitzer Prize winner Melvin Claxton, the founder and CEO of Epic 4D LLC. In addition to being one of the nation's most respected and decorated journalist, Mr. Claxton is a noted historian, author and lifelong Bible trivia enthusiast. He oversaw the team of biblical experts from more than half a dozen countries who contributed to the game's exhaustive, 18,000-plus question database. Mr. Claxton is a former national investigative reporter with the Chicago Tribune and Detroit News. He is currently spearheading the company's development of foreign language versions of the game.

### **Our Team**

Numerous Bible experts have contributed to this project, and the game's senior consultant, Professor Gordon Campbell, is generally regarded as one of the world's



foremost experts on the KJV Bible. Professor Campbell is also a senior consultant for the \$800 million Museum of the Bible, which is currently under construction in Washington DC. In addition, famed linguist and biblical text translator Dr. Stanley Morris serves as one of more than a dozen advisors to the project. Dr. Morris edited all of Strong's Greek and Hebrew Dictionary for the back of Thomas Nelson's New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible. He was also the chief translator and editor of the International English Bible (IEB).

### **Developer**

Epic 4D LLC is a unique animation and video game development company that produces high-quality, education video games. Using state-of-the-art technology and innovative animation techniques, our talented game creators, animators and highly skilled game programmers are committed to creating world-class video games and apps.

Epic 4D is a Michigan based company that has several major projects in development and is leading the way in educational video games and video game holographic technology.

### **What makes the Bible so fascinating and why make it a video game?**

The Bible holds the key to eternal life. The story of the Bible is so powerful it had to be told in 66 books. This story has not only charted the course of human history, but continues to alter it. It is the story of man, the God who made him and the Son of God who came to save him.

It is a story replete with heroes and villains, holy men and miscreants; of a heroic shepherd boy who slew a giant and a superman who killed a lion with his bear hands; of a carpenter from Galilee who walked on water and forever changed the world.

It is the story of the timeless struggle between good and evil, a tale of angels and demons, of miracle working prophets and idol-worshipping monarchs. Of a God intent on saving the men and women he made and a fallen angel bent on destroying all mankind.

For centuries, this story has been the bestselling and most important book of all time. Now it is the most amazing video knowledge game you have ever seen. But be prepared to be amazed because you have never seen the Bible quite like this.

### **The World's Greatest Bible Game**

The Great Bible Race is a video game experience unlike any other! Explore and learn the Bible in this fascinating video game that reveals the stories, people, events and teachings of the world's most beloved and revered book. If you own a Bible, you will want this game.





# If you believe...

The Bible is the word of God

It sustains our souls

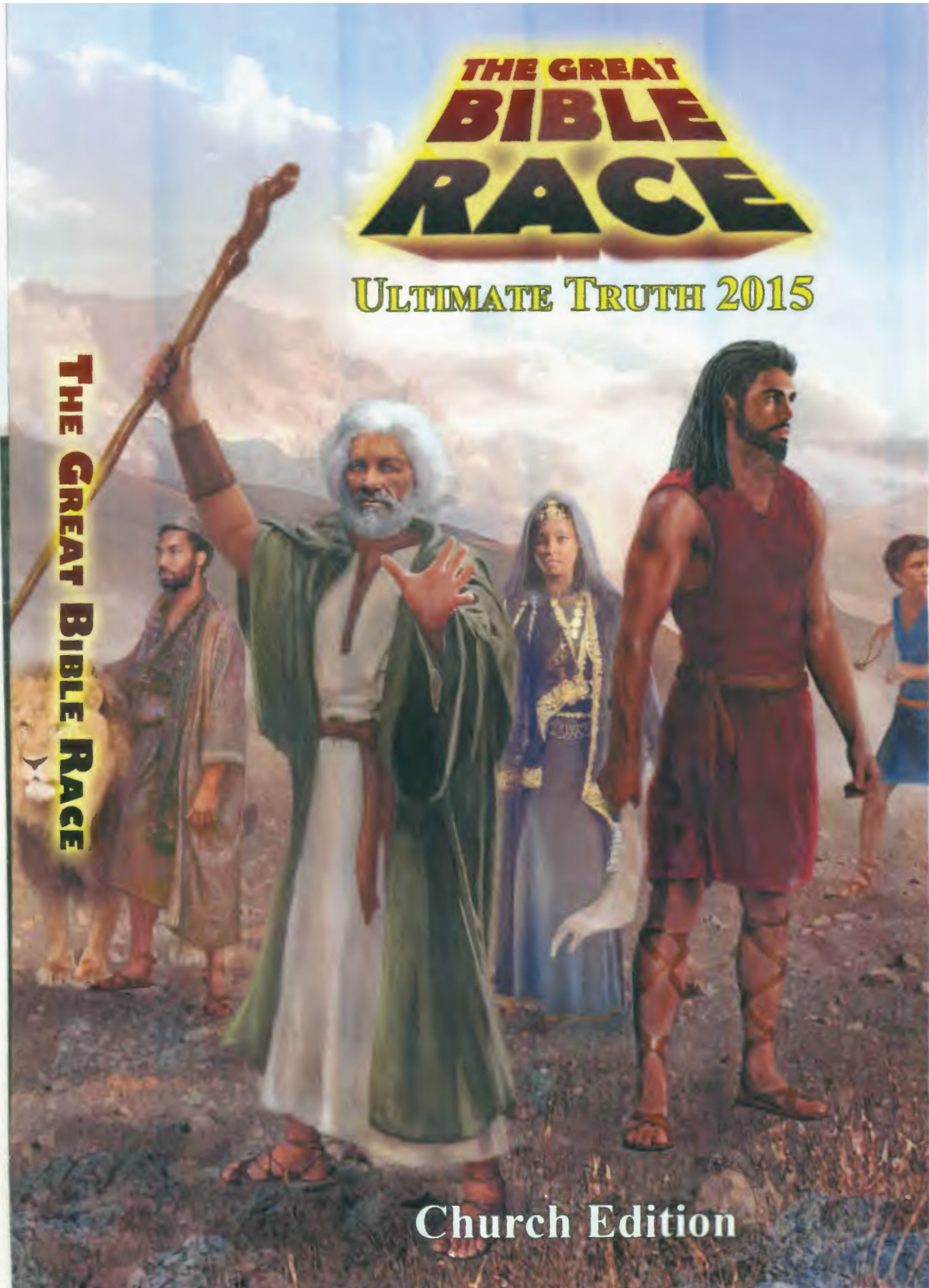
It can alter lives

It can grow your church

It holds the key to eternal life

Then join our unprecedented Bible Literacy Campaign to make Bible study an exciting daily experience in every home across the nation. The AME Department of Church Growth and Development has partnered with the Great Bible Race, the world's largest Bible knowledge video game, to revolutionize Bible study. Use the ground-breaking Great Bible Race computer software to enhance Bible study for beginners and seasoned parishioners. For additional information about this life-altering Bible Literacy Campaign and see how it can help your ministry and parishioners, please contact DCGD executive director Dr. James Wade at (901) 523-2777. Or visit us at <https://goo.gl/Hz4zU3>. We can also be reached at 800-470-8948. Every pastor or church leader who registers for the campaign gets a free gift. So join the Bible Literacy Campaign and help make Bible study the highlight of the day in homes everywhere.









## INTRODUCTION

This past year has been a time of ups and downs, highs and lows. While there was celebratory joy, mixed with love and happiness, in watching former President Barack Obama and his family leave the White House on a high note, we grapple with the election of a new president and members of Congress, who are committed to rolling back decades of progress for the poor, disenfranchised, displaced, and oppressed. Out and outright falsehoods were renamed “alternative facts,” “Black Girl Magic” was blanketed by misogynoir, polls continuously reported an exodus of millennials from the church, and still others questioned the relevancy of the Black Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as more black blood spilled in the streets when law enforcement used bullets and badges to “serve and protect,” to establish “law and order.” In the wake of these concerns, it remains essential that African Methodism has clergy and laity fully equipped and properly positioned, who can and will recapture the pioneering, social justice and activism of the first church.

People from all spectrums of life are demanding answers and accountability from the government, legal, political and religious officials only. Persons are in the streets, on social media, in classrooms, and courtrooms, calling the Church to stand up, speak up, speak out, and act out in and with the prophetic, radical voice and tradition that was established through Christ. They are looking for authenticity; they are in search of truth and truth-tellers, healing and wholeness.

Consequently, in this new Quadrennial the Department of Church Growth and Development has remained steadfast in its resolve to infuse our members with zealous teaching that ignites a never ceasing passion for Christ and the Kingdom of God, in the same or like manner as seen in the Book of Acts. Our intent has been and is always to insure that Christ’s presence and the spirit of African Methodism is throughout the world.

We are pleased to announce that through the interactive game, *The Great Bible Race*, individuals and teams are able to build their biblical knowledge and know the rich history of our Zion. We are tremendously excited that The Secret Chamber will become an online product, affording persons around the globe the opportunity to partake of the devotions and meditations, with those situated stateside.

To paraphrase Bishop Henry McNeal Turner, we do believe continued growth at every level can be achieved only if a solid foundation in Christ Jesus is laid and we are determined to advance society for this present and next generation.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Angell, Stephen Ward. *Bishop Henry McNeal Turner and African American Religion in the South*. pp. 237-257



Hilton Los Angeles Airport  
Los Angeles, California  
June 20-21, 2017

African Methodist Episcopal Church

# General Board



## Report of the General Secretary/CIO

**Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie**, *President*  
**Bishop Gregory G. M. Ingram**, *First Vice President*  
**Bishop Wilfred J. Messiah**, *Second Vice President*  
**Bishop Paul J. M. Kawimbe**, *Third Vice President*

**Bishop Clement W. Fugh**, *Chair*  
*Commission on Statistics and Finance*  
**Dr. Richard Allen Lewis, Sr.**, *Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer*  
**Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper**, *General Secretary/Chief Information Officer*



**Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper**  
General Secretary and CIO





**TO: Bishops of the AME Church, President of the Council of Bishops, General Board Chairman, Chairman of the Commission of Statistics and Finance, and members of the General Board**

**FROM: Jeffery B. Cooper, General Secretary/Chief Information Officer, AME Church**

Let me take this opportunity to welcome Bishop Clement Fugh as Chair of the Commission on Statistics and Finance and extend congratulations on his investiture as President of the Council of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop Fugh brings a wealth of experience that will benefit the church in meaningful and lasting ways. Our Prayers and best wishes go with him.

I am also grateful to the church for the continued opportunity to serve as General Secretary and Chief Information Officer for the AME church. It is with deep humility and gratitude that we seek to serve the church with integrity and faithfulness.

### **Current Project/Goals/Objectives**

#### **1) AME Website**

The Official AME Church website has been completely redesigned for the new quadrennium. The new design should make the site more user friendly and more adaptive for smart phone usage. The website is now under the management of Capital Technology Services of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania since our previous company ceased to offer this service.

A new feature of the site is the archives section that is designed to retain important information from past meetings for easy retrieval and review. The design of the website is a fluid operation that is open to suggestions for improvement.

#### **2) AME MEETING APP**

The AME Meeting App is now fully functional and in usage for connectional meetings of the AME Church. The App is a quick reference for all materials needed at our meetings and thus avoiding the need and costly expense of copies. The App proved to be invaluable at the recent General Conference and we look forward to making needed improvements as we move forward to make it more responsive to our meeting needs.

#### **3) GENERAL BOARD ORIENTATION HANDBOOK**

At the December 2016 General Board meeting the Office of the General Secretary presented a new Orientation Handbook for use by General Board Members. The handbook is designed to give new and returning board members a working understanding of the purpose and function of the General Board. It is hoped that the handbook will facilitate and enhance the work and ministry of the General Board.





The office is collaborating with the Rev. Francine Brookins, Clerk of the Judicial Council, on an online data system for archiving the Judicial Council Decisions of the AME Church. The Judicial Council is exhausting its records to include all known decisions of the Judicial Council. This database will assist lawyers and others in researching legal issues with speed and accuracy.

## **5) CONNECTIONAL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL**

At the 2016 General Board Meeting a protocol for Connectional Electronic Communication was approved. That protocol has now been implemented by the Office of the General Secretary and is working well. The overall database has been enlarged and a much wider portion of the connection is being reached by electronic communication.

Ms. Cajetta Stephens has assumed the role of connectional outreach by communicating with the connection on special days. We have received an overwhelmingly positive response to this outreach endeavor.

## **6) GENERAL CONFERENCE MINUTES**

At the writing of this report the minutes of the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference of the AME Church has been delivered to the AME Publishing House for printing. It is our expectation that the minutes will be distributed during this General Board meeting.



## STEWARDSHIP

### Office of the General Secretary

#### Financial Statement 4/1/2016 – 3/31/2017

Expenditures	Current Year Actual	Prior Year Actual
Salaries	\$ 52,535.00	\$ 51,471.00
FICA Expense	4,019.00	3,938.00
Web Site Admin.	20,208.00	20,208.00
Rent	12,528.00	12,528.00
Staff	31,117.00	32,553.36
Office Administration	35,765.08	30,668.12
Housing	13,942.48	13,635.00
Travel	18,689.16	18,336.00
Annuities	<u>6,272.28</u>	<u>6,176.52</u>
Total	\$192,076.00	\$189,514.00

\*Per African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc.  
Finance Department Audit Report for year ended March 31, 2017





## African Methodist Episcopal Church Judicial Council Decisions

### 2012-2016

No. 2012-2016-43

No. 2012-2016-44

No. 2012-2016-45

No. 2012-2016-46

### 2016-2020

No. 2016-2020-01

No. 2016-2020-02

No. 2016-2020-03

No. 2016-2020-04

No. 2016-2020-06



**Atty. Patricia M. Mayberry**  
*(President)*

**Judge Tania Wright**  
*(Vice President)*

**Rev. Vernon Byrd, Esq.**  
*(Secretary)*

**Rev. Dr. Glenda Hodges**  
*(Asst. Secretary)*

**Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Bess**  
*(Chaplain)*

**Atty. TaShun Bowden-Lewis**  
*(Member)*

**Mr. Derek Anderson**  
*(Member)*

**Mr. Warren H. Dawson, Esq.**  
*(Member)*

**Mr. Eduardo Curry, Esq.**  
*(Member)*

**Rev. Frederick D. Sherrod III**  
*Ministerial Alternate*

**Ms. Starr L. Battle**  
*Lay Alternate*





No. 2012-2016-43

**BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF THE  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**RE: IN THE MATTER OF REV. T. LEVY MAHASHA**

Judicial Council delivers the opinion Per Curium.

**ORDER**

The Judicial Council ruled on May 24, 2016 that Rev. Mahasha could not file charges with the General Secretary against Bishop Kawimbe until the completion of the conciliation process. The Judicial Council instructed the parties to the dispute to convene the Conciliation Committee no later than June 16, 2016. Further, the Judicial Council advised the parties to exhaust the Conciliation process, prior to the implementation of any further judicial proceedings, as outlined by the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012, hereinafter the “*Discipline 2012*”.

The Judicial Council received no requests for an extension of the aforementioned timeframe designated in its decision. The Judicial Council being unaware of any mutual agreement among the parties to extend the deadline for convening conciliation, rules that if the conciliation process failed to commence on or before June 16, 2016, Rev. Mahasha may proceed with judicial administration of this matter pursuant to the procedures outlined in the *Discipline 2012*.

Ordered this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June 2016.



No. 2012-2016-44

**BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF THE  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**RE: IN THE MATTER OF REV. SAMUEL SIEBO**

TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Esq. delivers the opinion on behalf of the Judicial Council.

**HOLDING**

The relief requested is GRANTED.

The Judicial Council finds that the Respondent has the supervisory authority, as the Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, to order the Petitioner to desist from campaigning for ecclesiastical office in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in military uniform. We also find the Respondent has the supervisory authority to request that the Petitioner get approval from the PAO regarding all forms of print media. The Petitioner complied.

The Judicial Council finds the decision of the Respondent to withdraw the Petitioner's endorsement as a Chaplain representing the African Methodist Episcopal Church occurred without affording due process to the Petitioner; therefore, the decision must be reversed. All rights and privileges of the Petitioner as an endorsed Chaplain of the African Methodist Episcopal Church are restored immediately.

Finally, the Judicial Council finds that the Respondent has no authority to request that the Petitioner withdraw his candidacy for ecclesiastical office.

**PARTIES**

Rev. Samuel Siebo ("Petitioner", "Rev. Siebo" or "Chaplain Siebo") is a Chaplain in the U.S. Army serving in Fort Jackson, South Carolina and an Itinerant Elder in the Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop Reginald Jackson ("Respondent" or "Bishop Jackson") is the Endorsing Agent for the Chaplains affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME Church).

**JURISDICTION**

Pursuant to appeals, the jurisdiction of the Judicial Council is provided in the 2012 *Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*, Part XI. Judicial Administration, Section XX. The Judicial Council, Paragraph A. Jurisdiction, page 290 which states:

The jurisdiction of the Judicial Council shall relate to and be restricted to (except as may be set under "Duties" hereinafter set



out) all final appeals from any adverse decision by any bishop, board, commission, group, pastor, or any other regularly constituted party or body empowered to make a decision which affects the right of any member or Church body of the AME Church.

### **STATEMENT OF THE ISSUES**

1. Whether the Respondent has the authority to order an endorsed Chaplain of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to desist from campaigning for ecclesiastical office in the African Methodist Episcopal Church *in military uniform* (i.e. in person, on social media, using print media...)?
2. Whether the Respondent possesses the authority to withdraw the ecclesiastical endorsement as a Chaplain representing the African Methodist Episcopal Church without due process?
3. Whether the Respondent has the authority to request an endorsed Chaplain of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to withdraw his candidacy for ecclesiastical office?

### **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

1. Bishop Jackson is the Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
2. Rev. Siebo held an endorsement as a Chaplain in the African Methodist Episcopal Church until May 2016.
3. On October 22, 2014, Rev. Siebo notified Bishop Jackson requesting a Letter of Good and Regular Standing to be sent to Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper, Chief Information Officer so he could run for ecclesiastical office stating, "I am writing to formally inform you of my desire to run for the office of Bishop, in our church, to serve the Continent of Africa, in our Great Zion, the African Methodist Episcopal Church..."
4. On October 23, 2014, Bishop Jackson advised Rev. Siebo that his letter needed to be provided by the bishop of his Annual Conference.
5. On August 12, 2015, Rev. Siebo participated in campaign activities at the Palmetto Annual Conference of the Seventh Episcopal District in his military uniform.
6. On August 12, 2015, Bishop Jackson addressed the Palmetto Annual Conference of the Seventh Episcopal District and commented about Rev. Siebo campaigning in his military uniform.



7. On August 15, 2015, Rev. Siebo emailed Bishop Jackson informing him that he had sought clarification about his right to campaign in uniform. He advised that he received clearance that his actions were within the Army regulations.
8. On October 14, 2015, Bishop Jackson sent a letter to Rev. Siebo ordering him “to immediately desist from campaigning for bishop in your military uniform.” Further, he advised if he did not comply he would withdraw his endorsement as a chaplain from the AME Church. The order did not impact his ecclesiastical aspirations in the AME Church.
9. On October 14, 2015, Bishop Jackson notified the active Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church about his order to Rev. Siebo to desist from campaigning at AME annual conferences, meetings and other events in his military uniform.
10. After the October 14, 2015 letter from Bishop Jackson, it appears Rev. Siebo no longer campaigned for ecclesiastical office in military uniform.
11. However, after the October 14, 2015 letter from Bishop Jackson, Rev. Siebo continued to campaign for ecclesiastical office on Facebook, in printed brochures and video in his military uniform.
12. On March 29, 2016, Chaplain Mark Penfold, a Fort Jackson Garrison Chaplain in the Religious Support Office of the U.S. Army, contacted Chaplain Scott Jones, the Director of HR & Ecclesiastical Relations at the U.S. Army Pentagon in Washington, D.C. requesting guidance regarding a Facebook post by CH (CPT) Samuel Siebo.
13. On March 30, 2016, Chaplain Scott Jones emailed Chaplain Kenneth Stice, the Director of Operations in the Office of the Chief of Chaplains seeking guidance.
14. On March 30, 2016, Chaplain Stice stated he could not direct Rev. Siebo to remove it but he recommended that he remove the photograph, but should be allowed to mention his military service, during his campaigning.
15. On April 14, 2016, Bishop Jackson advised Rev. Siebo that his brochure and emails to other chaplains violated his directive forbidding him to campaign in military uniform. He directed Rev. Siebo to withdraw as a candidate for bishop of the AME Church in July 2016, or he would withdraw his endorsement as a Chaplain representing the AME Church. He requested to be advised of his decision no later than April 18<sup>th</sup>.
16. On April 18, 2016, Chaplain Brown informed Bishop Jackson that he advised Chaplain Siebo to remove the Army Chaplain Corps logo from his brochure and any other media associated with his campaign because it can be construed as the U.S. Government’s endorsement of his candidacy. He further believed that Chaplain Siebo may have received incorrect advice from his Army legal office.





17. On April 17, 2016, Rev. Siebo contacted Bishop Jackson, and stated he had no intention of withdrawing his candidacy for the office of Bishop in the July 2016 General Conference of the AME Church, to be held in Philadelphia, PA.
18. On April 18, 2016, Bishop Jackson notified Rev. Siebo his response would be referred to the Office of the Secretary of the Army and the Office of the Judge Advocate General. Further, he immediately withdrew Rev. Siebo's endorsement as a chaplain representing the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
19. On April 27, 2016, Rev. Siebo mailed Bishop Jackson a letter "...In your communication dated April 14, 2016, you referenced your letter dated October 14, 2015, forbidding me from campaigning in my military uniform as a candidate for Bishop in the AME Church. When I received that letter, I immediately refrained from campaigning in my uniform, on my person...In the last paragraph and the last sentence of that same letter dated October 14, 2015, you stated 'also be advised that any photos with you in military uniform must go through the Public Affairs Office (PAO).' As a result of your communication, I went ahead and again verified my photos in uniform with my PAO and the appropriate authorities; although this is something I did before I even started my campaign process...In an effort to resolve the issue of me campaigning in my military uniform, I have attached the communication thread from the Pentagon; Headquarters, Department of the Army, Office of the Chief Chaplains. In this communication, senior chaplains in the Chief's office gave their personal opinions on the issue of me campaigning in uniform for the office of bishop in the AME Church but as you would observe, no Army Regulation is cited or any directive given for me to desist from campaigning in my uniform or remove my picture in uniform from media (print or otherwise), for the fact that I am not in violation of any standing Military Regulation. Bishop Jackson, I hope this communication would resolve the issue, so that I can be able to focus on my campaign. Thanks for your understanding."
20. On May 4, 2016, Bishop Jackson wrote to Rev. Siebo "I am immediately withdrawing your Ecclesiastical Endorsement as a chaplain representing the African Methodist Episcopal Church. You are no longer authorized to represent the AME Church as a chaplain..."
21. On May 7, 2016, Rev. Siebo filed an appeal of Bishop Jackson's decision with the Judicial Council.
22. On June 3, 2016, the Judicial Council requested written confirmation of the PAO approval. On June 6, 2016, the Petitioner provided the same from Christopher Fletcher, a public affairs specialist from the Fort Jackson Public Affairs Office (PAO).



## ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The *Discipline*, 2012, Part VII, the General Board, Connectional Departments and Commissions, Section III. Connectional Commissions and Headquarters, subsection E, paragraph 1, page 181 addresses the Commission on Chaplains. In paragraph 1, it specifically states:

There shall be a Commission of Chaplains of the AME Church, which shall function in association with the ecclesiastical endorsing agent, certifying, supervising, supporting and enhancing AME Chaplains in the Armed Forces and other full-time Government institutions.

It is undisputed that the Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent has supervisory authority over African Methodist Episcopal Chaplains in the Armed Forces. As a supervisor, the Endorsing Agent carries responsibility for supporting, and enhancing the Chaplains in the Armed Forces.

The *Discipline*, 2012, Part VII, the General Board, Connectional Departments and Commissions, Section III. Connectional Commissions and Headquarters, subsection E, paragraph 5(i), page 182 addresses the Commission on Chaplains. In paragraph 5(i), it specifically states:

The Commission on Chaplains will be available to assist the Ecumenical Officer with endorsing chaplains for the AME Church. The requirements for ecclesiastical endorsement are:

...The Endorser and the Commission of Chaplains will assess the candidate's qualification and the Ecumenical Officer will make the final decision on whether to endorse an applicant.

The Commission on Chaplains was not involved in the Respondent's decision to withdraw the Petitioner's ecclesiastical endorsement. Also, as stated in The *Discipline*, 2012, on page 181 subsection E, paragraph 1, the Commission on Chaplains "shall function in association with the ecclesiastical endorsing agent, certifying, supervising...AME Chaplains..." Therefore, the Respondent's singular decision violated the process.

On October 14, 2015, the Respondent ordered the Petitioner to "immediately desist from campaigning for Bishop in military uniform". This order is neither vague nor ambiguous. As a supervisor to Rev. Siebo, the order was within Bishop Jackson's authority. It is common knowledge and readily understood that campaigning for any elected office typically includes a multitude of pointed activities and massive outreach such as in person appearances, printed brochures, videos as well as the use of electronic and/or social media. If Bishop Jackson believed the wearing of the uniform served to mislead others as to the endorsement of the Army regarding Rev. Siebo's candidacy, his order must be construed as reasonable. The Petitioner complied.



The Respondent in the October 14, 2015 letter also directed the Petitioner that "...any photos with you in military uniform must go through the Public Affairs Office (PAO)." The Petitioner previously sought advice from the PAO. But in order to comply with Bishop Jackson's order he again sought permission from the PAO. He received said permission and thereafter continued to use his uniform on varying forms of print, electronic and social media.<sup>1</sup> The Petitioner relied on the advice that he received from the PAO.

The Respondent made the unilateral decision to withdraw the Petitioner's ecclesiastical endorsement. Such a decision requires due process. For the purposes of this decision, due process means notice and a mechanism to address matters through an administrative process which includes a hearing. Without the opportunity to be heard, fundamental fairness fails. Finally, on April 14, 2016, the Respondent informed the Petitioner that he must either withdraw as a candidate seeking ecclesiastical office or he would withdraw his endorsement as a Chaplain representing the AME Church. This request was unreasonable. There is nothing in the *Discipline* which authorizes an Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent to demand a Chaplain to withdraw his or her candidacy for seeking ecclesiastical office for any reason.

### CONCLUSION

The Judicial Council finds that the Respondent has the supervisory authority, as the Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, to order the Petitioner to desist from campaigning for ecclesiastical office in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in military uniform. We also find the Respondent has the supervisory authority to request that the Petitioner get approval from the PAO regarding all forms of print media. The Petitioner complied.

The Judicial Council finds the decision of the Respondent to withdraw the Petitioner's endorsement as a Chaplain representing the African Methodist Episcopal Church occurred without affording due process to the Petitioner; therefore, the decision must be reversed. All rights and privileges of the Petitioner as an endorsed Chaplain of the African Methodist Episcopal Church are restored immediately.

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<sup>1</sup>On June 6, 2016, after speaking with Bishop Jackson and without further conversation with Rev. Siebo, Christopher Fletcher rescinded his original approval. Later that day, Rev. Siebo rebutted the reasons for the rescission.



Finally, the Judicial Council finds that the Respondent has no authority to request that the Petitioner withdraw his candidacy for ecclesiastical office.

The relief requested is GRANTED.

Opinion rendered this 5th day of July, 2016.

/s/ TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Esq.  
Member

Concurring: Patricia Mayberry, Rosemarie Rhodes-Miller, Francine Brookins, Tania Wright, Delman Howard, Benjamin Edwards and Vernon Byrd, Jr.

Glenda Hodges did not participate in this decision.





**No. 2012-2016-45**  
**BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL**  
**OF THE**  
**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**RE: REV. ALBERT EBERHARDT BIWA'S REQUEST**  
**FOR RECONSIDERATION**

Vernon R. Byrd, Jr. delivers the opinion of the Judicial Council

**I. HOLDING**

1. The Judicial Council received a request for reconsideration from Rev. Albert Eberhardt Biwa, Petitioner, regarding its decision in 2012-2016-39. After due consideration, the request for reconsideration is denied.

2. The recent opinion letters from the Association of Theological Schools that compare a Bachelor of Theology Honours degree with a Masters of Divinity degree fail to change the holding in the aforementioned decision. To the contrary, they confirm it.

**II. PARTIES**

Rev. Albert Eberhardt Biwa (Petitioner) is an Itinerant Elder in the AME Church.

**III. FACTS**



1. On or about March 4, 2016, in Re: The Matter of Albert Eberhardt Biwa, No. 2012-2016-39, the Judicial Council sustained the determination of the Chief Information Officer, Rev. Dr. Jeffery Cooper (CIO) that Petitioner is ineligible to be a candidate for the office of bishop at the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the General Conference of the AME Church.
2. Petitioner was determined to be ineligible because he did not have a Masters level degree. In Re: The Matter of Albert Eberhardt Biwa No. 2012-2016-39 the Judicial Council held that based on the language of the *Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church 2012*, Part VI, Section II, A., 4, p. 116, and its legislative history, candidates for bishop are required to have at least a Masters level degree.
3. Subsequent to the aforementioned decision, Petitioner requested that the Association of Theological Schools “assess the equivalency [of] the B.Th Honours degree earned from UNISA in South Africa to a Masters of Divinity degree earned at an ATS-member institution.” (June 23, 2016 letter from Lori A. Neff LaRue, Director, Accreditation Services to Rev. Albert Eberhardt Biwa, attached hereto.)
4. In her June 23 letter to Petitioner, Ms. Neff LaRue stated that while the B.Th Honours degree and the M.Div degree may be “comparable in purpose,” since the B.Th Honours requires only one year of study (48 credit hours) beyond the B.Th. (baccalaureate) degree, “it does not appear to be *equivalent in duration and credit hours* to the M.Div degree”
5. In response to requests for further clarification, Ms. Neff LaRue emphasized her earlier letter by stating the



following: “The MDiv, as defined by the Standards of Accreditation of the Commission on Accrediting of ATS, requires three years of study, a supervised-ministry experience, and a minimum of 72 credit-hours of graduate (master’s-level) coursework. Our conclusion, based on the information provided about the BTh Honours degree, is that the BTh Honours does not appear to meet the threshold for equivalency

to the MDiv. Thus, while the degrees serve a similar function, they are not equivalent (equal) degrees regarding credit hours, duration, and other requirements (e.g., supervised ministry).” (July 1, 2016 letter from Lori A. Neff LaRue, Director, Accreditation Services to Rev. Albert Eberhardt Biwa.)

6. Nevertheless, on June 25, 2016 Petitioner appealed in Re: The Matter of Albert Eberhardt Biwa asserting that the aforementioned letters were newly acquired evidence that supports his claim to be deemed eligible to a candidate for bishop. Quite the contrary; the letters support the CIO’s decision not to deem Petitioner ineligible to be a candidate for bishop.



#### IV. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

In The Matter of Albert Eberhardt Biwa, No 2012-2016-39, we examined Petitioner's credentials of a B.Th. Honours in light of the *Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church 2012*, Part VI, Section II, A., 4, p. 116 that articulates the requirements for candidates for the office of bishop. We held that that language required candidates for the office of bishop to have at least a Master's level degree. We also examined Petitioner's academic credential in light of the South Africa National Qualification Framework (NQF).

Under the NQF a Bachelor Honours degree is rated as a level 8 degree while a Master's degree is rated at a level 9. Now with the letters from ATS we have not one but two entities that indicate that Petitioner's B.Th. Honours degree

is not the equivalent of a Master's level degree.

To be clear, we are not making a value judgment either about the B.Th. Honours degree or about the law. We are simply applying the first to the standard of the latter.

#### V. CONCLUSION

The Judicial Council DENIES Petitioner's request for reconsideration and denies that the letters he received from ATS requires us to change our decision in Re: The Matter of Albert Eberhardt Biwa, No. 2012-2016-39.

Opinion rendered this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016

/s/ Vernon R. Byrd,  
Jr.





## Member

Concurring: Patricia Mayberry, Rosemarie Rhodes-Miller, Tania Wright, Delman Howard, Benjamin Edwards, Glenda Hodges and TaShun Bowden-Lewis  
Francine Brookins did not participate in the decision.



No. 2012-2016-46

**BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF THE  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**RE: IN THE MATTER OF REV. PHILIP R. COUSIN, JR.**

The Judicial Council delivers the opinion Per Curium.

**HOLDING**

Petitioner proffered no sufficient basis for the reversal of the decision of the Preliminary Inquiry Committee.

**PARTIES**

This matter comes before the Judicial Council on a petition filed by Rev. Philip R. Cousin, Jr., an Itinerant Elder in the Fifth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, requesting review of the decision of the Preliminary Inquiry Committee's finding that there was insufficient evidence to bring the Respondent, Bishop T. Larry Kirkland, Presiding Bishop of the Fifth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, to trial.

**JURISDICTION**

The jurisdiction of the Judicial Council is provided in Part XI, Section XX, Paragraph A of the *Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012*, ( hereinafter *Discipline*), page 290, which provides in part:

The jurisdiction of the Judicial Council shall relate to and be restricted to (except as may be set under "Duties" hereinafter set out) all final appeals from any adverse decision by any bishop, board commission, group, pastor, or any other regularly constituted party or body empowered to make a decision which affects the right of any member or Church body of the AME Church.

**STATEMENT OF ISSUES**

Whether there is sufficient evidence to entitle Petitioner to a reversal of the decision of the Impaneled Preliminary Inquiry Committee?



1. On January 7, 2016, the Petitioner notified the General Secretary/Chief Information Officer that he was presenting a Bill of Charges against the Respondent. Upon receiving the notice, Respondent petitioned the Judicial Council for a declaratory decision relative to conciliation proceedings. The Judicial Council concluded that the Petitioner could immediately proceed with the filing of charges, inasmuch as there was a breakdown in the conciliation proceedings. *See Matter of Bishop T. Larry Kirkland*, No.2012-2016-35.
2. The Response to the Bill of Charges was timely submitted. The Petitioner did not amend his submissions or present further supportive documentation.
3. The General Secretary certified in writing that an opportunity was given to the Petitioner to respond. The General Secretary further certified that he had final submissions by the parties prior to proceeding with the Preliminary Inquiry.
4. Petitioner was present when the names were drawn for the Preliminary Inquiry Committee. On April 4, 2016, the sealed results of the Impaneled Preliminary Inquiry Committee were opened in the presence of witnesses. The Preliminary Inquiry Committee concluded that there would be no trial on any charge.
5. On April 11, 2016, Petitioner appealed the decision of the Preliminary Inquiry Committee to the Judicial Council.

### ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The *Discipline*, 2012, Part XI, Judicial Administration, Section XX, Paragraph A, page 290, addresses the Judicial Council's jurisdiction for all final appeals from any adverse decision by "any other regularly constituted party or body empowered to make a decision which affects the rights of any member...of the AME Church." A final decision of an Impaneled Preliminary Inquiry Committee is appealable to the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council has held that the standard of review is whether Petitioner presented sufficient evidence to warrant such a review. *See In the Matter of Re. James Mwenya*, No. 2012-2016-27.

As a result of the Petition, we undertook an extensive review of the record, which *only* included the information that was provided to the Preliminary Inquiry Committee by the General Secretary. A thorough review of that record revealed that the Committee was properly empaneled and that information was properly exchanged and disseminated pursuant to the *Discipline*, Part XI, Judicial Administration, Section IV, pages 259-260.

The *Discipline*, 2012, Part XI, Judicial Administration, Section XX, Paragraph A, page 290, addresses the Judicial Council's jurisdiction for all final appeals from any adverse decision by "any other regularly constituted party or body empowered to make a decision which affects the rights of any member...of the AME Church." The Impaneled Preliminary Inquiry Committee received the Response to Charges, which included numerous exhibits and *supporting* documents, one of which contained a clear misstatement of our holding *In the Matter of Bishop Preston W. Williams*, No. 2012-2016-17-01, relative to *comparability* of clerical appointments. In addition, only two pages of the five page opinion of the Judicial Council was included, but not the full text of the decision. Even though Petitioner had the opportunity, Petitioner did not challenge the submission.



We are not able to determine whether members of the Preliminary Inquiry Committee relied on the disingenuous argument or what, if any weight was given to that submission in reaching its conclusions. However, we did determine that the Preliminary Inquiry Committee was (1) properly empaneled in accordance with the *Discipline* at 259-260; (2) Petitioner received the Respondent's reply; (3) Petitioner had an opportunity to refute the information contained therein and to correct any deficiency in the record before it was submitted to the Preliminary Inquiry Committee; and (4) each Committee member was required to independently determine whether the submitted evidence provides probable cause to bring the accused to trial.

Accordingly, we find that the process as outlined by the *Discipline* was followed; the Judicial Council cannot substitute its judgement for that of the Preliminary Inquiry Committee.

### CONCLUSION

After careful review of the matter, the Judicial Council holds that there are no grounds on which to reverse the decision of the Preliminary Inquiry Committee. Therefore, Petitioner's request for relief is DENIED.

Opinion rendered this 11<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2016.

Per Curium

Rosemarie Rhodes-Miller and Benjamin Edwards did not participate in the decision.





**AMENDED No. 2016-2020-01**

**BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF THE  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**RE: IN THE MATTER OF CHAVIS AME CHURCH**

Patricia M. Mayberry, President delivers the opinion on behalf of the Judicial Council.

**HOLDING**

The Judicial Council finds that its Decision in 2012-2016-23 held a pastor may not organize a new Lay Organization, where one already exists. The Judicial Council never held in any of its decisions that a pastor may not conduct an election for one of its organizations at the local level, including the Lay Organization. The pastor may preside over the election of officers for the Chavis AME Lay Organization.

**PARTIES**

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District, seeks clarification of the Judicial Council's Decision in No. 2012-2016-23. Stephanie Ganaway Pasley and James Pasley, Jr. petition on behalf of the Chavis Lay Organization, challenging the attempt of Rev. William C. Ervin, III, Pastor of Chavis AME Church, to conduct the election of officers for the Chavis AME Church Lay Organization.

**JURISDICTION**

Jurisdiction in this matter is pursuant to Part XI, Judicial Administration, Section XX, Paragraph A, Page 290 of *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (2012)* ("Discipline 2012"), to-wit:

The jurisdiction of the Judicial Council shall relate to and be restricted to (except as may be set under "Duties" hereinafter set out) all final appeals from any adverse decision by any bishop, board, commission, group, pastor, or any other regularly constituted party or body empowered to make a decision which affects the right of any member or Church body of the AME Church.



## STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. On October 28, 2015, the Judicial Council issued its opinion in No. 2012-2016-23 reversing the November 1, 2014 decision of Presiding Elder Rosalyn Coleman, upholding the September 10, 2014 election conducted by Rev. Elton Rutledge, seeking to organize a Lay Organization at Chavis A.M.E. Church in South Carolina.
2. In its decision, the Judicial Council found that at the time of the September 10, 2014 election, a Lay Organization existed with new officers having been elected June 5, 2014, including the re-election of its President.
3. In a subsequent decision issued on January 8, 2016, the Judicial Council determined that prior to holding a new election of officers for the Lay Organization, the incumbent officers, as recognized in its previous decision (No. 2012-2016-23), must have the opportunity to carry out their annual term pursuant to the *Discipline*, Part XII, Connectional Societies and Organizations, Section III- The Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Constitution and By-Laws, Article VII - Election of Officers, Section 12, page 395.
4. In August 2016, President Ganaway Pasley of the Chavis Lay Organization attempted to provide notice of its annual election of officers to be held on August 18, 2016.
5. On or about August 16, 2016, Rev. Ervin advised the Lay President that he would conduct the election of officers for the Lay Organization. According to Rev. Ervin, the Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District, instructed him to conduct the Lay Organization election.
6. On August 28, 2016, Bishop Green filed a request for clarification with the Judicial Council regarding decision No. 2012-2016-23, to determine whether that decision prevents a Pastor from holding or conducting an election of officers for the Lay Organization, if a Lay Organization already exists in the local church.
7. On September 9, 2016, the President and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Chavis AME Church Lay Organization submitted a request to the Judicial Council for a declaratory decision as to whether the Pastor could conduct the election of the Lay Organization, where one already exists.



## STATEMENT OF THE ISSUES

1. Whether the Judicial Council's holding in Case No. 2012-2016-23 precludes a Pastor from conducting and/or presiding over an election of officers for the Lay Organization, if a Lay Organization already exists in the local church?
2. Whether a pastor can conduct the annual election of officers for the Lay Organization?

## ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

In its decision No. 2012-2016-23, the Judicial Council strictly dealt with the attempt of the pastor at Chavis AME Church to organize a Lay Organization, where one existed. In the aforementioned matter, the duly organized Lay Organization at Chavis AME Church held its annual election of officers on June 5, 2015. Documentation, to include minutes of the various church quarters, verified that prior to the pastor's attempt to organize a Lay Organization, one existed. The Judicial Council held that no organization of the Lay Organization could occur. The decision never addressed any issues beyond organization or the re-organization of the Lay Organization. The Judicial Council never held that a pastor could not conduct (preside over) an election of officers for the Lay Organization.

In the present matter, the President and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the Chavis AME Lay Organization seek to challenge whether their Pastor can conduct the election of officers for their organization. In their argument, they reference the *Discipline, 2012* Part XII, Connectional Societies and Organizations, Section III-The Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Constitution and By-Laws, Article XIII – Reserved and Implied Powers, Section 4, page 400, drawing the conclusion that the Lay Organization is an autonomous body at the local church level.

The local Lay Organization cannot be construed as a totally autonomous body. While the local Lay Organization is a self-governing body as referenced above, it must be incorporated into the local church structure. The pastor presides over all boards of stewards and trustees and all meetings for the transaction of spiritual and temporal business in the charge. *See, Discipline, 2012*, Part V-The Ministry-Section VI-The Itinerant Ministry, paragraph B. 8, page 92. More importantly, the Lay Organization, at the local church level, falls under Local Church Organization. Included in the organizations of the local church, are the Class/Class Leaders, Choir, Church School, Allen Christian Fellowship, Lay Organization, Women's Missionary Society/Young People's Division and Sons of Allen. *See, Discipline, 2012*, Part IV-Church Membership, Section II-Local Church Organization, subsection A-Constituent Boards, Workers, Organizations, Auxiliaries, paragraph 3e – Lay Organization, page 71. The Lay Organization president is a part of the Official Board and the Quarterly Conference. *See, "Discipline, 2012"*, Part IV-Church Membership, Section II-Local Church Organization, subsection B-Official Board, paragraph 1 a – Composition, page 72 and Part VII – Conferences and Conventions, Section IV – Quarterly Conference, subsection A –



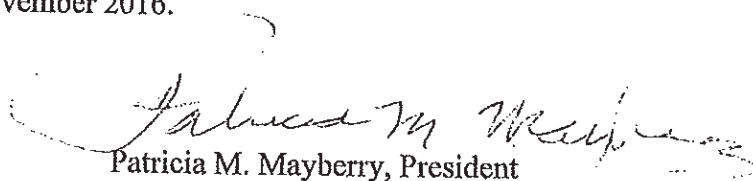
The Constitution and By-Laws for the Connectional Lay Organization establishes a nominating committee charged with responsibility of examining any and all information regarding nominees for elected offices being sought. Based on the qualified nominees, the committee prepares a slate of nominees, listing the qualifications of the nominees for the offices to be elected. See, Discipline, 2012, Part XII, Connectional Societies and Organizations, Section III-The Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Constitution and By-Laws, Article VI – Nomination and Election Procedures, Section 8 – Duties of the Committee, paragraph a and b, page 392.

Because the local Lay Organization possesses a procedure for obtaining nominees for the various offices, the mere presiding over the election by the pastor does not jeopardize the process. The process ensures its safeguards by and through the nominating committee, whose slate belongs to the Lay Organization, exclusively. Based on the protections afforded by the Connectional Lay Organization Constitution and By-Laws, as well as the guidance specified in Robert's Rules of Order, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition, no logical reason exists for denying a local pastor the opportunity to preside over the election. The Pastor and Lay Organization will work collaboratively to establish the date of the election of officers.

### CONCLUSION

The Judicial Council finds that its Decision in 2012-2016-23 held a pastor may not organize a new Lay Organization, where one already exists. The Judicial Council never held in any of its decisions that a pastor may not conduct/preside over the election of officers for one of its organizations at the local level, including the Lay Organization. The pastor may preside over the election of officers for the Chavis AME Lay Organization.

Opinion rendered this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November 2016.

  
Patricia M. Mayberry, President

Concurring: Judge Tania E. Wright, Judge Vernon R. Byrd, II, Judge Glenda F. Hodges, Judge TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Judge Derek Anderson, Judge Thomas Bess, Judge Warren Hope Dawson, and Judge Eduardo K. Curry.





No. 2016-2020-02

**BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF THE  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**RE: IN THE MATTER OF REV. T. LEVY MAHASHA**

Tania E. Wright, Vice-President, renders the opinion of the Judicial Council.

**HOLDING**

The Judicial Council DENIES Petitioner's requested relief.

**PARTIES**

Rev. T. Levy Mahasha. ("Petitioner" or "Rev. Mahasha") is an itinerant elder and former Presiding Elder of the Highveld District of the East Annual Conference of the Nineteenth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Bishop Paul J.M. Kawimbe ("Respondent" or "Bishop Kawimbe") is the Presiding Prelate for the Nineteenth Episcopal District. Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Cooper, "Dr. Cooper" or "General Secretary") is the Chief Information Officer/General Secretary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On May 24, 2016, *In the Matter of Rev. T. Levy Mahasha*, No. 2012-2016-42, the Judicial Council *ruled* that Rev. Mahasha could not file charges with the General Secretary against Bishop Kawimbe until the completion of the conciliation process. The Judicial Council advised the parties to exhaust the conciliation process, prior to the implementation of any further judicial proceedings, as outlined by the *Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012*, hereinafter the "*Discipline*."<sup>1</sup> However, the Judicial Council instructed the parties to the dispute to convene the Conciliation Committee no later than June 16, 2016.

We were advised that the Conciliation Committee did not convene by June 16, 2016. The Judicial Council received no requests for an extension of the aforementioned timeframe designated in its decision. The Judicial Council was unaware of any mutual agreement between the parties to extend the deadline for convening conciliation. Therefore, on June 20, 2016, *In the Matter of Rev. T. Levy Mahasha*, No. 2012-2016-43,

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<sup>1</sup> *Also see, In the Matter of Rev. James Mwenya*, No. 2012-2016-18, dated November 20, 2014, where in the Judicial Council affirmed the General Secretary's decision not to empanel a Preliminary Inquiry Committee until after the completion of the conciliation process.



the Judicial Council issued an Order permitting Rev. Mahasha to proceed with judicial administration of this matter pursuant to the procedures outlined in the *Discipline*.

Rev. Mahasha now petitions the Judicial Council to (1) instruct and direct the General Secretary of the AME Church to include and present only evidence in the nature of sworn affidavits and not to deviate from the rules regarding the matter before the Preliminary Inquiry Committee. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of August 2016, Rev. Mahasha complained to the office of the General Secretary, alleging that Bishop Kawimbe tampered with the minutes of the 2014 Annual Conference. Rev. Mahasha is concerned that the Preliminary Inquiry Committee will be misled by the Respondent's actions and witnesses; and (2) compel and restrain Bishop Kawimbe from transferring him to a different conference and from other alleged provocative acts, pending the outcome of the judicial proceedings relative to charges filed by Rev. Mahasha against Bishop Kawimbe pursuant to the Minister's Bill of Rights.

### **JURISDICTION**

As it pertains to appeals, the jurisdiction of the Judicial Council is provided in the 2012 *Discipline*, Part XI. Judicial Administration, Section XX. The Judicial Council, Paragraph A. Jurisdiction, page 290 states:

The jurisdiction of the Judicial Council shall relate to and be restricted to (except as may be set under "Duties" hereinafter set out) all final appeals from any adverse decision by any bishop, board, commission, group, pastor, or any other regularly constituted party or body empowered to make a decision which affects the right of any member or Church body of the AME Church.

### **STATEMENT OF THE ISSUES**

Whether the Judicial Council has jurisdiction and sufficient cause to intercede in a matter pending before the Preliminary Inquiry Committee/Impaneled Inquiry Committee to determine the authenticity of evidence or to direct the nature and types of evidence presented to the Committee by the General Secretary?

Whether the Judicial Council has *original* jurisdiction to enforce alleged violations of the Minister's Bill of Rights? Whether the Petitioner has a right to retain the *status quo* relative to his clerical appointment or assignment pending the outcome of related and/or nonrelated charges filed against the presiding prelate, pursuant to the Minister's Bill of Rights?



### STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. On or about January 15, 2015, Petitioner filed a formal complaint, with the General Secretary against Bishop Paul J.M. Kawimbe. Rev. Mahasha's complaint alleged that he had been subjected to "private humiliation and disgusting treatment" by Bishop Kawimbe in violation of the Ministers' Bill of Rights, Section VII, paragraph 7, page 101, of the *Discipline*. Therefore, Rev. Mahasha sought to file charges for maladministration against Bishop Kawimbe.
2. On July 30, 2015, Bishop Kawimbe sent a notice to Rev. Mahasha stating that effective October 11, 2015, he would be relieved of his Presiding Elder responsibilities. Additionally, the notice advised him that Bishop Kawimbe intended to transfer him from the East Annual Conference to another Annual Conference within the Nineteenth Episcopal District.
3. On October 7, 2015, Rev. Mahasha through his counsel sent a letter challenging the legal sufficiency of the July 30, 2015 notice. The letter accused Bishop Kawimbe of a multitude of offenses including: (1) Maladministration, (2) Disobedience to *Discipline* (3) Illegal Handling of local, conference, connectional and all other church funds, and (4) Sowing Dissension.
4. On October 11, 2015, Bishop Kawimbe announced that the appointment of the Highveld District of the East Annual Conference was in his hands. Rev. Mahasha received no appointment during this session of the Annual Conference.
5. On November 3, 2015, Petitioner received a call from one of the Bishop's administrative assistants requesting he meet with the Bishop at the Orangia Annual Conference the following day.
6. On November 9, 2015, Petitioner received a letter and a Certificate of Transfer, both dated November 3, 2015 transferring him to the Orangia Conference of the Nineteenth Episcopal District. Rev. Mahasha filed a petition with the Judicial Council, citing various concerns and requesting that he be permitted to file charges against Bishop Kawimbe without first utilizing the conciliation process. In that conciliation did not occur by June 16, 2016, as directed by the Order of the Judicial Council, Rev. Mahasha was permitted to file charges against Bishop Kawimbe, without benefit of the conciliation process. Those charges are to be heard by an Impaneled Preliminary Inquiry Committee.



7. Rev. Mahasha now files this ‘urgent matter’ requesting that the Judicial Council intercede in order to ensure that the General Secretary send only sworn affidavits to the Impaneled Preliminary Committee and does not otherwise “deviate from the rules.” Rev. Mahasha also alleges that Bishop Kawimbe tampered with the 2014 minutes of an Annual Conference and challenges submission of that and other documents submitted by Bishop Kawimbe.
8. On October 17, 2016, Rev. Mahasha sent a letter asking the Judicial Council to restrain Bishop Kawimbe from transferring him to the Free State Annual Conference and from other “provocations” and further, asking the Judicial Council to compel Bishop Kawimbe to allow Rev. Mahasha to remain or be placed on the rolls of the East Annual Conference pending the resolution of the charges filed by Rev. Mahasha against Bishop Kawimbe.

### ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The Judicial Council is the highest judicatory body of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is an appellant court elected by and amenable to the General Conference. *Discipline*, General Governmental Divisions and Authority, Section I. Divisions, E. Judicial Council, p.115. Save and except specific duties prescribed by the *Discipline*, pp. 292-295, the Judicial Council’s jurisdiction is restricted to:

...final appeals from any adverse decision by any bishop, board, commission, group, pastor or any other regularly constituted party or body empowered to make a decision which affects the right of any member or Church body of the AME Church.

*Discipline*, p. 290.

Rev. Mahasha, alleging violations of the Minister’s Bill of Rights, petitioned the Judicial Council requesting to file charges against Bishop Kawimbe. Section VII-Ministers Bill of Rights, paragraph 14, page 102, of the *Discipline* provides that an aggrieved pastor has the right to present charges through the judicial machinery and agencies of the church. However, the *Discipline*, Part XII, Judicial Administration, Section I. Conciliation Committee at 256 provides:

... before any charge may be filed, introduced, or conveyed for consideration, all parties to any differences, dispute, claim or controversy shall submit the matters of contention to the Conciliation Committee.





Therefore, parties to disputes are required to exhaust the administrative and/or judiciary processes provided for in the *Discipline*, prior to seeking a ruling by the Judicial Council.

Accordingly, on May 24, 2016, *In the Matter of Rev. T. Levy Mahasha*, No. 2012-2016-42, the Judicial Council *ruled* that Rev. Mahasha must exhaust the Conciliation process, prior to the implementation of any further judicial proceedings, as outlined by the *Discipline*. However, the Judicial Council instructed the parties to the dispute to convene the Conciliation Committee no later than June 16, 2016.

In the Decision of the Judicial Council, *Mahasha* 2014-2016-43, we ruled that if Conciliation did not take place before June 16, 2016, then Rev. Mahasha could pursue charges through the judicial machinery of the church. In the case of allegations by a minister against a bishop, those charges would go before the Preliminary Inquiry Committee. *Discipline*, Part XII, Judicial Administration, Section I, Paragraph F. at page 257. Subsequent to our June 20, 2016, Order of the Judicial Council, allowing him for good cause shown, to bypass the conciliation process, Rev. Mahasha filed an array of charges before the Preliminary Inquiry Committee.

#### Preliminary Inquiry Committee

The *Discipline*, Part XII, Judicial Administration, Section IV, Subsection B., Paragraphs 1-5, at pages 259-260, provides the procedure to be followed in a matter before the Preliminary Inquiry Committee:

##### B. Procedure

All charges shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Church and the Secretary of the Council of Bishops... The convener, shall schedule a meeting and notify the accuser and the accused of the time and place thereof, for the purpose of drawing or selecting a panel of thirteen (13) members from the names of the Preliminary Inquiry Committee. The accused person may submit an answer or reply with accompanying affidavits and exhibits. This must be forwarded to the convener and the accuser(s) within twenty (20) days after receipt of the charges. The convener shall immediately give notice to each panel member upon his or her selection and shall forward to each, by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, copies of the charges, a summary of the expected testimony, and all other submitted documents.



This Impaneled Committee shall receive all of the evidence, including, but not limited to, documents and sworn affidavits, along with the charges, and upon review, take the following action:

1. Each committee member shall independently decide or determine whether the submitted evidence provides probable cause to bring the accused to trial.
2. Notify the Secretary of the Church, within thirty (30) days of the committee's receipt of the evidence, whether there exists probable cause to bring the accused to trial. Said notice shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Church by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested.
3. The Impaneled Committee of thirteen (13) shall be known as the Impaneled Inquiry Committee and shall have full power to compel the presentation of books, documents and all other evidence which it may deem relevant. Any member of the AME Church who fails to appear or to produce evidence as ordered by this Committee shall be subject to proceedings culminating in suspension from Church office and/or Church membership...
5. Action and decisions of the Preliminary Inquiry Committee through any Impaneled Inquiry Committee, following investigation and review shall either be:
  - a. A dismissal of the charges, or
  - b. A submission of the record of its findings to the Trial Committee ...



The prescribed procedure states that the “Impaneled Committee *shall receive all of the evidence, including, but not limited to, documents and sworn affidavits*, along with the charges.” (Emphasis added). In addition, the Impaneled Inquiry Committee has full power to compel submission of additional documents and all other evidence, which it may deem relevant. Each member of the Impaneled Inquiry Committee independently determines whether the submitted evidence provides probable cause to bring the accused to trial.

The Petitioner is essentially asking that the General Secretary and/or Judicial Council rule on the admissibility of the evidence to be presented to the Impaneled Inquiry Committee. Rev. Mahatma alleges that Bishop Kawimbe has submitted false misleading or otherwise improper documentation in response to the charges levied against him. The General Secretary serves to convene the proceedings, and is responsible for receiving the evidence, summarizing the expected testimony and distributing all documents and charges to a properly Impaneled Inquiry Committee. The General Secretary does not determine the weight of the evidence nor rule upon the evidence or its credibility. Petitioner does not allege that the General Secretary has any personal knowledge of fraudulent, misleading or misinformation. Further, there is no evidence that the General Secretary has “deviated from the rules,” as is alleged. Under these circumstances, we will not direct the General Secretary as to the type of documents or evidence that he is permitted to receive or disseminate, in that the *Discipline* clearly permits a wide berth in the submission of evidence by all parties.

In an adversarial process it is the right and responsibility of the parties to refute evidence presented by an opposing party, by offering its own competent compelling evidence. Rev. Mahasha advised the Judicial Council that he had complained to the General Secretary regarding the responses by Bishop Kawimbe. There is nothing to suggest that Rev. Mahasha was precluded from providing additional evidence to support his allegations of fraud and/or submission of misleading information. Upon receipt of evidence that a party believes is false or misleading, it is incumbent upon the aggrieved party to submit additional competent and compelling evidence through affidavits or other documents to rebut the objectionable evidence presented.

The Judicial Council does not, at this juncture, have jurisdiction to intervene in the process as prescribed by the *Discipline*, and will not act as an advocate nor usurp the role and/ or authority of the General Secretary and the Impaneled Inquiry Committee in carrying out this judicial process.



Matter of Rev. Levy T. Mahasha  
JC Decision 2016-2020-02  
Page 8 of 8

### Petitioner's Demand to Retain Status Quo Pending Judicial Proceedings

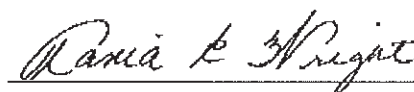
While the Judicial Council has jurisdiction to hear and determine any appeal from a bishop's decision on a question or ruling made in an annual conference on positive law which affects some substantial right of the appellant, it does not have jurisdiction to interfere with the right of the bishop to appoint, assign, transfer or remove pastors. Petitioner's alleges that Bishop Kawimbe violated his rights under the Minister's Bill of Rights. If so, and the offense is related to the current charges, it may be addressed before the Impaneled Inquiry Committee, as a part of the pending matter before that body, or it may be the subject of new charges.

Rev. Mahasha indicated that if he is not granted the immediate relief sought here that he will Petition the civil court for assistance. Rev. Mahasha is reminded that members of the AME Church are required by the *Discipline* to seek a final determination of any dispute arising between the members, officials and/or any components of the Church by exhausting all legal remedies provided in *Discipline* before filing civil proceedings. There has been no final ruling relative to Rev. Mahasha's charges against Bishop Kawimbe and the judiciary process set forth in the *Discipline* of the AME Church has not been exhausted.

### CONCLUSION

The Judicial Council has no jurisdiction to intercede at this phase of the judicial proceedings and therefore, DENIES Petitioner's requested relief.

Opinion rendered this 4th day of November 2016.

  
Tania E. Wright, Judge

Concurring: Judge Patricia M. Mayberry, Judge Vernon R. Byrd, Jr., Judge Glenda F. Hodges, Judge TaShun Y. Bowden-Lewis, Judge Derek H. Anderson, Judge Thomas L. Bess, Judge Warren H. Dawson and Judge Eduardo K. Curry.





2016-2020-03

BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF THE  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

RE: IN THE MATTER OF JUDGE PRESIDENT M.M. LEEUW

Judge Eduardo K. Curry, Member, delivers the opinion of the Judicial Council

**HOLDING**

The Judicial Council DENIES Petitioner's request to reverse the decision of the General Secretary (CIO) Cooper not to empanel a preliminary inquiry committee or take any action until after the conciliation process has been fully completed.

**PARTIES**

The Layperson, M.M. Leeuw (Petitioner Leeuw), Bishop Paul J.M. Kawimbe (Respondent Kawimbe) President of Council of Bishops, (Respondent President) General Secretary Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the African Methodist Episcopal, Church Dr. Jeffery Cooper (Respondent Cooper).

**JURISDICTION**

The jurisdiction of the Judicial Council is provided in Part XI, section XX, Paragraph A. the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2012 (hereafter *Discipline*) page 290. The paragraph restricts its jurisdiction of appeals to all final adverse decisions by any "bishop, board, commission, group, pastor, or any other regularly constituted party or body empowered to make a decision which affects the rights, members, church or body of the AME Church."

**STATEMENT OF THE ISSUES**

1. Whether a Petitioner may proceed with the filing of charges with the Preliminary Inquiry Committee, when a conciliation is not held within twenty (20) days of Petitioner's request?
2. Whether Petitioner is entitled to an appointment of a disinterested bishop to Chair a conciliation, when allegations are made against the bishop in the Episcopal District in which the bishop presides?



### STATEMENT OF FACTS

Petitioner Leeuw sought to bring charges against Respondent Bishop Kawimbe and requested a conciliation as provided by the *Discipline*, part XI, Judicial Administration, Section I, Conciliation Committee, Subsection D, Page 257. The provision explicitly establishes the setting of the time for the committee as being within twenty (20) days after the request is filed. Additionally, Petitioner Leeuw asked that Respondent Bishop Kawimbe request the President of the Council of Bishops appoint a disinterested Bishop to serve as a chairperson of the Conciliation Committee as provided by the *Discipline*, Part XI, Judicial Administration, Section I, Conciliation Committee, Subsection A(5), Page 257.

Neither the appointment of a disinterested Bishop nor a time for the first meeting of the Conciliation Committee occurred within twenty (20) days after the request was filed. Petitioner Leeuw requested that the CIO of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Respondent Dr. Jeffery Cooper, allow her to file charges with a Preliminary Inquiry Committee. Respondent Cooper responded that he was unable to begin the process of a preliminary inquiry because the convening Bishop for the conciliation process must inform the Respondent in writing that the conciliation process has failed.

Petitioner Leeuw argues that, since both the time had elapsed to appoint a disinterested Bishop to chair the Preliminary Inquiry Committee and to set the first meeting, she is not obligated to participate in conciliation and should be entitled to proceed with charges to the Preliminary Inquiry Committee, in the absence of conciliation.

### ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The description provided, at Part XI, Section I, Conciliation Committee, that it is “the clear intent and purpose of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to encourage, create and stimulate peace and good will among its members..” Thus, the *Discipline* provides that before any charges may be filed, all parties are required to submit the matters to the Conciliation Committee. As this Judicial Council has previously ruled, parties must participate in the Conciliation process before charges may be filed. See, *In the matter of Rev. James Mwenya*, No. 2012-2016, where the Petitioners sought to bypass the Conciliation Committee because the first meeting had not been scheduled within twenty (20) days as provided by the *Discipline*. The Judicial Council has also previously ruled on the issue of time lapse as it relates to conciliations, *In the matter of Daisy Brown*, 2008-2012-01, dated February 6, 2009, wherein we directed that a conciliation be scheduled immediately.

As in *Mwenga*, while it is unfortunate that the process did not occur in a timely manner, there is no provisions in the *Discipline* that allows Petitioner to refuse to participate because of time delays. Furthermore, the *Discipline* is clear in Part XI, Judicial Administration, Section I, Subsection A(5), Page 257, that “when the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal District wherein the dispute arises is also a party to the same, that bishop shall (emphasis added) request the President of the Council of Bishops to appoint a disinterested bishop to serve as a chairperson of the Conciliation Committee.” The facts at hand are clear. Petitioner Leeuw has filed a dispute against Respondent Kawimbe. Respondent Kawimbe is the Presiding Prelate of the Nineteenth (19<sup>th</sup>) Episcopal



District in which this dispute arises. The directive of the positive law makes it mandatory that the Council of Bishops appoint a disinterested bishop to chair the Conciliation Committee.

Accordingly, a disinterested bishop must be appointed by the Council of Bishops to chair the Conciliation Committee. Additionally, both parties must attempt to engage in Conciliation. The appointed disinterested chair of the Committee shall report to the CIO in writing, whether the Conciliation was a success or failure pursuant to the process set forth in the *Discipline*. This process must occur within thirty (30) days of the receipt of this Order.

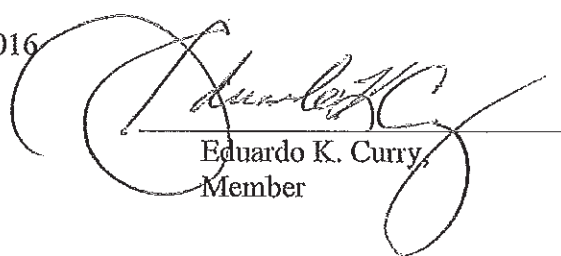
### CONCLUSION

The Judicial Council DENIES Petitioner's request to reverse Respondent Cooper's decision not to empanel a Preliminary Inquiry Committee until after the conciliation process has been completed and reported in writing.

### ORDER

Petitioner Leeuw and Respondent Kawimbe are required to participate in the conciliation process. Additionally, Respondent Kawimbe is hereby directed to request, in writing, that the Council of Bishops appointment a disinterested bishop to chair and organize a conciliation committee to hear this matter pursuant to the *Discipline*, before any further action can be taken to proceed with charges. The organization of the Conciliation Committee and the request for an appointment of a disinterested bishop must be done within thirty (30) days of the date of this Order.

Opinion rendered this 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016



Eduardo K. Curry,  
Member

Concurring: Judge Patricia M. Mayberry, Judge Tania E. Wright, Judge Vernon R. Byrd, Jr., Judge Glenda F. Hodges, Judge Thomas Bess, Judge TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Judge Derek Anderson, and Judge Warren Hope Dawson.



No. 2016-2020-04

**BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF THE  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**RE: IN THE MATTER OF Rev. James Mwenya**

Derek Anderson, Member, delivers the opinion of the Judicial Council.

**HOLDING**

Petitioner, by filing civil proceedings against the AME Church and Bishop Wilfred J. Messiah, before the High Court in Zambia, forfeited all rights of appeal to the Judicial Council relative to the matters to which Petitioner *herein* complains.

**PARTIES**

Rev. James Mwenya ("Petitioner" or "Rev. Mwenya") is an Itinerant Elder in the South East Zambia Conference of the Seventeenth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church ("AME Church"). Bishop Wilfred J. Messiah ("Respondent" or "Bishop Messiah") is the Presiding Prelate of the Seventeenth Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church.

**JURISDICTION**

Jurisdiction in this matter is pursuant to Part XI, Judicial Administration, Section XX, Paragraph A, Page 290 of *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (2012)* ("Discipline"), to-wit:

The jurisdiction of the Judicial Council shall relate to and be restricted to (except as may be set under "Duties" hereinafter set out) all final appeals from any adverse decision by any bishop, board, commission, group, pastor, or any other regularly constituted party or body empowered to make a decision which affects the right of any member or Church body of the AME Church.

**STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE**

Whether Petitioner has the right to an appeal before the Judicial Council of the AME Church relative to the legality of the Board of Christian Education (BOCE) Budgets and Founder's Day Assessments imposed in the Seventeenth Episcopal District of the AME Church?





### STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. On April 24, 2016, Petitioner filed an appeal to the Judicial Council alleging that on March 15, 2016, Bishop Wilfred Messiah, Respondent, issued Memorandums instructing churches to pay: (a) Board of Christian Education (BOCE) Budgets and (b) Founder's Day Assessment. Petitioner complains that the demand for payment of these levies violates the positive law of the church. Petitioner referenced allegations of illegal assessments dating back to the 2013-2014 conference years. Petitioner alleges that the two levies are unlawful and that they have been the subject of the Judicial Process of the church in matters previously before the Bishop's Council and Judicial Council.<sup>1</sup>
2. On August 11, 2015, just prior to the start of the 2015 South East Zambia Annual Conference, Rev. Mwenya petitioned the High Court of Zambia for an interim injunction against the AME Church and Reverend Wilfred Jacobus Messiah (As Chairmen of the Trustees of the AME Church). The Petition and Statement of Claim before the High Court of Zambia requested that Bishop Messiah and the AME Church by themselves, agents, servants or otherwise be enjoined from proceeding with deliberating and deciding the issues relating to Rev. Mwenya's grievances. Petitioner alleged that Bishop Messiah has committed offenses which include: (a) Disobedience to the *Discipline*, (b) Maladministration and (c) Levying unauthorized assessments and the levying and collecting of assessments for personal gain. The AME Church, through its representatives, was required to appear before the High Court. The final hearing on this matter was April 25, 2016.
3. Respondent replied stating that the Memorandums of March 15, 2016 were reminders regarding assessments, which had been previously approved and alleged the Petitioner was not in good and regular standing. On November 4, 2016, the Judicial Council sent a request to Bishop Messiah for further response and documentation. On November 15, 2016, the Judicial Council received a number of documents from Respondent, which did not fully comply with the Judicial Council's request for information, in that he did not provide the relevant Episcopal District Budget nor minutes of the Annual Conferences, in which the Respondent claimed the assessments were approved nor did he provide documentation to support his claim that Petitioner was *not* in good and regular standing. A second request was

<sup>1</sup> On November 20, 2014, the Judicial Council issued its opinion in No. 2012-2016-18, denying the Petitioner's request to reverse the General Secretary's decision not to empanel a Preliminary Inquiry Committee until after the Conciliation process had been fully completed, relative to Petitioner's allegation against Bishop Wilfred J. Messiah. Petitioner was directed to participate in the scheduled Conciliation process before proceeding with any charges. Subsequently, Petitioner requested that the Judicial Council conduct a comprehensive review and reverse the decision of the Preliminary Inquiry Committee in the above referenced matter. In Decision No. 2012-2016-27, issued September 9, 2015, the Judicial Council denied the requested relief for lack of evidence in support of Petitioner's claims



made for documents on November 16, 2016, to which the Respondent agreed to fully comply if given additional time. To date, no further documentation has been received from Respondent.

### ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The Judicial Council is the highest adjudicatory body of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is an appellate court elected by and amenable to the General Conference. *Discipline*, General Governmental Divisions and Authority, Section I. Divisions, E. Judicial Council, p.115. With the exception of the specific duties prescribed by the *Discipline*, pp. 290-295, the Judicial Council's jurisdiction is restricted to:

...all final appeals from any adverse decision by any bishop, board, commission, group, pastor or any other regularly constituted party or body empowered to make a decision which affects the right of any member or Church body of the AME Church.

*Id.* at 290. Parties to disputes are required to first exhaust the administrative and/or judiciary processes provided for in the *Discipline*, prior to seeking a ruling by the Judicial Council.

Furthermore, in accordance with the *Discipline* at p.292:

Members of the AME Church, are required to seek a final determination of any disputes arising between said members and the Church and/or any department thereof by exhausting all legal remedies provided in *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church* before civil proceedings are engaged in by the said member in his or her own behalf or anyone similarly situated.

If an appellant commences a civil suit against the church before an appeal is finally decided, the appellant forfeits all rights of appeal granted in the *Discipline*, *Id.* at 267.

The Judicial Council has examined the Petition for Injunctive Relief, as well as the Statement of Claims, which includes, amongst numerous other allegations, that Bishop Messiah imposed unlawful levies. The Judicial Council finds that the Petitioner, in filing civil proceedings, in the nature of an Interim Injunction, before the High Court in Zambia, forfeited all rights of appeal to the Judicial Council relative to the pending matter.

The filing of the civil suit by Petitioner precludes a finding relative to the underlying issue of whether the Board of Christian Education (BOCE) Budgets and Founder's Day Assessments were lawful and had been voted on by the Annual Conferences and properly included in the Budget of the 17th Episcopal District. Nevertheless, we note

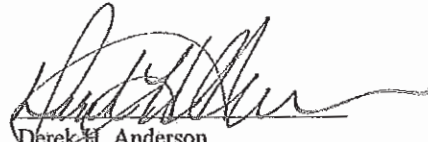


that Respondent failed to fully comply with request for documentation relative to the minutes of the Annual Conferences and Budget of the 17<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, and as such a negative inference could be drawn from failure to do so. This decision in no way should be read to support or perpetuate any unlawful practices.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Petitioner has forfeited the right to appeal; therefore, the appeal of the matters complained of in the instant petition are hereby DISMISSED.

Opinion rendered this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 2017.



Derek H. Anderson  
Member

Concurring: Patricia M. Mayberry, Tania E. Wright, Vernon R. Byrd, Glenda F. Hodges, Thomas L. Bess, TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Warren H. Dawson and Eduardo K. Curry



No. 2016-2020-06

**BEFORE THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF THE  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**RE: IN THE MATTER OF REV. JAMES MWENYA**

Patricia M. Mayberry, President, delivers the opinion on behalf of the Judicial Council.

**HOLDING**

The Judicial Committee and the South East Zambia Annual Conference failed to afford Petitioner due process rights, prior to suspending him from all official standing in the Church. The suspension is reversed.

**PARTIES**

Reverend James Mwenya (“Petitioner or Rev. Mwenya”) served as an Itinerant Elder in the South East Zambia Annual Conference (SEZAC) in Mongu, Zambia, Seventeenth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (“A.M.E. Church”). Bishop Wilfred Jacobus Messiah (“Respondent or Bishop Messiah”) is the Presiding Prelate in the Seventeenth Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church. The South East Zambia Annual Conference (SEZAC) issued the Letter of Suspension.

**JURISDICTION**

The jurisdiction of the Judicial Council is provided in Part XI, Section XX, Paragraph A, of *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012*, (“*Discipline*”), page 290 which provides:

The jurisdiction of the Judicial Council shall relate to and be restricted to (except as may be set under “Duties” hereinafter set out) all final appeals from any adverse decision by any bishop, board, commission, group, pastor, or any other regularly constituted party or body empowered to make a decision which affects the right of any member or Church body of the AME Church

**STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE**

Whether Reverend Mwenya received due process, pursuant to the *Discipline*, when he was suspended on September 12, 2016 from the African Methodist Episcopal Church for one year by in the South East Zambia Annual Conference, Seventeenth Episcopal District?





## STATEMENT OF FACTS

1. On or about February 20, 2015, Rev. Mwenya submitted charges against Bishop Messiah to Dr. Jeffrey Cooper, Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
2. On April 29, 2015, Dr. Cooper invoked the process to select thirteen members of the Preliminary Inquiry Committee to serve as the panel for Rev. Mwenya's charges against Bishop Messiah.
3. On June 3, 2015, Dr. Cooper opened the eleven sealed envelopes received from the Preliminary Inquiry Committee in the presence of two witnesses. On the same date, he notified Rev. Mwenya and Bishop Messiah, via electronic mail that a majority of the Committee voted to dismiss the charges.
4. On June 22, 2015, Rev. Mwenya appealed the decision of the Preliminary Inquiry Committee to the Judicial Council.
5. On August 11, 2015, just prior to the start of the 2015 South East Zambia Annual Conference, Rev. Mwenya petitioned the High Court of Zambia for an interim injunction against the AME Church and Reverend Wilfred Jacobus Messiah (As Chairmen of the Trustees of the AME Church). The Petition and Statement of Claim before the High Court of Zambia requested that Bishop Messiah and the AME Church by themselves, agents, servants or otherwise be enjoined from proceeding with deliberating and deciding the issues relating to Rev. Mwenya's grievances. Petitioner alleged that Bishop Messiah has committed offenses which include: (a) Disobedience to the *Discipline*, (b) Maladministration and (c) Levying unauthorized assessments and the levying and collecting of assessments for personal gain. The AME Church, through its representatives, was required to appear before the High Court. The final hearing on this matter was April 25, 2016.
6. On September 9, 2015, the Judicial Council denied Petitioner's request for verification and copies of the responses from the Preliminary Inquiry Committee in Decision No. 2012-2016-27.
7. On September 12, 2016, Petitioner received correspondence from Rev. Frederick Chilombo Chama, Secretary, South East Zambia Annual Conference notifying him that on September 10, 2016, the Judicial Committee of the Annual Conference found grounds to establish a prima facie case against Rev. Mwenya for disobedience to the *Discipline*, 2012, Part XI, Section XII, Paragraph B, subsections 3 and 6, page 267. The letter informed Rev. Mwenya that he had been suspended from all official standing in the AME Church for one year.

8. On or about January 2017, the Judicial Council received an appeal from Rev. Mwenya requesting reversal of the aforementioned suspension.
9. On January 31, 2017, the Secretary of the Judicial Council notified Bishop Messiah (via email) of the appeal filed by Rev. Mwenya regarding the denial of due process relative to his suspension. Bishop Messiah was requested to submit a response by February 15, 2017. As of the date of this decision, the Judicial Council received neither a response nor any documents from Bishop Messiah pertaining to Rev. Mwenya's suspension.

### ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Part XI, Section IX, Paragraph B, of the *Discipline*, pages 263-265, explicitly outlines the procedures for the trial of Itinerant Preachers in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Subsection 3 of the aforementioned provision indicates the role of the Judicial Committee of the Annual Conference. The Judicial Committee serves as an investigative body for the purpose of determining whether a trial is justified based on the allegations presented. *Discipline* at page 263. However, with its investigative duties the Judicial Committee must afford the "accused" the right to make statements and interrogate witnesses. *Id.* at 263. From the documents before the Judicial Council, it appears the Committee failed to afford Rev. Mwenya these rights.

After a determination that a trial is justified, the Judicial Committee must notify the presiding elder, in whose district the offense occurred, to establish the time and place of trial, which shall not be more than thirty (30) days from the date of such order. *Id.* Clearly, no trial occurred between September 10, 2017 (the date when the Judicial Committee determined a prima facie case existed) and September 12, 2016 (the issuance of the suspension letter).

More importantly, nothing in the section above confers upon the Judicial Committee the power to try the accused and impose punishment upon conviction. The power to convict and impose suspension rests solely with the Trial Committee, not the Judicial Committee of the Annual Conference. *See*, Part XI, Section IX, Paragraph B, subsection 9, of the *Discipline*, page 265.

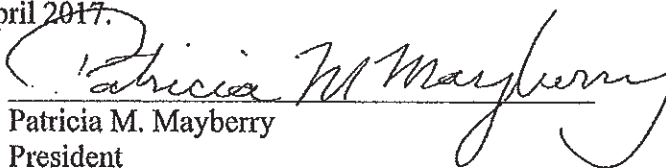
Finally, the Secretary of the Annual Conference improperly concluded that Rev. Mwenya forfeited his appellate rights to challenge the suspension based on his filing of the civil action in the High Court of Zambia. The previous filing of a civil action cannot serve to bar Rev. Mwenya from appealing every action against him in the AME Church. Therefore, we find that Rev. Mwenya may appeal the suspension imposed by the South East Zambia Annual Conference. The attempt to preclude him from appealing his suspension violates the concepts of fundamental fairness and due process.



### CONCLUSION

Based on the aforementioned analysis, the Judicial Council holds that the Petitioner's request for a reversal of his suspension from all official standing in the AME Church is GRANTED. Petitioner did not receive due process, prior to being suspended, pursuant to the *Discipline*. Petitioner is restored as an Itinerant Elder in good and regular standing in the South East Zambia Annual Conference and the AME Church.

Opinion rendered this 20th day of April 2017.

  
Patricia M. Mayberry  
President

Concurring: Tania E. Wright, Vernon R. Byrd, Glenda F. Hodges, Thomas L. Bess,  
TaShun Y. Bowden-Lewis, Warren H. Dawson, Derek H. Anderson and  
Eduardo K. Curry



**ANNUAL REPORT  
TO THE  
GENERAL BOARD  
Department of Research & Scholarship  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
HILTON LOS ANGELES AIRPORT HOTEL  
Los Angeles, California  
June 20-21, 2017**



**Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie**  
*President, General Board and Chairman, Commission on Publications*

**Bishop Clement W. Fugh**  
*President, Council of Bishops*

**Reverend Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown**  
*Executive Director  
Department of Research and Scholarship*





**Department of Research and Scholarship 2016-2017 Report**  
**June 2017 Los Angeles, California**  
**Teresa L. Fry Brown, Ph.D. Executive Director**

To:

Bishop McKinley Young, Senior Bishop  
Bishop Clement W. Fugh, President of the Council of Bishops  
Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, President of the General Board  
Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Chair of the Commission on Publications  
Bishops Council  
Members of the General Board  
Members of the Commission on Publications

I am pleased to present the 2016-2017 report of the Fourteenth Historiographer, the Editor of the *AME Review* and the Executive Director of Research and Scholarship. I am grateful for God's faithfulness and for the support, encouragement and contributions of the Bishops of the Church, my Commission Chair Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Rev. Roderick Belin, Mr. John Thomas III, Bro. Andre Wright, Orlando Dotson and the AME Publishing House staff, my fellow General Officers, my research staff and the members of the Connectional Church whose support and contributions enabled maintenance of the standard of excellence established by my predecessors.

***AME Review* (July 2016-May 2017)**

July-September 2016 AME Supervisors  
October-December 2016 General Conference Papers and Scholars Presentations (at press)  
January-March 2017 (AMEC and Social Activism in production)  
April-June 2017 (AMEC, Preaching and Worship in research stage process)  
2016-2017 Complete Bishops Poster (hard copy and digital)

**Subscriptions**

The latest updated subscription total is 3448 (districts, complementary issues, agencies and schools).

We are in the process of continual updates on our subscriber listings beginning a digital enrollment process through our website December 2016 ([amehistoryinthemaking.com](http://amehistoryinthemaking.com)). However, we are still faced with a continued return of thirty to forty journals per issue due to pastoral changes, personal verses church addresses, lack of forwarding addresses, delayed forwarding of subscriptions from districts, illegible subscription sheets, deceased subscribers, lack of notice on address changes and persons using the address of the previous editor for subscriptions.

We invite all clergy and laity to of the Connection to subscribe to the *AME Review* and make annual submissions for publication.



## Historiographer/Archives/Research and Scholarship

The Adams-Coleman Williams Distinguished AME Scholars Guild was formally organized in 2014. The Bishop Hilborn Talbot Doctor of Ministry Practical Theology Consortium was initiated July 2016. The purpose of the groups is to facilitate development of scholarly articles, books, position papers, resources, workshops, published guidebooks, workbooks, and programs for the connectional and local churches. January 2018 marks the initiation of a series of web conferences with presentation by members of the Guild and Consortium. One of the goals of the Department is a biennial colloquium or gathering of scholars, activists and practitioners to address relevant religious/social/economic/theological and political topics, enhance writing and publication, collaborative research and scholarship, and collective archive building. Plans are taking shape for a conference August 2018.

### Department of Research and Scholarship Stewardship July 12, 2016-May 12, 2017

<b>Beginning Balance July 12, 2016</b>	<b>\$ 159,352.00</b>
<b>Income (July 12, 2016-May 12, 2017)</b>	
<b>Operating Funds (\$5039.00/month)</b>	<b>\$ 50,390.00</b>
<b>Deposits Subscriptions, Royalties, Posters, AME Review</b>	<b>\$ 56,459.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 266,201.00</b>

### Expenditures July 12, 2016-May 12, 2017

<b>Printing/Mailing/Reports and AME Review</b>	<b>\$ 22,732.00</b>
<b>Office Rental (\$1550.00/month)</b>	<b>\$ 17,050.00</b>
<b>Phones, Internet</b>	<b>\$ 5768.00</b>
<b>Office Supplies (Ink, Software, Paper, Cards, Postage, Stationary, Computer Protection, Gifts)</b>	<b>\$ 3313.00</b>
<b>Archives, Research Tools, Books, Website</b>	<b>\$ 5720.00</b>
<b>AME General Conference, Conferences, Offerings, Appeals, Banquets and Special Events. AME Scholars Luncheon</b>	<b>\$ 12,935.00</b>
<b>BBT Account Maintenance Fees</b>	<b>\$ 304.00</b>
<b>Staff Stipends</b>	<b>\$ 33,800.00</b>
<b>2017 Bishops' Poster Design and Layout</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$101,722.00</b>
<b>Department Balance May 12, 2017</b>	<b>\$164,479.00</b>

### 2017-2020 Goals and Objectives Department of Research and Scholarship

- I. Maintain timely issue and quality of *AME Review*
  - A. Increase Connectional subscription base
  - B. Increase Review contributor base.



- II. Establishment of a “juried” journal for enhanced AME scholarship
  - A. Continued collection of names, schools, degrees and theses/dissertations for Ph.D., D.Min., M.Div. and other advance degree holders.
  - B. Publication of books by AME Scholars, authors
  - C. Biennial Colloquium or Gathering of AMEC Scholars, Activists and Practitioners beginning August 2018
  - D. Implementation of a series of Practical Application Guidebooks for use in local churches and organizations by the Frederick Hilborn Talbot Doctor of Ministry Practical Theology Consortium
- III. Enhance and increase usage of Research and Scholarship Website
  - A. Online *AME Review* subscription data, annual payments, inquiries and updates
  - B. Access digitized AME Review articles and archival material
- IV. Continued rebuilding of AME Church Archives
  - A. Development of digitized connectional archive holdings data bank
  - B. Grant writing and fund raising efforts to purchase archival materials from collectors, libraries, and members
  - C. Updated Photo shoot and biographies of all current Bishops, General Officers and Connectional Officers for archives, posters etc. Current bishops’ poster is now available in hard copy and digital form.
- V. Continued partnership with Dr. Michael Joseph Brown and Payne Theological Seminary for composition of scholarly articles on history, activism and archival retrieval.

**Executive Director of Research and Scholarship Activities July 2016-May 2017**

Title	Relevant Details	Date
Attendance, Remarks Understanding the Power of Your Chrysalis	AME Zion General Conference Women’s Conference, New Bethel AMEC, Lithonia GA	09/23/2016
Prophetic Peaching and Popular Culture	Martin Luther King Chapel Assistants, Morehouse College, Atlanta	09/29/2016
Time for A Decisive “I” Examination	Sermon Duke University Chapel	09/25/2016
Denominational Remarks from the AME Church	Installation of Bishop Latrelle Miller Easterling, UMC, Hyattsville, MD	10/02/2016
Sermon, A Taste of Assurance	Christ Our Redeemer AME Church, LA	10/23/2016
Sermon, Is There Anyone Left?	Southern California Conference Women in Ministry, Fifth Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Church	10/24/2016



Title	Relevant Details	Date
Sermon, A Whatever Faith	Michigan Conference Women in Ministry, Fourth Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Church	10/29/2016
Closing Prayer	ICAM Breakfast Atlanta	10/26/2016
Black Preaching in the 21st Century	Co-Presenter with Dr. Frank Thomas, Black Caucus Academy of Homiletics, San Antonio, TX	11/16/2016
Narrator, Soloist	“Worthy” Christmas Cantata, 12/21/2016 New Bethel AMEC, Lithonia, GA	
Two sermons	Friendship West Baptist Church, Dallas	01/15/2017
Self-Examination and Consecration	Annual Consecration Series, New Bethel AME Church, Lithonia, GA	01/25/2017
Prophetic Ministry and Social Justice	Turner Theological Seminary Alumni Conference, Atlanta	02/06/2017
On the Job Courage	Jameson Jones Visiting Preacher, Iliff School of Theology Renewal Conference/125th Anniversary Observance and Celebration, Denver	02/08/2017
The Crisis of Ministry in the 21st Century	Grace Fellowship of Churches International Synod Decatur, GA	02/24/2017
Two sermons	Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, Houston, Texas	02/26/2017
A Revived Heart	Ash Wednesday Service, Emory University	03/01/2017
Jump at the Sun: Black Women’s Resistance and Resilience	Center for African American Ministries and the Black Church Studies Program, Women’s History Month Lecture, McCormick Seminary, Chicago	03/02/2017
Workshop and Sermon “Use Your Words”	AMEC Publishing House Liturgical Writing Conference, Nashville, TN	03/11/2017
Organizer, Host Bandy Preaching Conference	Preaching a Relevant Word: Politics, Power and the People	03/15-17, 2017
Prophetic Resistance	D.Min. Festival, ITC Atlanta	03/22/2017
Speak Up: Voice of the Prophets	Writing Workshop, Columbia Seminary	03/24/2017
Two Sermons	The Olivet Church, Fayetteville, GA	03/26/2017





Title	Relevant Details	Date
Collegium of Scholars Investment	Morehouse School of Religion, Atlanta, GA	03/30/2017
Remarks	Evening of Graces, Candler School of Theology, Candler Women	03/30/2017

Bottom of Form

The Gospel of a Redemptive Rebuttal	Seven Last Words, Daughters of Thunder, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago	04/14/2017
“I Love to Tell the Story”: The Power of Re-Memory in the Preaching of Fred Brenning Craddock	Inaugural Fred Craddock Legacy Conference The University of the South, School of Theology, Sewanee, TN	04/20/2017

Two workshops, panel, sermon  
Trinity UCC, Women’s Conference  
05/5-7/2017

Emory Graduation  
Recipient of the Emory Williams Distinguished Teaching Award, Atlanta  
05/08/2017

Installation Preacher  
Dr. Frank A. Thomas, Sweeney Chair in Preaching and Director PhD Program in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric, Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis  
05/09/2018

Sermon  
Historic Friendship Baptist Church  
Atlanta, GA  
05/14/2017

### Department of Research and Scholarship Recommendations

1. Initiation of a connectional database of all archive holdings throughout the church. This would begin as a formal request to all local church, annual conference and episcopal district historians to provide listing of archival holdings (papers, recordings, books and objects) in their current archive or church history collection. The inventory should be submitted to the Historiographer/Executive Director of Research and Scholarship for establishment of a digital connectional compendium of archival resources ordered by episcopal district. The listing would be linked to the Department website for access to all members of the church. Completion projected December 2018.

2. Usage of the Department of Research and Scholarship website for all research requests, article submissions, archive data bases, subscription updates and updates and payments beginning January 1, 2018.

### Research and Scholarship Staff

The following persons assist in researching historical inquiries, identifying and collecting archival



resources and strengthening AME scholarship and publication.

Rev. Sandra E.H. Smith Blair, B.A., M.A., PhD Candidate, Pacific School of Religion, Research Associate, Fifth District

Rev. Nichole Renee Phillips, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Sociology, Religion and Culture, Research and Editorial Associate, First District

Rikeshia Fry Brown Ph.D., Adjunct Professor of Psychology, Clark Atlanta University and Selman College, Media Specialist, Sixth District

Richelle Fry Skinner, Subscription Manager, Grant Writer, Web Master, Fifth District

Caryl James, Archive and Research Assistant, Sixth District

Rev. Elliott Robinson III, J.D. M.Div., Research Assistant, Sixth Episcopal District

Veronica N. Tinsley, PhD Candidate University of Georgia, Executive Assistant, Sixth Episcopal District

Martinique Mix, Research Associate/Graphic Designer. Sixth District

Respectfully Submitted,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teresa L. Fry Brown".

Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown

Editor AME Review, Fourteenth Historiographer  
and Executive Director of Research and Scholarship

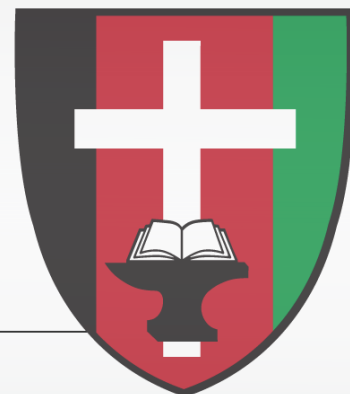
May 2017





# REPORT TO THE GENERAL BOARD AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**AMEC**  
PUBLISHING HOUSE  
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION



BISHOP VASHTI MURPHY MCKENZIE  
*President, General Board*  
*Chair, Commission On Publications*

REVEREND RODERICK D. BELIN  
*President/Publisher*



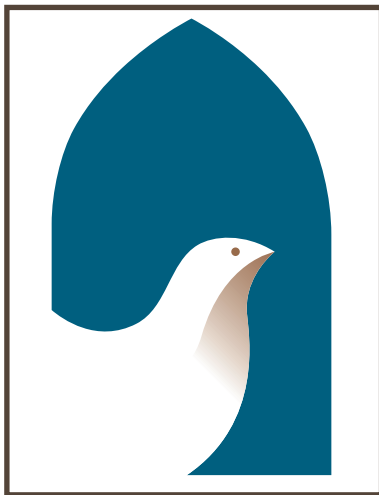


### 03 Publisher's Message

The Reverend Roderick D. Belin,  
President/Publisher of the AME  
Sunday School Union.

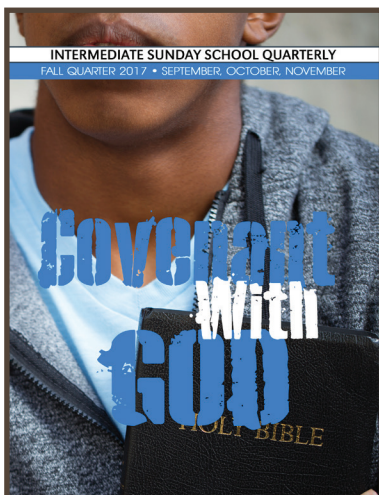
### 04 Publications

A look at the printed and pro-  
duced materials of the Sunday  
School Union



### 06 Goals

What lies ahead for the future of  
African Methodist publishing?  
Rev. Belin provides the answer to  
that question.



### 07 Staff and Acknowledgements

Appreciation for the collective  
work of the Publishing House and  
for those who make it possible.



## A NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST!

I am deeply grateful to God and to each of you, my sisters and brothers, for the support in my candidacy for the President/Publisher of the Sunday School Union of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. I am grateful to Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie for her leadership and guidance as the Chair of the Commission on Publications. I offer this Annual Report to the General Board to provide an account of our stewardship over the past year and to highlight our goals for the future of publishing in African Methodism.

The mission of the AME Sunday School Union is to *provide high quality resources to empower Christian believers to spread Christ's liberating gospel, pursue justice, and enhance the social development of all people*. During the past year, this department has worked

diligently to meet these goals and to broaden the reach of the AME Church.

Our desire is to be a publishing leader that not only recounts the history of African Methodism, but one that also paves the way for that history to be actualized and continued in the work of the Church today. In doing the work of publishing and distribution, our aim will be to continue to envision modern stories and to cast new dreams for the Church and for the world.

On behalf of the Sunday School Union, I am grateful for your support in the past year, and I look forward to the work we will continue to do together for the Kingdom of God.

Reverend Roderick D. Belin  
President/Publisher

AMEC PUBLISHING HOUSE • 3



## SHARING THE STORY Publications

**W**e are proud to produce and print publications for the Connection such as *The Christian Recorder*, *The AME Church Review*, *The Secret Chamber*, *The Missionary Magazine*, *The YPD Gazette*, *The Journal of Christian Education*, and *The Voice of Missions* which highlight the work that is being done throughout the Church.

During the course of the year we have worked to ensure that our African Methodist heritage is reflected not just in the content of our materials, but also in our images and our designs. We have updated our Sunday School curriculum to reflect who we are through more contemporary and relevant models that are appealing to people of all ages.

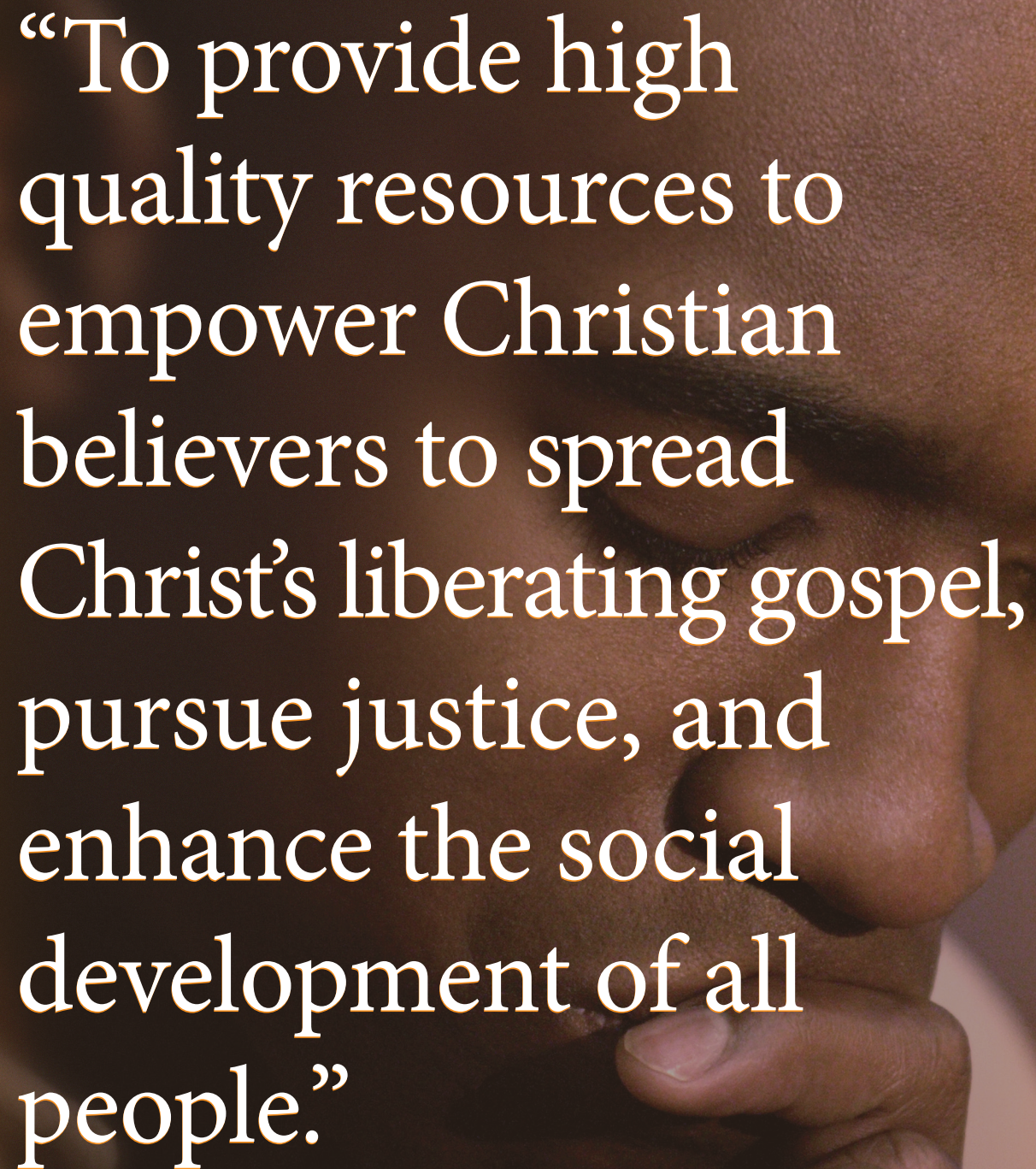
Our mission calls upon us to ensure that we are producing new and high-quality materials that reflect who we are in the world. With each passing day we become more keenly aware of the need to hear our own experiences, our

own vocabulary, in our own voices, and in our sanctuaries. So in March of this year, alongside Dr. Michael J. Brown and Payne Theological Seminary, we hosted a three-day ecumenical Writing Workshop to bring together those with interests in liturgical resources and spiritual writing. We intend to continue this initiative of featuring renowned scholars and clergy in this forum to **bring forth a new generation of authors and writers for the church.**

A new website, [www.IamAME.org](http://www.IamAME.org), features updated graphics and materials from the Sunday School Union for churches to utilize. On the website one can find newly crafted worship materials for congregations to use during the seasons of Advent, Lent, and Pentecost. We have also created particular material for the “Mother Emanuel Remembrance Sunday” that can be used to create a more meaningful and poignant memorial celebration. These toolkits feature materials such as bulletin images, activities for children, litanies, and sermon outlines to assist pastors and leaders in their worship planning.



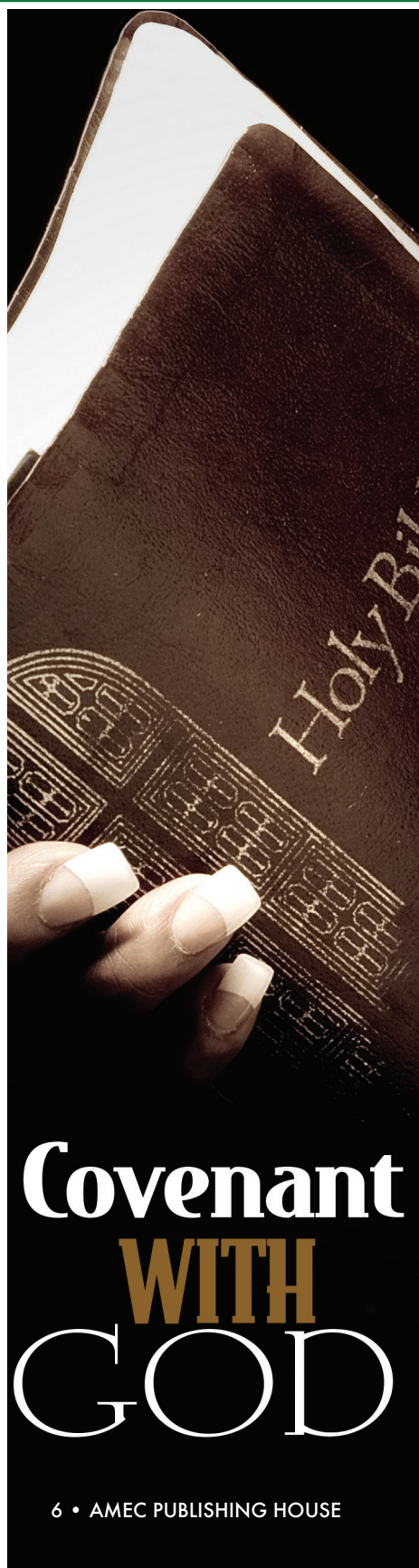


The background of the page is a close-up photograph of a person's face and hands. The person has dark skin and is looking down with their hands clasped in front of them. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of their skin and the details of their hands.

“To provide high quality resources to empower Christian believers to spread Christ’s liberating gospel, pursue justice, and enhance the social development of all people.”

AMEC PUBLISHING HOUSE • 5





## Future of the Publishing House

In the next year, the Sunday School Union will focus on identifying current gaps in our ordering process and the reach of our publications to enhance the efficiency of the department. **We are updating our order system and organizing customer data** so that we will be better able to track current customer habits and purchases. Analyzing this data and moving to a cloud-based database system enables us to effectively see where our largest production strengths lie and then respond to weaker areas and expand our services to meet perceived needs. **Providing publications in multiple languages**, for instance, is a direct goal of ours that will encourage Christian believers globally as they receive materials, and participate in the creation of materials, in their native tongue. In addition, our goal is to continue our **expansion of digital platforms** that will allow members easy online access to publications.

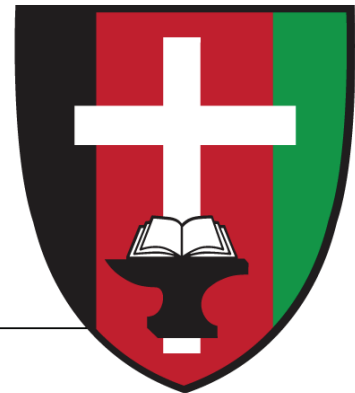
As we continue to make progress on our short and long-term goals, our sights are always set on a wider objective of enhancing the entirety of the Sunday School Union to new heights for the cause of Christendom. We will continue to **provide educational materials** to new and young members of our Zion that combine the richest parts of our heritage in the AME Church with exciting new platforms aimed at continuing the work of justice in the world today.



# AMEC

## PUBLISHING HOUSE

### SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bishop McKinley Young, *Senior Bishop*  
Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, *President of the General Board; Chair of the Commission on Publications*  
Bishop Clement W. Fugh, *President of the Council of Bishops and Host Bishop*  
Bishops of the Church  
General Officers  
Connectional Officers  
Members of the General Board

## MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON PUBLICATIONS



**Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie**  
*Chairperson*



**Rev. Roderick Belin, Publisher**  
*President/Publisher  
Sunday School Union*



**Rev. Henry Allen Belin, III**  
*Vice-Chairperson*



**Ms. Stephanie Burks**  
*Secretary*



## MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION ON PUBLICATIONS

First	Rev. David Cousin	Eleventh	Rev. Dr. Julius McAllister
Second	Rev. Gregory Edmonds	Twelfth	Rev. Marcellus Fields
Third	Ms. Kimberly Gordon Brooks	Thirteenth	Rev. Walter Reid, Jr.
Fourth	Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount	Fourteenth	Rev. Dr. Katurah Cooper
Fifth	Rev. J. Edgar Boyd	Fifteenth	Rev. William Hanse
Sixth	Rev. Conitras M. Houston (YA)	Sixteenth	Ms. Krystel Compton
Seventh	Mr. Keith Britton	Seventeenth	Bro. Clifford Mugala
Eighth	Ms. Stephanie Burks	Eighteenth	Rev. Albert Thwala
Ninth	Mr. James C. Bonner	Nineteenth	Bro. Mpumi Dlamini
Tenth	Mr. Carl Davis	Twentieth	Sis. Kwandokuhle Khumal (YA)

### AT-LARGE

Rev. Dr. Harold Mayberry  
Mr. James Alexander (YA)  
Rev. Henry A. Belin, III  
Rev. Dr. Ronald Braxton  
Mr. Michael A. Cousin, Jr.  
Mrs. Sandra Lucas

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION STAFF

- Shelia Brown-Collier
- Rev. Diane Christon
- Corwin Davis
- Orlando Dotson
- Howard Grant
- Mary F. Gunn
- Eulice Handy
- Michael Kinzer
- Robert Krock
- Micheal Russell
- Jeremy Scott
- Allen D. Smith
- Tawana Smith
- Andy Stanfield
- Rev. Anthony Thomas, Sr.
- Dr. Dawn Dykes Wade
- Alfonso Washington
- Garlinda Whisonant
- Donald Wilson
- André Wright



# ***The Christian Recorder***



## **ANNUAL REPORT General Board and Council of Bishops Meeting**

**Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel  
Los Angeles, California  
June 19-21, 2017**

**Bishop Clement W. Fugh**  
*President of the Council of Bishops*

**Bishop McKinley Young**  
*Senior Bishop*

**Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie**  
*President of the General Board and Chair of the Commission on Publications*

**The Reverend Roderick D. Belin**  
*President/Publisher, AME Church Publishing House (Sunday School Union)*

**Mr. John Thomas III**  
*Editor, The Christian Recorder*





## DEDICATION PAGE



### **Ms. Carmen JoVonne Eason (1989-2016)**

Ms. Eason possessed a keen eye and substantial knowledge of graphics design and publications. Many of the layout changes that have been incorporated into *The Christian Recorder* were suggested by Ms. Eason.



### **Mrs. Eddie Lee Richardson-White (1949-2016)**

Mrs. White was a stalwart member of the Lay Organization and Women's Missionary Society in the Tennessee Annual Conference and the 13<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District. She was extremely supportive of the Editor from the time he was in the Young People Division (YPD).



## COMMISSION ON PUBLICATIONS

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, *Chair*  
The Reverend Dr. Teresa Fry Brown, *Historiographer/Director of Research & Scholarship;*  
*Editor of The A.M.E. Church Review*  
The Reverend Roderick D. Belin, President/Publisher,  
*AME Church Publishing House (Sunday School Union)*  
Mr. John Thomas III, Editor, *The Christian Recorder*  
Rev. Henry Allen Belin III, Vice Chair (At Large)  
Ms. Stephanie M. Burks, Secretary (8)

### Members of the Commission

1	Rev. David B. Cousin, Sr.
2	Rev. Gregory Edmond
3	Mrs. Kimberly Brooks
4	Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount
5	Rev. J. Edgar Boyd
6	Rev. Conitras Houston
7	Mr. Keith Britton
9	Mr. James Bonner
10	Mr. Carl Davis
11	Rev. Dr. Julius McAllister
12	Rev. Dr. Marcellus Fields
13	Rev. Walter W. Reid, Jr.
14	Rev. Dr. Katurah Cooper
15	Rev. Willem Simon Hanse
16	Ms. Krystel Compton
17	Ms. Passion A. Nhekairo Musa
18	Rev Albert Npmvuyo Thwala
19	Mr. Mpumelelo Dlamini
20	Ms. Kwandokuhle Musa Khumalo
At Large	Reverend Harold Mayberry
At Large	Presiding Elder Ronald Braxton
At Large	Mrs. Sandra Lucas
At Large	Mr. James Alexander
At Large	Ms. Ladonna Liggins
At Large	Mr. Michael A. Cousin, Jr.



## LEADERSHIP AND STAFF OF *THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER*



Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie  
Chair, Commission on Publications



Rev. Roderick D. Belin  
President/Publisher, AMEC  
Publishing House(Sunday School Union)



Mr. John Thomas III  
Editor, *The Christian Recorder*



Rev. Lisa C. Hammonds  
Assistant Editor



Ms. Regina V. Jackson  
Social Media Manager



Mrs. Lanet Armstrong-Keesee  
Office Manager

### Graphics and Layout Staff of the AMEC Publishing House (Sunday School Union)



Andy Stanfield, André Wright, Orlando Dotson, and Michael Russell



## Columnists, Contributing Writers and Field Representatives

### Columnists

Rev. Christal Bell (Section Editor)  
Dr. Reginald Blount (Section Editor)  
Ulysses Burley III, MD  
Rev. Jason Curry, PhD  
Rev. Prof. Quadricos Driskell  
Rev. Renita Green  
Rev. William Lamar IV  
Dr. D'Weston Haywood  
Mr. Charles Hobbs, Esq.  
Rev. Jarrett Washington  
Ms. Lauren Wilson  
Rev. Shakira Sanchez Collins, MD  
Presiding Elder Albert D. Tyson III (Senior Columnist)  
Rev. Charles Watkins, D.Min. (Senior Columnist)  
Mr. Byron Washington, MPA

### Field Representatives

14 Rev. Victoria Baryou  
15 Rev. Clive Pillay  
16 Mrs. Regina Prince  
17 Rev. Royd Mwandu  
18  
19 Rev. Gaborone Lesito  
20 Ms. Kwandokuhle Musa Khumalo

### Contributing Writers

Rev. Arionne Robinson  
Dr. Michael Carson  
Rev. Sheri Smith Clayborn  
Presiding Elder Betty Holley  
Dr. Darryn Hewson  
Mrs. Jennifer Jackson  
Rev. Tamara Kersey  
Mrs. Cheryl Rainey  
Jennifer Sims, PhD  
Rev. Sidney Williams  
Rev. John White II





## From the Editor

To: Bishops of the Church, President of the Council of Bishops, Senior Bishop, President of the General Board, General Officers, Connectional Officers, General Board members, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

On August 1, 2016, I formally assumed the duties of Editor of *The Christian Recorder*. I am thankful to the African Methodist Episcopal Church for giving me the opportunity to edit the oldest continuously produced publication by persons of African descent. For 165 years, *The Christian Recorder* (TCR) has served the AME Church as its official organ!

This report is a summary of our stewardship from August 2016 to June 2017. *The Christian Recorder* is “A Global Paper, with A Global Editor, for A Global Church.” The newspaper’s personnel have focused on three broad points: Coverage, Content and Capacity. The first part of this report measures the newspaper’s progress. The second part of the report shows the statistical data for the paper including circulation, social media metrics and financials. The third section outlines the Editor’s travel per the *Discipline*, Part VI, Section III, 5.c. and significant highlights. The final section outlines our short and long-term plans and ends with our formal recommendations.

I am appreciative of the Herculean efforts of *TCR* staff who continually demonstrate a commitment to excellence: The Reverend Lisa C. Hammonds, Assistant Editor; Ms. Regina V. Jackson, Social Media Manager; and Mrs. Lanet Armstrong-Keese, Office Manager. The backbone of a publication is solid writing and I am deeply grateful to the Columnists, Contributing Writers, and Field Representatives who share on a continued and consistent basis.

Publications Commission Chair Bishop Vashti McKenzie has provided leadership and advice and I am grateful for her insight and leadership—especially as a new General Officer. Our Publisher, the Reverend Roderick D. Belin and the staff of the AMEC Publishing House (Sunday School Union), have been wonderful partners in this ministry and I am thankful for their continued diligence and professionalism.

My sincerest gratitude goes to Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, Retired Senior Bishop John R. Bryant and the 13th and 4th Episcopal Districts and the constituencies of the Connectional Lay Organization (Dr. Willie Glover, President) and the Richard Allen Young Adult Council (Ms. Martinique Mix, President) for their endorsements. I thank my family, the donors, campaign staff and all the well-wishers of my campaign.

Lastly, I am thankful to Dr. Calvin H. Sydnor III and his wife Dr. Charlotte Blake Sydnor, not only for their service to the AME Church but for their years of personal friendship. In 2004, Dr. Sydnor provided me an opportunity to work with him and I am honored and humbled to follow in his footsteps. His advice and assistance provided a seamless and smooth transition.

*This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. Psalm 118:23 (NRSV).*

Blessings,

*John Thomas III*

Editor, The Christian Recorder



## Charting a new course for *The Christian Recorder*: Coverage, Content, Capacity

### COVERAGE

- Establish designated Episcopal District reporters

The Editor is in dialogue with the Council of Bishops and expectantly all Districts will have a functioning network of volunteer reporters by the 2019-2020 Conference Year.

- Host writing workshops to encourage members to contribute articles

We are scheduling visits to Districts and Annual Conferences to inform clergy and laity of opportunities and guidelines for contributions. The goal is to visit Districts 1-13 at least once in the quadrennium and hold a workshop at the 2019 session of the Global Development Council (GDC). Additionally, some of this training can be virtual.

- Fund a Field Representative of the Editor in Africa and in the 16th District

At the 2017 session of the GDC, Field Representatives were credentialed for Districts 14-17 and 19-20. (See list earlier in report).

- Provide timely print subscriptions to AMEs who reside outside of the United States

The Publisher and Editor are working with the Bishops of 14-20 and Field Representatives to identify a strategy. The project will be piloted in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Episcopal Districts and is anticipated to begin before the end of 2017.

### CONTENT

- Hire columnists to write articles on issues including: Professional Advice for Pastors, Praise and Worship, and Health & Wellness

The number of columnists has been expanded from 4 to 15 with designated sections for Youth Ministry, Health and Christian Education. The following Connectional auxiliaries contribute regular columns: Connectional Lay Organization (CLO), Women's Missionary Society (WMS), Young People's Division (YPD), Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts (AAMES), AME Women in Ministry (WIM), the Social Action Commission and the Connectional Health Commission.

We will send out reader surveys during the Fourth Quarter of 2017 or First Quarter of 2018 to gauge reader interest for potential columns.

- Establish an Editorial Board

After discussions with the staff and external journalism professionals, the Editor has engaged the services of an independent editorial consultant to aid in giving guidance and focus to the tone and content of the paper.

- Provide strong integration of online and print content

The weekly emails of "The Christian Recorder Online" have been replaced with a twice monthly "News Digest". The "News Digest" emails reflect content from the current *TCR* edition in press along with material more appropriate for email delivery instead of printing. A 60-day deadline to receive articles after events has been implemented to avoid "stale news". Also, the information provided from the AME Clergy Family Information Center (CFIC) is published monthly in the print and through the News Digest.



- Expand exchanges with other religious periodicals outside the AME Church

Exchange and “Permission of Usage” agreements have been formed with the following publications/organizations.

- Denominational

*Star of Zion* (AME Zion), *Christian Index* (CME), the United Methodist News Service, the Episcopal News Service, Baptist News Global

- Ecumenical

Bread for the World, National Council of Churches, World Council of Churches

- Other

*Faith and Leadership* (Duke University), *the Christian Century*, *Race, Rhetoric and Religion*

Also, a subscription to the *Religion News Service* newswire has been purchased with assistance from the AME Church Finance Department and the General Secretary’s office. This expands TCR’s ability to provide relevant content from a variety of sources to its readers.

We are currently reaching out to partners in the Presbyterian and Baptist faith traditions along with secular African-American newspapers.

## **CAPACITY**

- Provide comprehensive news coverage of Connectional meetings

When the Editor is not physically at a Connectional meeting, we have either engaged an on-site reporter or reached out to the relevant Department/auxiliary to provide information for a news article.

- Reformat the email delivery system

Due to concerns of readability and length, the emails have been redesigned to use more graphics and hyperlinks to the website. Additionally, *TCR News Breaks* are now issued after consulting with the General Secretary’s office to avoid redundancies.

- Enhance the technological footprint of the publication (i.e. website, mobile, etc.)

The website has been designed and the domain name is now [www.thechristianrecorder.com](http://www.thechristianrecorder.com). *The Christian Recorder Online* blog ([tcr-online.blogspot.com](http://tcr-online.blogspot.com)) is permanently archived. The Facebook (@TheChristianRecorder) and Twitter accounts (@AMENews) are now periodically updated with relevant links and posts from the Social Media Manager. The Publisher is currently working to identify providers for an electronic paid-edition of *The Christian Recorder*.

- Enhancing the operational infrastructure

#### Office improvements

- A physical office space has been equipped at the AMEC Publishing House with the assistance of the AMEC Finance Department.
- A virtual Office Manager handles phone calls, internal columnist reminders and other daily administrative tasks.
- Official Press Credentials have been issued to Staff, Columnists and Field Representatives for identification purposes.
- The Complimentary Subscriber database was revised and is current and actively updated.

#### Publication changes

- The International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) for *The Christian Recorder* has been recovered and is placed in all editions per international standards.
- The physical layout of the paper has been adjusted to address concerns of readability and the photo policy has been updated to encourage the submission of more graphics.
- The Editor uses “Dropbox” to dynamically provide the Graphics Layout team with fresh content as opposed to consolidated batches.
- The paper is in the process of moving to a monthly printed publication to address concerns of cost of production and layout department fatigue.





## Statistics

### Subscription Report (as of 5/4/2017)

Paid Circulation in Districts 1-13 and 16 (US Virgin Islands)

District	Subscriptions	Churches	Percentage
1	430	301	11.43%
2	443	376	11.77%
3	167	165	4.44%
4	246	277	6.54%
5	219	241	5.82%
6	267	530	7.10%
7	508	504	13.50%
8	221	226	5.87%
9	218	244	5.79%
10	207	204	5.50%
11	468	421	12.44%
12	175	172	4.65%
13	192	163	5.10%
16 (VI)	2	3	0.05%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3763</b>	<b>3827</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

*\*Note 81 Churches in Pennsylvania have been split between Districts 1 and 3 due to database limitations. 4<sup>th</sup> District numbers do not include the India Annual Conference.*

Total Circulation (including Complimentary and 14-20): **3972**

### Social Media Statistics

Facebook (April 2017)

Total Page Likes: August 2016—970

May 2017—3449

Page Reach: 37,334 people

Post Engagement: 9,544

### Email Statistics

Subscribed Contacts: 18,589

Average Open Rate: 26.9%

### Website (since September 2017)

Views: 85,284

Visitors: 43,780



## Financial Statement 8/1/2016 – 3/31/2017\*

<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Annual Budget 2016-17</b>
Salary	\$35,378
FICA	2,707
Annuities	4,196
Housing	9,375
Travel	12,600
Office Operations	19,569
Rent	6,227
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$90,051</b>

\*Information African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc. Finance Department Audit Report for year ended March 31, 2017.

Financial information for subscription revenue is included in the audited report of the AMEC Publishing House (Sunday School Union).



## 2016-2017 Editor's Activities and Travels

### Conferences/Meetings

#### 2016

July 14-15	CME Church Connectional Youth and Young Adult Conference	Memphis, Tennessee
July 21-23	General Conference, AME Zion Church	Greensboro, North Carolina
August 31-Sept. 4	21 <sup>st</sup> World Methodist Conference	Houston, Texas
December 4-5	General Board and Council of Bishops	Chicago, Illinois
December 10-11	Visit with Social Action Director	Los Angeles, California

#### 2017

January 28-30	WMS Executive Board Meeting	Louisville, Kentucky
February 20-22 Africa	Global Development Council	Johannesburg, South
February 22-25	Visit to 18 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District	Maseru, Lesotho
March 22-25	4 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District Spiritual Transformation	Indianapolis, Indiana
March 31-April 1	Connectional YPD Leadership Training Institute	St. Louis, Missouri
April 6-7	Connectional Lay Organization Executive Board	Columbus, Ohio
April 26-28	Associated Church Press Convention	Chicago, Illinois

### Speaking Engagements

#### 2016

August 13	Bethel AME Church	West Memphis, Arkansas
September 25	Carter Temple CME Church	Chicago, Illinois
October 16	Lee Chapel AME Church	Nashville, Tennessee
November 20	St. Luke AME Church	St. Croix, Virgin Islands

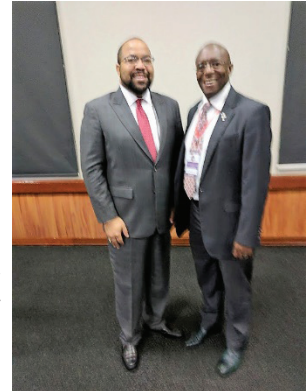
#### 2017

May 24	Philadelphia Annual Conference	Valley Forge, Pennsylvania
May 30-June 2 Dominican Republic	16 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District Planning Meeting	Santo Domingo,

## TCR Ministry Highlights 2016-2017



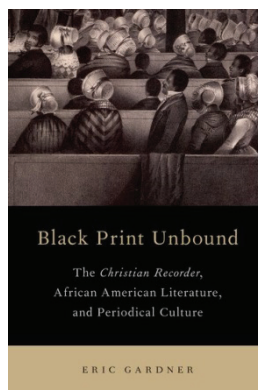
On January 10, 2017 Editor Thomas and Social Action Director Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker attended President Obama's Farewell Address in Chicago, Illinois and interviewed by the Religion News Service.



Field Representatives were credentialed for Districts 14-17 and 19-20 at the GDC meeting in February 2017. This is the Editor with Presiding Elder Gaborone P. Lesito, TCR Field Representative for the 19<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District.



*The Christian Recorder* won the "Award of Merit" for Newspaper Column at the 2017 Associated Church Press Awards. The Column is "Discipleship 101" written by Dr. Reggie Blount.



On July 1, 2017, *The Christian Recorder* celebrates 165 years of continuous publication since its start at the AME Book Concern in Philadelphia. Several academic works have been written about the paper and its legacy. Dr. Eric Gardner's *Black Print Unbound* tells the story of the paper's formative years focusing on the 1860s. He will be contributing an editorial in July.





## Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County



### Office of the Mayor

#### *A Proclamation Celebrating The 165th Anniversary Of The Christian Recorder (1852-2017)*

**WHEREAS**, The Christian Recorder is the oldest existing periodical published by African-Americans in the United States and is the official organ of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Its origins date back to The Christian Herald that was published by the AME Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from 1848-1852 until the General Conference voted to change the name and location of publication; and

**WHEREAS**, the first issue of The Christian Recorder was published and disseminated on July 1, 1852, by the AME Church Book Concern on 631 Pine Street. The first editor of The Christian Recorder was the Reverend Molliston Madison Clark, who was one of the first college graduates in the AME Church; and

**WHEREAS**, in its early days, The Christian Recorder focused on religious news, but much of the paper was devoted to secular news. Articles were written about education, voting rights, equality, and other secular issues that affected the lives of black Americans. The Christian Recorder was a forum to discuss slavery, classism, as well as racism. Articles were written by black women and about black women, and the paper also addressed issues related to families; and

**WHEREAS**, following the Civil War, The Christian Recorder encouraged its readers to be diligent in protecting their families from whites who wanted to harm the newly freed slaves and regularly addressed the issue of families separated by the evils of slavery and published articles that tried to give information that would aid in the reuniting of family members; and

**WHEREAS**, during Reconstruction, it advocated education for all citizens and was an activist for higher education and especially for an educated ministry. Throughout the 20th century, The Christian Recorder spoke against ills affecting persons of African descent globally ranging from colonialism to lynching; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1952, publication of The Christian Recorder moved from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Nashville, Tennessee where the paper continues to be produced at the AME Church Publishing House (Sunday School Union) serving as the voice of the 2 million members of AME Church in 39 countries around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, twenty-one persons have served as Editor of The Christian Recorder including John Thomas III, a native of Nashville, Tennessee who was elected in 2016 and the first layperson to serve as Editor; and

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Government recognize the 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Christian Recorder and congratulate the publication on its many years of dependable and reliable service.

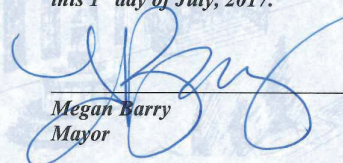
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Megan Barry, Mayor of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, do hereby proclaim Saturday, July 1, 2017, as

#### **The Christian Recorder Day**

in the area of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, and encourage all citizens to recognize and celebrate this special day.



*I have hereunto set my hand on  
this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2017.*

  
Megan Barry  
Mayor





CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
JAMES F. KENNEY, MAYOR

# PROCLAMATION

The City of Philadelphia in the Colonial Era served as the center of our nation's movement to a free and just society. Over the past centuries, our City has built a powerful legacy of activists, journalists, artists, politicians, and other leaders who have advocated for change and supported others to improve their lives. Philadelphia is proud of all who have identified with our progressive culture in the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection and made our society better for our residents.

*The Christian Recorder* is the oldest, existing periodical published by African Americans in the United States, and is the official publication of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. It was originally titled *The Christian Herald*, which was published from 1848 to 1852 by the AME Church in Pittsburgh, before the name and location were changed by the General Conference. The first issue of *The Christian Recorder* was published and disseminated on July 1, 1852, by the AME Church Book Concern in Philadelphia. The Rev. Molliston Madison Clark, one of the AME Church's first college graduates, served as editor.

The newspaper has always served its readers with a mix of religious and secular news. Important issues like education, voting rights, equality, and other pertinent social issues that affected the lives of black Americans frequently graced the pages. The publication has served as an important forum to discuss slavery, racism, classism, feminism, and family issues. Women are also frequent contributors to the periodical.

Throughout its history, *The Christian Recorder* has remained a valuable means to spread messages and find solutions regarding the most important issues facing black Americans. Following the Civil War, the publication's staff encouraged its readers to be diligent in protecting their families from whites who wanted to harm the newly freed slaves, and regularly addressed the tragic issue of families separated by slavery by publishing articles in hopes of reuniting families. During the Reconstruction period, the paper advocated the importance of higher education and an educated ministry. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it spoke out against societal ills plaguing people of African descent around the world with issues ranging from colonialism to lynching.

In 1952, publication of *The Christian Recorder* moved to Nashville, Tennessee and it continues to represent the voice of two million members of the AME community in 39 countries around the world. On Wednesday, May 24, 2017, the publication's 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be recognized at the Philadelphia Annual Conference of the First Episcopal District.

## THEREFORE...

I, James F. Kenney, Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, May 24, 2017 to be

## THE 165<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHRISTIAN RECORDER

in Philadelphia and encourage all citizens to be aware of the important contributions of this periodical in representing and promoting the causes of African Americans, and its important legacy in the City of Philadelphia.

*James F. Kenney*  
James F. Kenney  
Mayor

Given under my hand and the seal of  
the City of Philadelphia on this  
twenty-fourth day of May, two  
thousand and seventeen





## Short and Long-Term Goals and Recommendations

### *Short-term Goals*

- Distribute reader surveys by Winter 2018
- Update Masthead and TCR branding
- Engage columnists on “Praise and Worship” and Professional Advice for Pastors
- Complete Connectional Lay Organization subscription drive and encourage other auxiliaries to promote the publication

### *Long-term Goals*

- Address concerns with Publisher regarding circulation services and renewals
- Distribute paid hard copies to the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Districts
- Provide a full electronic version of *The Christian Recorder* for purchase
- Create Episcopal District Reporting Networks in Districts 1-13
- Start an internship program for AME young adults interested in journalism
- Achieve and maintain 10,000 subscribers

### **Recommendations**

- Churches are encouraged to purchase at least two (2) copies of *The Christian Recorder*. One copy should be mailed to the church address.
- Bishops of the Church are encouraged to apply the *Discipline* provision to Chaplains and Supernumeraries that “All traveling preachers in the Connection are required to subscribe to *The Christian Recorder*, and to the *Voice of Missions* or *The A.M.E. Church Review* or *The Journal of Christian Education*. Presiding elders, at their quarterly conferences, shall require all local preachers to subscribe to at least one of the church periodicals.”
- The laity of the church—especially Stewards, Trustees and Class Leaders—are encouraged to subscribe to *The Christian Recorder*. Pastors should display copies of *The Christian Recorder* in a public area and make an appeal for subscriptions the month before the Annual Conference.
- The Bishops of the Church are encouraged to assist the Editor in identifying a network of volunteer reports to cover pertinent events in the various Annual Conferences and Episcopal Districts.
- Clergy and laity are encouraged to share news stories about churches and AME ministries produced by other news outlets and obtain formal permission for reprinting in *The Christian Recorder*.

*“We need not say that to keep such an organ in the field costs money, and we need the hearty co-operation of the whole church exerted in its favor by their cash subscriptions that the paper may not only be sustained but that it may be made more efficient than it now is.”*

1882 Annual Report of *The Christian Recorder*



# THE GENERAL BOARD REPORT

Department of

## Christian Education



**Airport Hilton Hotel**  
**Los Angeles, California**

**June 19-21, 2017**

**Rev. Garland F. Pierce**  
*Executive Director*

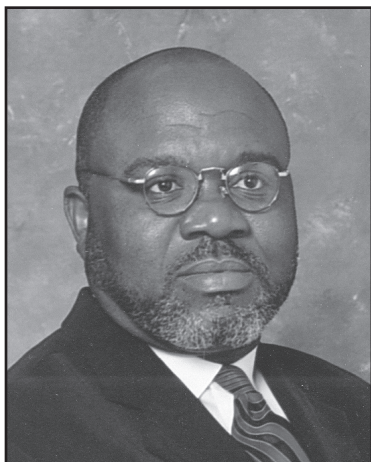
**Bishop McKinley Young**  
*Senior Bishop*

**Bishop Clement W. Fugh**  
*President of the Council of Bishops*

**Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie**  
*President, General Board*

**Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr.**  
*Chair, Commission on Christian Education*





**Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr.**  
*Chair, Commission on  
Christian Education*



**Rev. Garland F. Pierce**  
*Executive Director, Christian Education*



**Ms. Carlene L. Douglas**  
*Mission Volunteer in Christian Education  
Office Administrator*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

First	Mrs. Wanda Duckett
Second	Mr. William Boykin
Third	Ms. Giselle Lindsey
Fourth	Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount, Vice Chair
Fifth	Ms. Tamika Jones
Sixth	Mr. Charles Murphy
Seventh	Ms. Vergie Tennison
Eighth	Rev. Keith Sanders
Ninth	Mr. Jeremy Joseph
Tenth	Ms. Kendra Hill-Daughton
Eleventh	Mr. Jamarien P. Moore
Twelfth	Rev. Larry Banks
Thirteenth	Rev. Troy Thomas
Fourteenth	Mr. Garfield Mason
Fifteenth	Ms. Ntomethemba Rachel September
Sixteenth	Ms. DaRosa Bigford
Seventeenth	Rev. Martin C. Chama
Eighteenth	Ms. Dudu Motjotji
Nineteenth	Mr. Mpumi Dlamini
Twentieth	M. Kwandokuhe Khumal



## MINISTRIES IN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HEADS

**Mr. Clarence Crayton and Mrs. Vivianne Frye-Perry**  
*Directors, Association of AME Scouts (AAMES)*

**Mrs. Lyndajo Jones Watson**  
*Administrator, Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)*

**Rev. Joy L. Gallmon**  
*Chair, Fellowship of Church Educators (FCE)*

**Rev. Anthony B. Vinson, Sr.**  
*Director, Music and Christian Arts Ministry (MCAM)*

**Ms. Martinique Mix**  
*President, Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)*

**Mr. George Brown**  
*President, Sons of Allen*

**Ms. Carlene L. Douglas**  
*Coordinator, Writers Guild*

## EPISCOPAL DISTRICT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTORS

1 <sup>st</sup>	Rev. Jay Broadnax
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ms. Robin Porter Smith
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Dr. Karen Schaeffer
4 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Reginald Blount
5 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Timothy Tyler
6 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Jai D. Haithco, Sr.
7 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Allen Parrott
8 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Glenell Lee Pruitt
9 <sup>th</sup>	Ms. Hattie Nathan
10 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. C. Dennis Williams
11 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. James C. Givens
12 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Roy Jones
13 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Roberta Hill
14 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Emmanuel Seh
15 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Sydney Gordon
16 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Gail Meridin
17 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Royd Mwandu
18 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Albert B. Thwala
19 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Lukubelwa Moobi
20 <sup>th</sup>	Ms. Emily Chimuse



*The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.*  
*Isaiah 50:4*

To: Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie, President of the General Board, Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr., Chair of the Commission on Christian Education, members of the Commission on Christian Education, and members of the General Board of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, I greet you in the name of the Master Teacher, Jesus Christ.

I am appreciative of this opportunity to make the first full report of the Department of Christian Education (CED) and its constitutive ministries since my election to the position of Executive Director. I thank the Chair of the Commission on Christian Education, Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr., for his enthusiastic support of the work of the Commission and Department. His forward thinking and accessibility are but two of the many gifts, which he has shared during this first year of the quadrennium.

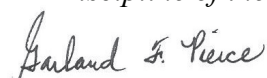
In this initial year, I have benefitted from the wisdom and support of my predecessors, Dr. Kenneth H. Hill and Dr. Daryl B. Ingram, the fourth and fifth Executive Directors of the Department, respectively. As I express my gratitude to them, I also must thank Ms. Carlene L. Douglas for her strong support and organizational skills related to the day-to-day work of the CED office.

Much appreciation goes to the leaders and members of the Ministries of Christian Education for their devoted and tireless efforts to the work of faith formation and leadership development. We thank the many Christian educators, youth ministry workers, and Church School superintendents and teachers who have dedicated time, energy, resources, and prayers to further the teaching ministry of our Zion.

This period since the 50<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Session of the General Conference has been a time of visioning, exploring, establishing, and expanding for the Department. As we have met with leaders and volunteers in the various teaching ministries of the Church, we have entered into conversations, which allowed them to express their hopes and visions for this shared ministry. We have spent time exploring our Zion's rich educational legacy, harvesting those resources that can still serve us well, while exploring new methods, platforms, and areas of work. We have tried to put into place some partnerships, processes, and platforms that will serve as a foundation for the expansion of the breadth of the Department's work so that we can better resource our global Church's mission. The work of this period should be read and evaluated in light of the Department's mandate, as expressed in *The Book of Discipline*. *The Book of Discipline* charges the Department of Christian Education with responsibility for:

*\*“developing” a comprehensive and unified program of Christian Education which shall lead to a knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, the Christian Religion, and the Christian Church, and an implementation of these values in daily living.*

*\*“providing” source materials for all the educational work of the church and “providing” developing standards and preparing programs and offering techniques of Christian Education in the local and general Church in accordance with the provisions set forth in The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.*

  
Garland F. Pierce  
Executive Director



The Christian Education Department undergirds all ministries of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It supports the evangelistic mission of the Church through discipleship formation, equipping leaders and servants. It supports worship through sound biblical teaching as well as the honing of liturgical, musical and Christian artistic knowledge and skills. It supports Christian maturity through nurturing people to spiritual perfection through daily practices and disciplines. Since July 2016, the Department has sought to do this in various ways:

## **Resource Development**

One of the core activities of the Department is the development and promotion of resources to aid in faith formation and leadership development.

### *Church School and Bible Study Resources*

In strong partnership with the AMEC Sunday School Union and the Department's Writers Guild, we have continued working to enhance the Church School curriculum products. We have lengthened the production timeline to allow for sufficient time for thorough development of content and editing for quality control. We have added new writers to the Writers Guild and would certainly welcome others who may be interested in writing Church School and other curricula. The Department has continued a partnership with Abingdon Press to share the *Disciple Bible Study Series* that equips believers to become more effective disciples of Christ Jesus.

### *Daily Spiritual Vitamins*

The Department has continued the Daily Spiritual Vitamins (DSVs) series. The DSVs are daily focal scripture for meditation and reflection based on the Home Daily Bible Readings, designed as preparation for the upcoming Church School lesson theme and content. This year, we have added a prompt for prayer and/or reflection to strengthen focus and have sought to incorporate the connectional quadrennium themes and other significant denominational and global themes and observances as part of this daily discipline. The DSVs are now offered on multiple platforms—email, website, Twitter, and Facebook and the format has been enhanced to make it hopefully more attractive and inviting.

### *People of the Anvil*

For some years, the Department has produced this small pamphlet resource, which gives a basic introduction of the structure, polity, and beliefs of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The translation of resources in various languages spoken by AMEs is a commitment of the Department. This long-term commitment necessitates a process that comes at a cost of financial, time, and human resource. Yet, this year, we took initial steps to make good on this commitment to be global in our resource development mandate. We have translated this resource into French, Spanish, and Portuguese, which are downloadable free resources on the Department's website. The English version remains for sale through the Department at a nominal price to assist in its translation into other languages spoken by AMEs. Currently in production are versions in Haitian Creole and Dutch. The Department is thankful to those partners who have assisted with the current translations and welcomes partners who are willing to assist with translations into other





languages. This resource can be used as an evangelistic tract, with new members, or as a refresher for seasoned members.

### *Website and Social Media*

During this period, much attention, energy, and resources went into the redesign of the Department's website. The URL remains [www.ameced.com](http://www.ameced.com). It was our desire that the website be an inviting and engaging space for information and resource sharing for those engaged in teaching ministries. New information and features have been added to the website, including a free resources session, an enhanced online bookstore, a section for sharing creative ideas for the teaching ministry, and dedicated collaborative spaces for the various Ministries of Christian Education.

The Department was one of the first departments to have a website. We are thankful to Mr. Clarence Smith, a faithful lay member of DuPage AME Church; Lisle, IL (4<sup>th</sup> District) for his almost 20 years of service to the Department as web designer and Information Technology contractor. We believe the re-launched site will serve the Department for years to come, thanks to the fine work of Rev. Dr. Virgil Woods, pastor of First AME Church, Gary, IN and owner of Woods Digital Solutions.

We also have developed new Twitter (@ame\_ced) and Facebook accounts for the Department. These work seamlessly with features of the website.

### *The Journal of Christian Education*

*The Journal* continues as a resource for sharing ideas, information, and resources for the teaching ministry of the Church. During this quadrennium, we seek to incorporate the connectional themes related to justice throughout the issues even as we explore other relevant themes of interest and import to pastors, ministers, and Christian educators. The Department welcomes article submissions for inclusion in future issues. The Department is thankful to the subscribers of this unique periodical, with special gratitude to the Bishops who give leadership in the subscription process. The circulation base for 2013-2016 is:

#### ***The Journal of Christian Education* 2013-2016 Annual Subscriptions**

	2013	2014	2015	2016
1 <sup>st</sup> District	250	255	253	289
2 <sup>nd</sup> District	385	385	385	388
3 <sup>rd</sup> District	140	140	145	95
4 <sup>th</sup> District	178	180	180	175
5 <sup>th</sup> District	170	173	172	203
6 <sup>th</sup> District	195	195	193	199
7 <sup>th</sup> District	400	405	405	498
8 <sup>th</sup> District	179	175	175	224



9 <sup>th</sup> District	150	155	155	101
10 <sup>th</sup> District	153	155	155	169
11 <sup>th</sup> District	377	377	375	442
12 <sup>th</sup> District	157	160	160	170
13 <sup>th</sup> District	94	95	92	118
Subtotal from Districts	2798	2823	2845	3071
Individual Subscribers	240	245	235	210
Total Subscriptions	3038	3068	3080	3281

### *Teaching Gatherings*

The Department seeks to provide opportunities for persons to come together in worship, fellowship, networking and shared learning.

### *Ministries in Christian Education Training and Planning Meeting*

The first Annual Ministries in Christian Education Training and Planning Meeting for this quadrennium was held at the Millennium Maxwell House, Nashville, TN on April 20-22, 2017, under the Department's motto as the theme, "Light, Freedom, Truth: Light to see the Truth, Freedom to make it Known." Our chair, Bishop Daniels, gave strong leadership; and, Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, Host Bishop, and Dr. Roberta H. Hill, Host Christian Education Director, were present and extended gracious hospitality along with other Christian educators and volunteers of the Thirteenth Episcopal District.

There were strong plenary discussions, Bible study, learning labs, and preaching. Preachers were: Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield, Presiding Prelate of the 16<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District; Rev. William Miller, Pastor of Bethel AME Church, Conway, SC; and Rev. Dr. Timothy Tyler, Pastor of Shorter Community AME Church, Denver, CO and 5<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District Christian Education Director. The leadership of the Music and Christian Arts Ministry; St. John AME Church, Huntsville, AL; and Payne Chapel AME Church, Nashville, TN led the music for the services; and, the Youth Praise Dancers of Greater Bethel AME Church, Nashville, TN also ministered in worship. Rev. Joy L. Gallmon, Chair of the Fellowship of Church Educators, gave leadership for the plenaries and the lunchtime discussions. Clergy and educators from across the Connection led the learning labs.

### *Future Gatherings*

*28<sup>th</sup> Christian Education and Youth Congress*—Initial plans are being made for the next quadrennial gathering of the Ministries in Christian Education to immediately follow the 2018 Council of Bishops and General Board meetings in Atlanta, hosted by Bishop Reginald T. Jackson and the 6<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District. We are still finalizing the exact dates and location. We solicit the prayers and strong support of



the Church through good attendance of Church leadership, Christian educators, pastors, ministers, and most importantly youth and young adults. This will be the time when several of the Ministries in Christian Education will hold their quadrennial elections. More information is forthcoming.

*2019 Christian Education Summit*—Under the leadership of our Chair of the Commission on Christian Education and President of the Global Development Council, Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr., there will be a Christian Education Summit in Cape Town, South Africa, February 17-19, 2019. This gathering is in direct response to the request of Church leadership and Christian educators in Districts 14-20 requesting that a major Christian Education gathering be held outside of the USA and preferably on the African continent. This will be a rich time of worship, fellowship, networking and shared learning. The summit will serve as a pre-meeting to the Global Development Council General Assembly (February 19-22). Again, we solicit the prayers and strong support of the Church through good attendance of Church leadership, Christian educators, pastors, ministers, and most importantly youth and young adults. More information is forthcoming.

### ***Ecumenical Faith Formation***

Additionally, in consultation with the Chair on Christian Education and the Ecumenical & Urban Affairs Officer, the Department continued significant participation in the faith, ecumenical, and mission formation work of the ecumenical community in the USA and globally.

Continuing the long history of Pan Methodist cooperation, the Department in partnership with the Christian Education Departments of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, produced a *2017 Liberation and Unity*, Lenten Devotional Meditation and Guide Book. Over a dozen of the contributing writers were AMEs. A 2017 Advent/Christmas Devotional Meditation and Guide Book is also planned.

In September, the Director participated in the World Methodist Conference and Council and was named as an AME representative to the World Methodist Council and its Education Committee.

Also in September, the Director participated in a consultation on mission formation in Matanzas, Cuba, sponsored by the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) of the World Council of Churches (WCC). In June 2017, the Director again participated in another consultation of the CWME on mission from the margins at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in preparation of the next Conference on World Missions and Evangelism to be held in 2018 in Arusha, Tanzania.

The Director shared in leadership at the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church's Department of Christian Education's African American Church Christian Education Conference, cosponsored with Memphis Theological Seminary.

The Department continues its participation and support of the ecumenical development of the Church School curriculum outline under the National Council of Churches, USA Committee on the Uniform Series (CUS). The Director along with Rev. Anita Marshall (4<sup>th</sup> District) and Ms. Carlene L. Douglas (13<sup>th</sup> District) represented the AME Church during the recent meeting and working session of the CUS in



March in Jacksonville, FL.

***Teach, Inc.***

The Department operated a non-profit corporation entitled, TEACH, Inc. as an avenue to secure additional funding for faith formation, leadership development, and resource development. TEACH, Inc.'s purpose is to develop and conduct training programs that stimulate character development, ethics, and vocation; to develop and manage an endowment fund for educational resource development; and to develop and operate a scholarship fund for future Christian Education leader development. TEACH, Inc. will participate in partnerships with agencies that have similar interests including but not limited to youth serving agencies and will utilize governmental and foundation funding as appropriate to its purposes.

***Vincent F. Foster Trust Fund***

The Department has maintained the established Vincent F. Foster Trust Fund formed with the proceeds from the Foster Gift. The Trust will continually provide supplementary funds to enhance the work of the Department. The balance of the Fund at the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year (ending March 31, 2017) was \$153,123.64. Additional contributions to this Fund are welcomed.

***Director's Travel and Work***

The Executive Director has been privileged to serve as preacher, presenter, teacher, and/or participant at the following services, conferences, meetings, and gatherings:

July	Florence, SC	7 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, CE Congress
	Savannah, GA	6 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, CE Congress
September	Houston, TX	World Methodist Conference and Council
	Matanzas, Cuba	World Council of Churches Consultation on Mission Formation
October	New York, NY (Harlem)	First AME Church: Bethel; Annual Lay Day
	Greenwood, SC	7 <sup>th</sup> District, Piedmont Annual Conference
December	Aurora, IL	MCE
	Washington, DC	MCAM
January	Cokesbury, SC	St. Paul AME Church, Men's Empowerment Service
February	Franklin, TN	Shorter Chapel AME Church





	Clarksville, TN	North District Founder's Day
	Nashville, TN	Greater Bethel AME Church Founder's Day
	Memphis, TN	CME Church and Memphis Theological Seminary, African American Church Christian Education Conference
	Johannesburg, South Africa	Global Development Council General Assembly
	Soweto, South Africa	19th District, Johannesburg Presiding Elder District Conference
March	Nashville, TN	13 <sup>th</sup> District Midyear
	Nashville, TN	Writers Conference sponsored by the AMEC Sunday School Union and Payne Theological Seminary
	Jacksonville, Florida	National Council of Churches, USA Committee on Uniform Series
	Hilton Head, SC	David C. Cook Denominational Summit on Curriculum
	Florence, SC	7 <sup>th</sup> District God First Convocation
April	London, UK	European Annual Conference
May	New Bedford, MA	Bethel AME Church, 195 <sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary
	Pittsburgh, PA	World Council of Churches Missions from the Margins Planning Meeting
	Grand Rapids, MI	Hudson Townsend Publishing Institute Seminar; Calvin College
June	Grand Rapids, MI	Ministry to and with Millennials Summer Seminar; Calvin College



	Castaic, CA	Castaic Community AME Church
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### ***Commission on Ministry Recruitment and Development***

The Director also serves as consultant to the Commission on Ministry Recruitment and Development. The Director with the Chairs of the Commission on Christian Education and the Commission on Ministry Recruitment and Development will continue an exploration of processes, policy, and procedures related to discernment for Christian vocations and ministry as well as professional development and continuing education, leading to resourcing and implementation for the Connectional Church.

## **EQUIPPING FOR THE WORK**

### ***Certification Program***

For some decades now the Department has given oversight to the Church's Christian Education Certification Program. While the Word of God does not change nor does the powerful Christian story, technologies and teaching methodologies for sharing the Word and story do. The Department has begun initial conversations with leading Christian educators as well as Episcopal District Christian Education Directors so that we can review and adjust the Certification program in helpful and relevant ways so that there is consistency of standards and transparency across the Connection. We are working to launch the revised Certification program in summer 2018.

### ***Ministries in Christian Education Leaders Retreat***

Following the December Council of Bishops and General Board meeting, the Director and leaders of the various Ministries of Christian Education gathered at St. John AME Church, Aurora, IL, hosted by pastor, Dr. Jesse Hawkins and Minister of Music and Christian Arts, Rev. Anthony Vinson. It was a time of worship, fellowship, team-building, and visioning for the Ministries of Christian Education for the 2016-2020 quadrennium. The ministries and department have already begun to implement many of the goals set at that time.

## **THE SPECIFIC WORK OF THE MINISTRIES**

### ***Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)***

Since General Conference, the Connectional RAYAC has continued to grow in ministry. In September, several members attended the World Methodist Conference and Council in Houston, TX. Members also attended the International Methodist Young Leaders Seminar (IMYLS) held at the WMC. President Mix was reappointed to the WMC. In October and November, board members worked with districts to establish or re-establish Episcopal District RAYACs.

In December, several members attended the Council of Bishops and General Board meetings in the 4th Episcopal district. Members participated in several of the commission meetings. President Mix along with other CED ministry heads attended the first retreat under the new director. In January, board members



attended the Annual Church Growth and Evangelism Conference in Memphis. President Mix facilitated workshops and also participated on the opening panel.

In March, RAYAC leadership worked with the AMEZ, CME and UMC young adults to host the First Pan-Methodist Young Adult Conference, held in Atlanta following the Pan-Methodist commission meeting. The Connectional RAYAC, along with the 6th Episcopal District RAYAC, sponsored a group of young adults to attend. Members also attended the April MCE meeting, where the President and Vice-President presented a workshop. Additionally, the districts 4th, 5th, 12th, 13th, 15th and 19th have held RAYAC events from Episcopal level to Elder District level. We are excitedly expecting even more growth in the next year.

### ***Music and Christian Arts Ministry (MCAM)***

The Music and Christian Arts Ministry is grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the AME Church. We are especially honored to have been able to release our second CD: *Celebrating 200 Years of the AME Church* that features several genres of music representing our musical and cultural diversity. The CD also features music composed by AME songwriters from 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Episcopal Districts. Lastly with regards to the General Conference, we are proud to have been a part of the historic first live recording session at the seat of the General Conference.

MCAM met in December for our Fall Executive Board meeting and were wonderfully hosted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Episcopal District and Bishop James L. Davis at the Metropolitan AMEC where The Rev. William Lamar, IV is the pastor and Minister Marty Lamar serves as the Minister of Music, along with The Rev. Anthony Radcliff who serves as the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of MCAM. It was a very productive meeting and we were grateful to welcome several first-time attendees to our meeting. We are also grateful to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Episcopal District WMS and President Faye Conley for providing a delightful welcome reception.

We are eagerly anticipating our 2017 Music and Christian Arts Conference that will be hosted by Bishop Reginald T. Jackson and the 6th Episcopal District August 15-18, at Turner Chapel AME Church in Marietta, GA where the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Marcus is the pastor. As always, the conference that is held biennially will provide classes for musicians, singers, dancers, actors and clergy taught by instructors, artists and clinicians of national renown. It is our sincere hope that there will be representation from every Episcopal District. It is our goal to provide a conference that will be meaningful at every level of the church and to model excellence and diversity in music and the arts. Registration is available for the conference online at [www.mcamame.com](http://www.mcamame.com).

### ***Fellowship of Church Educators (FCE)***

The Fellowship of Church Educators gave strong leadership in undergirding the programming of the Annual Ministries in Christian Education Meeting in April. There was a coffee and conversation general session held with the Fellowship of Church Educators (FCE), which focused on “Curriculum: A Tool for Discipleship Teaching.” The Rev. Roderick Belin, President/Publisher of the AMEC Publishing House and the Rev. Pierce fielded concerns and helped to craft strategies for updated AME Church resources. After a “Centering Moment,” the second day began with a Bible Study led by the Rev. Joy F. Gallmon,



Chair of the Fellowship of Church Educators. FCE Chair and leadership also facilitated the lunchtime conversation on “Christian Education: What Is and What Can Be.”

In these sessions, not only did FCE facilitate the content discussion, it also modeled various methodologies that participants could take back with them to use for similar discussions in their local contexts.

### *Association of AME Scouts (AAMES)*

The AAMES has met via conference call and in person, to define the objectives of the organization to coincide with guidelines established by the Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the overall work and structure of the Department of Christian Education.

In a review of this past year’s activities, AAMES had a record number of members join AAMES —60; we held a Quadrennial Camporee at Camp Hart, in Pennsburg, PA on July 3-9, 2016. We had 75 youths from the following Episcopal Districts: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. We held monthly Call-in Meetings to discuss and plan the Camporee and Business of AAMES.

AAMES has received reports that the Scouts of the AME Church were issued 18 Eagle Scout Awards by the Boy Scouts of America, and 7 Gold Awards by Girl Scouts of United States of America.

Members of AAMES in three Episcopal Districts 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> held Joint Boy Scout and Girl Scout Camporees.

AAMES facilitated workshops at the Annual Ministries in Christian Education Meeting.

Discussions have started on planning for the 2018 Christian Education Congress and the Christian Education Summit in Cape Town, South Africa, February 2019.

AAMES leadership is always ready to meet with pastors and congregational leaders about establishing scouting troops in AME congregations.

### *Sons of Allen (SoA)*

The Connectional Sons of Allen continues to explore new programming and partnerships that will help to confront the challenges of violence and injustice that continue to enrage our Church, most especially the men of our communities. As we continue encouraging men, as Christian citizens, to engage in church, community, and state, we hope to save our men who are being taken away by violence, incarceration, and other external forces. In doing so every man must become a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ. The Sons of Allen commitment to duties are:

- Always start meetings with prayer
- Offer entry points that are non-threatening to unchurched men (**outreach**)
- Offer community and mission activities to evangelize men (**outreach**)
- Help men transfer biblical truth into personal application (**discipleship**)
- Insure that men in ministry are ethnically representative of the community at large (**inclusion**)





- Provide separate opportunities for men at various stages of spiritual growth (**inclusion**); evaluate the needs of young men beyond the Church
- Address social issues that impact men i.e., incarceration, statistics including uneducated/unskilled men, unemployment, absentee fathers, and low self-esteem
- Explore collaboration with other organizations of like mind and purpose
- Continue to embrace creativity; it's a new season in the AME Church
- Continue to work with the youth of the Church through scouting, manhood training, and Church Leadership Training
- Continue to use Christian Education and the Sons of Allen as a catalyst for training men not just to be good disciples but, important disciples

Once again, the Sons of Allen has the greatest potential to transform our Churches and communities by bringing men into life-altering relationships with God. The Sons of Allen will remain the best connectional means for addressing the needs to minister to men in a contemplative and prepared manner. This ministry is about men encountering Jesus Christ and our church-wide expression assisting the local congregation and community in helping that to happen.

### *Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)*

Since its successful 64<sup>th</sup> Christian Debutante-Master Dedicatory Ceremony held at the 2016 General Conference, CDMC has been busying planning for the deepening and expansion of this important rites of passage and formation ministry. A new pamphlet has been created for those persons who only want a brief overview of CDMC. It includes the purpose and other facts about CDMC. Leadership also has been engaged in dialogue about different ways to make CDMC more visible; one suggestion was to set up a table with a banner at the Episcopal Christian Education Congress and hand out pamphlets and pens.

The cover of the CDMC handbook has been redesigned as well as the emblem refreshed. The theme remains the same, “Magnifying Christ as we reflect on the past, experience the present, and focus on the future.” Commission members have reviewed the handbook and shared suggested changes.

Ms. Shantel Sims (a former debutante) has volunteered her services to create a CDMC web page as well as bring CDMC into the age of social media with Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, etc.

Revising the CDMC Manual is a monumental task and still a work in progress. We were able to obtain an original copy of the manual created by Mrs. Julma Crawford, the founder. It is our hope to use parts of it to update and reconstruct a newer version. The manual will primarily be for use by the Commissioners to serve as an instructional guide. It will include history of the AME Church, Bible information, etiquette courses to include church etiquette, conflict resolution, acts of prayer, teaching youth about finances, voting, health, and much more.

The Connectional Administrator has a vision of creating and printing a Book of Prayers written for youth by youth. These honest and open prayers would be from the hearts of our young people that would offer help and inspiration to other youth. This vision has been well received by those to whom it has been presented.



It was also suggested that we have a standard benediction for CDMC like some of the other ministries. A group of commissioners will be appointed to work on this.

We also discussed having a CDMC Ceremony sometime in the future in one of the Districts 14-20.

### ***Writers Guild***

The Writers Guild continues in strong partnership with the Director and the AMEC Sunday School Union to work to enhance the Church School and other curriculum products.

The Department, in the persons of the Director and the Writers Guild coordinator, participated in the first Writing Conference sponsored by the AMEC Sunday School Union and Payne Theological Seminary in March, to identify and offer training for those interested in the writing ministry of the Church. The Director presented a workshop on devotional writing. It is hoped that the Writers Guild and the CED will be even strong partners in future such writing conferences.

During this year, new writers have been identified and still others are being added to the guild. Members of the guild, under the leadership of its new coordinator, Ms. Carlene L. Douglas (13<sup>th</sup> District), have begun conversations with the Director about other processes and protocols that will strengthen the work.

A special word of thanks must go to Rev. Anita L. Marshall (4<sup>th</sup> District) for her roughly 25 years of dedicated service as a Church School curriculum writer. Many of those years she has served as curriculum editor as well as coordinator of the guild. She has served as one of the official representatives of the AME Church to the National Council of Churches, USA Committee on Uniform Series (CUS), that body that is responsible for the ecumenical development of the Church School curriculum outline used by the AME Church and many other denominational and independent publishers around the world. She has given great leadership to CUS. We are thankful that Rev. Marshall will continue to serve as part of the Writers Guild, bringing institutional memory, knowledge and passion to the writing ministry, and creative and innovative ideas as we look to the future of curriculum development in our Zion.

### ***In Memoriam***

Since the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference, the Christian Education Department has mourned the passing and celebrated the leadership of several pioneers in the Ministries of Christian Education:

Mrs. Daisy Brown (3<sup>rd</sup> District)—Pioneer in the Connectional Music Committee, the precursor to the Music and Creative Arts Ministry.

Rev. Dr. L.A. Gatewood (3<sup>rd</sup> District)—Pioneer in the Fellowship of Church Educators. Served as a Church School curriculum writer and an instructor in the Christian Education Certification Program as well as a member of the Review and Revision Committee of the CE Certification Program.

Rev. Charlotte Evans (3<sup>rd</sup> District)—Pioneer in the Fellowship of Church Educators, serving as its



Treasurer. Former Third Episcopal District Director of Christian Education.

Rev. Dr. Earl R. Jefferson (1st District)—Former First Episcopal District Director of Christian Education, prolific writer, and faithful advocate for life-long faith formation. He was the Editor/Publisher of *Guidelines for Christian Education*, a monthly newsletter, which was published for over two decades.

*May their memories be eternal.*





## Recommendations to the General Board

As points of reminder and reiteration, it is recommended that:

- AME members, particularly church leaders, pastors, clergy, and Christian educators at each level of the church, sign-up for the Daily Spiritual Vitamins ([www.ameced.com](http://www.ameced.com))
- Episcopal Districts will support TEACH, Inc. as a non-profit partner with the Department of Christian Education for character, resource, and leader development.
- each Church School be encouraged to subscribe to *The Journal of Christian Education*. Online subscription is available at: <https://ameced.com/the-journal-of-christian-education> each Episcopal District be encouraged to incorporate the *Disciple Bible Study Series* in its Christian Education offerings.

It is further recommended that:

- Leaders in the music and Christian arts ministries of the AME Church as well as pastors, ministers, and others attend the 2017 Music and Christian Arts Ministry Conference, August 15-18, 2017, at Turner Chapel AME Church; Marietta, GA hosted by Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Pastor Kenneth Marcus, and the 6th Episcopal District.
- persons with gifts and interest in writing (particularly curriculum development) be encouraged to join the Writers Guild. Online registration is available at [www.ameced.com/writers-guild](http://www.ameced.com/writers-guild)
- AME members submit articles related to Christian education themes, best practices, and events to The Journal of Christian Education for publication. Submission guidelines are found at: <https://ameced.com/the-journal-of-christian-education>
- AME members on social media, particularly church leaders, pastors, clergy, and Christian educators at each level of the church, connect to the Department's Twitter (@ame\_ced) and Facebook.
- AME members, particularly church leaders, pastors, clergy, and Christian educators at each level of the church, purchase the 2017 Advent/Christmas Devotional Meditation Guide produced jointly by the Christian Education Departments of the AME, AMEZ, and CME Churches.
- Episcopal Districts encourage strong participation in the 28th Christian Education and Youth Congress to be held June 2018, immediately following the Council of Bishops and General Board meetings, Atlanta, GA, hosted by Bishop Reginald T. Jackson and the 6th Episcopal District.



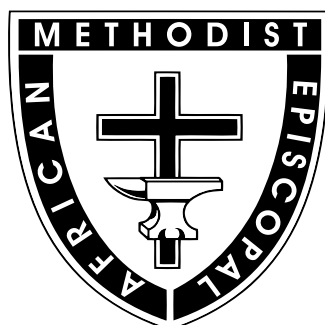






# African Methodist Episcopal Church

## GENERAL BOARD



### AUDIT Reports of the GENERAL OFFICERS'

**Dr. Richard Allen Lewis**

*Treasurer/CFO, AMEC Finance Department*

**Dr. George F. Flowers**

*Executive Director, Department of Missions  
Global Witness and Ministry*

**Dr. Jerome V. Harris**

*Executive Director, Department of Annuity, Investments and Insurance*

**Dr. James C. Wade**

*Executive Director, Church Growth and Development*

**Rev. Roderick D. Belin**

*President/Publisher, AMEC Sunday School Union*

**Rev. Garland F. Pierce**

*Executive Director, Department of Christian Education*



## AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC. FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report  
For the Year Ended March 31, 2017  
(With Comparative Totals for 2016)



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**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.**

**FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017  
(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2016)**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Members of the General Board  
African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc.

### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc. Financial Department (the "Department") which comprise the statement of financial position as of March 31, 2017, the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.



We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Department as of March 31, 2017, and the changes in net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### **Report on Summarized Comparative Information**

We have previously audited the Department's 2016 financial statements, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those audited financial statements in our report dated May 20, 2016. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended March 31, 2016, is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

Washington DC  
May 19, 2017

*BCA Watson Rre LLP*



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**MARCH 31, 2017**  
**(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2016)**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 3)	\$ 6,702,769	\$ 7,326,042
Investments (Note 5)	4,959,065	4,930,405
Other receivables (Note 10)	118,843	174,624
Prepaid expenses	<u>254,721</u>	<u>580,485</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>12,035,398</u>	<u>13,011,556</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property and equipment, net (Note 6)	2,006,411	2,018,487
Other receivables (Note 10)	<u>3,505,899</u>	<u>2,749,556</u>
Total Non-current Assets	<u>5,512,310</u>	<u>4,768,043</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 17,547,708</u>	<u>\$ 17,779,600</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 224,304	\$ 369,324
Notes payable-current portion (Note 7)	218,513	97,664
Due to other church departments	-	6,869
Deferred revenue	<u>502,652</u>	<u>27,026</u>
Total Current Liabilities	945,469	500,883
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	16,602,239	16,394,993
Temporarily restricted net assets	<u>-</u>	<u>883,724</u>
Total net assets	<u>16,602,239</u>	<u>17,278,717</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 17,547,708</u>	<u>\$ 17,779,600</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES**  
**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**  
**(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2016)**

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Budget assessments	\$ 14,383,861	\$ -	\$ 14,383,861	\$ 14,383,568
Haiti and Malawi donations	-	-	-	349
General Conference Delegates and Alternates revenue	60,350	-	60,350	636,850
Other General Conference and Observers revenue	426,491	-	426,491	585,194
General Conference Special Assessment (4%) & Others	1,130,606	-	1,130,606	510,399
General Conference Housing Revenue	3,540,267	-	3,540,267	485,313
Investment income	772,013	-	772,013	118,345
Other revenues	305,705	-	305,705	538,839
Net assets released from restrictions	883,724	(883,724)	-	-
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 21,503,017</u>	<u>(883,724)</u>	<u>\$ 20,619,293</u>	<u>\$ 17,258,857</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Executive Branch	\$ 3,019,480	\$ -	\$ 3,019,480	\$ 2,774,787
Office of the Treasurer	1,942,497	-	1,942,497	2,524,610
Office of the Secretary	183,734	-	183,734	189,514
Christian Recorder	134,146	-	134,146	132,244
Retired General Officers	153,016	-	153,016	150,039
Women's Missionary Society	314,064	-	314,064	314,064
Overseas Development	576,486	-	576,486	573,551
Service and Development Agency	561,336	-	561,336	561,336
Lay Organization	194,964	-	194,964	194,964
General Administration	1,449,200	-	1,449,200	1,323,054
Interdenominational Cooperative Fund	169,060	-	169,060	104,906
Educational Institutions	2,986,314	-	2,986,314	2,955,111
Extended Budget in Education	269,132	-	269,132	213,397
Episcopal District Projects	103,972	-	103,972	106,752
General Conference	7,816,189	-	7,816,189	861,543
Endowment	8,979	-	8,979	81,051
Debt retirement	21,004	-	21,004	262,935
Contingency reserve	183,452	-	183,452	211,184
Sunday School Union	95,458	-	95,458	93,556
Global Witness and Ministries	269,285	-	269,285	266,969
Research and Scholarships	155,926	-	155,926	148,985
Annuity Investments and Insurance	148,834	-	148,834	146,932
Christian Education	206,027	-	206,027	204,427
Church Growth and Development	150,726	-	150,726	148,528
Other expenses	182,491	-	182,491	73,859
Total Expenses	<u>21,295,771</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,295,771</u>	<u>14,618,298</u>
Change in Net Assets	207,246	(883,724)	(676,478)	2,640,559
Net Assets, Beginning	<u>17,278,717</u>	<u>883,724</u>	<u>17,278,717</u>	<u>14,638,158</u>
Net Assets, Ending	<u>\$ 17,485,963</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 16,602,239</u>	<u>\$ 17,278,717</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.





**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**  
**(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2016)**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Change in net assets	\$ (676,478)	\$ 2,640,559
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash from operating activities:		
Realized and unrealized net gain on investments	273,206	(34,962)
Depreciation	171,407	175,108
Decrease (increase) in assets:		
Other receivables	700,562	106,767
Prepaid expenses	(325,764)	(280,402)
Increase (decrease) in liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(145,020)	(1,230,255)
Due to other church departments	(6,869)	(5,180)
Deferred revenue	475,626	(194,409)
Net Cash from Operating Activities	<u>466,671</u>	<u>1,177,226</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net purchase of investments	(2,254,042)	(4,421,801)
Proceeds from sale of investments	1,031,134	725,284
Acquisition of equipment	147,403	321,332
Net Cash from Investing Activities	<u>(1,075,505)</u>	<u>(3,375,185)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Principal payments on notes payable	(14,439)	(2,813,263)
Net Cash from Financing Activities	<u>(14,439)</u>	<u>(2,813,263)</u>
Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(623,273)	(5,011,222)
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning	<u>7,326,042</u>	<u>12,337,264</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Ending	<u>\$ 6,702,769</u>	<u>\$ 7,326,042</u>
<b>SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION</b>		
Interest paid	<u>\$ 1,918</u>	<u>\$ 9,146</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.  
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

**NOTE 1: ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS**

The African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc. (“AME”) is a nonprofit organization, which was established in 1787. AME consists of 13 districts in the United States and 7 missionary districts abroad. Twenty-four operating funds were established to address the various causes and services that embody AME’s mission.

AME approves a budget at the Quadrennial General Conference. The General Conference allocates budget assessments to each of 20 districts based on their economic conditions. Funds collected in Districts 15 through 20 remain with the related district for missionary work. Expenses are allocated to operating funds for the various causes and services.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc. - Financial Department (the “Department”) manages both the budget assessments received from various districts and the disbursements to operating funds in accordance with the quadrennial budget. These financial statements represent the financial activities of the Department.

**NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies used by the Department.

**Basis of Accounting** - The financial statements of the Department are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when incurred, without regard to the date of receipt or payment of cash.

**Budget Assessments** - Budget assessments represent each District’s required annual contribution to AME. Receipts in excess of the allocated amounts are recorded as deferred revenue, and uncollected budget assessments are recorded as budget assessments receivable.

**Basis of Presentation** - Financial statement presentation follows the recommendations of the Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”), Subtopic 958-205, *Not-for-Profit Entities - Presentation of Financial Statements*. Under FASB ASC 958-205, the Department is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted, temporarily restricted, and permanently restricted, as described below:



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.  
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

**NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES Continued)**

**Unrestricted Net Assets:** Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed stipulations.

**Temporarily Restricted Net Assets:** Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that will be met in the future either by actions of the Department (undertaking of project activities) and/or the passage of time.

**Permanently Restricted Net Assets:** Net assets subject to donor-imposed stipulations that neither expire by passage of time nor can be fulfilled or otherwise removed by actions of the Department. There were no permanently restricted net assets as of March 31, 2017.

**Property, Equipment and Depreciation** - Expenditures for property and equipment in excess of \$500 are capitalized at cost. Donated property is recorded at market value at the time of receipt.

Depreciation is provided over the estimated useful lives of the assets using the straight-line method.

**Investments** - Investments in mutual funds, corporate securities and certificates of deposits with maturities greater than ninety days are reported as investments and carried at fair market value at fiscal year-end.

AME's assets or liabilities valued on a recurring basis are carried at fair value and classified using the following fair value hierarchy:

Level 1: Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets and liabilities.

Level 2: Observable market-based inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities. This includes instruments that are primarily valued using valuation techniques that use observable market-based inputs or unobservable inputs that are corroborated by market data.

Level 3: Prices or valuations that require inputs that are both significant to the fair value measurement and unobservable. This is comprised of instruments whose fair value is estimated based on a market approach using alternate techniques or internally developed models using significant inputs that are generally less readily observable because of limited market activity or little transparency.



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.  
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

**NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES Continued)**

FASB ASC 820-10 requires the use of observable market data if such data is available without undue cost and effort.

**Income Taxes** - AME is exempt from Federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As a unit within AME, the Department is similarly tax exempt.

**Use of Estimates** - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Adoption of New Accounting Pronouncement** – There were no new accounting pronouncements implemented by AME during 2017.

**NOTE 3: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

The Department considers all highly liquid debt instruments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents. At March 31, 2017, cash and cash equivalent consisted of:

Cash	\$ 6,585,020
Money Market	<u>117,749</u>
Total	<u>\$ 6,702,769</u>

AME's cash balances in financial institutions may occasionally exceed the federally insured limit of \$250,000. At March 31, 2017, the amount in excess of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") limit was \$3,301,259.





**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

**NOTE 4: FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

The following table presents the AME's financial assets that are measured at fair value on a recurring basis at March 31, 2017 consistent with the fair value hierarchy provisions of FASB ASC 820-10.

	Fair Value Measurement at Reportable Date Using		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identifiable Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	2017 Total
Cash Equivalents			
Money Market Funds	\$ 117,749	\$ -	\$ 117,749
Total Cash Equivalent	117,749	-	117,749
Investments			
Certificates of Deposit	-	1,033,071	1,033,071
Equity Securities	2,729,280	-	2,729,280
Fixed Income Fund	543,255	-	543,255
Mutual Funds	579,812	-	579,812
Unit Trusts	44,120	-	44,120
Bonds	29,527	-	29,527
Total Investments	3,925,994	1,033,071	4,959,065
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,043,743</b>	<b>\$ 1,033,071</b>	<b>\$ 5,076,814</b>

**NOTE 5: INVESTMENTS**

AME's investments, without including those investments classified as cash equivalents, totaled \$4,959,065.

Investment income consisted of the following for the year ended March 31, 2017:

Realized and unrealized gains	\$ 273,206
Interest and dividends	498,807
Total investment income	<u>\$ 772,013</u>

Interest income above includes interest on the Morris Brown note receivable of \$282,081.



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

**NOTE 6: PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

Property and equipment consisted of the following:

Building and improvements	\$ 4,376,372
Furniture and equipment	<u>965,635</u>
	5,342,008
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(3,636,824)</u>
	1,705,184
Land	<u>301,227</u>
Property and equipment, net	<u><u>\$ 2,006,411</u></u>

Depreciation expense for fiscal year 2017 was \$171,407.

**NOTE 7: NOTES PAYABLE**

Other payables consists of First District checking account \$133,953 maintained by the Finance Department, 403b retirement plan \$77,960, and other misc payables of \$6,589 that represent the payable at year end of \$218,512.

**NOTE 8: LINES OF CREDIT**

The Department has a line of credit with Bank of America for \$500,000.00. The Department also has a line of credit with Branch Banking and Trust Company for \$2.35 million. Interest accrues on the outstanding balance at 2.5% points over the Wall street Journal rate. As of March 31, 2017, there were no outstanding balances on the line of credits.

**NOTE 9: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The following are related party transactions entered into by the Department:

- AME founded Service and Development Agency, Inc. (SADA) in 1978 to coordinate and administer international development and relief projects. The quadrennial budget included an allocation for funds to be disbursed to SADA for overseas development.
- The Department leases office space to SADA at \$1,100 per month.
- The Department leases office space to Women's Missionary Society (WMS) at \$2,000.00 per month. WMS is a division within AME.



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.  
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

**NOTE 9: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (Continued)**

- The Department leases office space to the Second Episcopal District at \$2,500.00 per month. The Second District Episcopal District is a district within the AME.
- The Department leases office space to the Legal Department at \$550 per month. The Legal Department is a department within AME.
- The Department leases office space to the General Conference at \$550 per month. The General Conference is a department within the AME.

As explained in Note 10, AME has related party receivables from the AME 16th District and the Department, which at March 31, 2017 totaled \$106,092.

**NOTE 10: OTHER RECEIVABLES**

Other receivables consist of the following at March 31, 2017:

Morris Brown receivable	\$ 4,106,902
Less allowance for doubtful accounts	<u>(1,500,000)</u>
	2,606,902
16th District receivable	106,092
Department and District receivables	743,597
Insurance receivables	46,567
Other	<u>121,584</u>
Total	3,624,742
Less current portion	<u>(118,843)</u>
Non-current portion	<u><u>\$ 3,505,899</u></u>



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.  
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

**NOTE 10: OTHER RECEIVABLES (Continued)**

The receivable from the 16<sup>th</sup> District represents the balance due for debt the Department took out to fund a Bishop's residence construction. The Department paid the debt off in 2012. AME has allocated approximately \$47,000 annually of the 16<sup>th</sup> District's housing allocation fund to the repayment of this receivable. No interest is charged on the outstanding balance.

In December 2013 the AME settled for \$7.1 million a lawsuit bought by the bond holder of other debt by the College. AME increased receivable from the College by that amount plus \$595,122 in expenses the AME incurred in connection with the lawsuit. The total receivable amount as of March 31, 2014 from the College was \$12,059,292.

In 2014 MBC and the Creditors (AME Church, U.S. Department of Education and certain Unsecured Creditors) agreed to a sale of a portion of MBC's property through an auction as the best way of obtaining the highest possible recovery for all creditors (a so-called "363 Sale"). On March 30, 2015 AME recorded the receipt of the funds from the 363 Sale eliminating the prior year receivable and establishing a new \$3.5 million secured note receivable. The promissory note, which was approved by the Morris Brown College President, is secured by Morris Brown College "real" and "personal" property and has an "Effective Date" of March 27, 2015. The interest payable on the outstanding principal amount of the Note shall accrue at a rate equal to the greater of the federal judgment rate or seven and three-eighths percent (7.375%) per annum (the "Interest Rate") amortized over sixty (60) months. All interest shall be calculated on the basis of a 365 day year.

The Note may be prepaid and satisfied in full if within thirty-six of the Effective Date, by paying the Holder a lump sum of \$1,000,000 or the then outstanding principal amount due (whichever is less), plus accrued interest thereon to the date of such prepayment; or upon the sale of all or substantially all of the real property securing the Note, by paying the Holder 50% of the net proceeds of such sale, after deducting the costs of sale, surveys, broker fees, reasonable litigation and other costs approved jointly by Maker and Holder, provided that the total payment is equal to or greater than \$1,000,000; or the then outstanding principal amount due under the Note (whichever is less), plus the accrued interest thereon to the date of such prepayment. An allowance of \$1.5 million was recorded against the note to address the prepayment options contained in the note.





**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.  
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

**NOTE 11: RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

AME established a defined contribution plan for payment of retirement benefits to Bishops and General Officers elected after January 1, 2000. Under the terms of this plan, a contribution of up to 5% of the gross salary of Bishops and General Officers of AME will be matched by an annuity contribution of up to 10%, from the General Budget Fund. AME paid \$151,974 to the plan in the fiscal year 2017.

**NOTE 12: CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

On September 5, 2004, the AME executed an Unconditional Guaranty of Payment and Performance (the Guaranty") to guarantee credit extended by Citizen Trust Bank (the Lender") to the Atlanta North Georgia, Annual Conference of the 6th Episcopal District - AME Church, Inc. (AME 6th District) for the benefit of Morris Brown College in its re-accreditation efforts. Under the terms of the Guaranty, AME Guaranteed to the Lender prompt and full payment when due of all loan repayments required. AME also agreed to pay all expenses and costs of collection if the borrower defaults. This is a guaranty of payment and performance and not of collection.

On December 19, 2004, the AME 6th District executed a \$2.5 million Promissory Note (the "Promissory Note") with the Lender. This Promissory Note has been guaranteed by the AME pursuant to the terms of the Guaranty. As of March 31, 2017, the Promissory Note was in good standing and the AME 6<sup>th</sup> District was current on all payments required per terms of the Promissory Note. AME does not expect that it will required to make any payments to Lender related to its guarantee of the Promissory Note.

**NOTE 13: COMPARATIVE 2016 FINANCIAL DATA**

The amounts shown for fiscal year 2016 in the accompanying financial statements are included only to provide a basis of comparison with fiscal year 2017 and are not intended to present all information necessary for a fair present all information necessary for a fair presentation in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**NOTE 14: SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

In preparing these financial statements, AME evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition through May 19, 2017, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. There were no events or transactions that was discovered during our evaluation.



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Members of the General Board  
African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc.

We have audited the financial statements of the African Methodist Episcopal Church – Finance Department as of and for the year ended March 31, 2017, and have issued our report thereon dated May 19, 2017 which contained an unmodified opinion on those financial statements (See page 1). Our audit was performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on those financial statements as a whole.

The accompanying supplementary information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

Washington, DC *BCA Watson Rice LLP*  
May 19, 2017



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT**  
**SCHEDULE OF REVENUES**  
**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**  
**(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2016)**

BUDGET ASSESSMENTS	2017	2016
1 <sup>st</sup> District	\$ 1,988,662	\$ 1,988,662
2 <sup>nd</sup> District	1,873,700	1,873,700
3 <sup>rd</sup> District	665,943	665,943
4 <sup>th</sup> District	1,265,290	1,265,290
5 <sup>th</sup> District	1,430,377	1,430,084
6 <sup>th</sup> District	1,397,089	1,397,089
7 <sup>th</sup> District	1,329,814	1,329,814
8 <sup>th</sup> District	427,342	427,342
9 <sup>th</sup> District	595,496	595,496
10 <sup>th</sup> District	854,851	854,851
11 <sup>th</sup> District	1,563,129	1,563,129
12 <sup>th</sup> District	466,286	466,286
13 <sup>th</sup> District	472,882	472,882
14 <sup>th</sup> District	2,000	2,000
15 <sup>th</sup> District	15,000	15,000
16 <sup>th</sup> District	2,000	2,000
17 <sup>th</sup> District	7,000	7,000
18 <sup>th</sup> District	7,000	7,000
19 <sup>th</sup> District	18,000	18,000
20 <sup>th</sup> District	2,000	2,000
<b>Total Budget Assessments</b>	<b>14,383,861</b>	<b>14,383,568</b>
<b>OTHER REVENUE</b>		
Haiti and Malawi Donations	-	349
General Conference Delegates and Alternates Revenues	60,350	636,850
Other General Conference and Observers Revenues	426,491	585,194
General Conference Special Assessment & Others	1,130,606	510,399
General Conference Housing Revenue	3,540,267	485,313
General Board of Commissions Revenue	17,184	35,276
Other Revenues	76,899	374,064
Rental of building	80,600	82,600
Gift shop	131,022	46,899
Investment	772,013	118,345
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>6,235,432</b>	<b>2,875,289</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 20,619,293</b>	<b>\$ 17,258,857</b>

See Independent Auditor's Report on Supplementary Information



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES**  
**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**  
**(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2016)**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b><u>EXECUTIVE BRANCH</u></b>		
Bishops' salaries	\$ 1,295,999	\$ 1,223,419
Bishops' expenses	505,204	502,929
Council of Bishops	304,256	239,020
Retired Bishops' salaries	336,617	275,270
Retired Bishops' expenses	113,824	91,754
Widows of Bishops	109,649	112,712
Bishops' annuities	152,870	146,810
Ecumenical Officer	91,116	91,116
New Bishops 403(b)	109,945	91,757
<b>Total</b>	<u>3,019,480</u>	<u>2,774,787</u>
<b><u>OFFICE OF THE TREASURER</u></b>		
Treasurer's salary	52,535	51,470
Administration and travel	42,792	41,700
Financial Department	947,618	957,873
Ministerial Retirement	614,343	1,229,690
Institutional Development	149,647	140,577
Gift Shop	121,190	91,205
Sunday School	14,372	12,095
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,942,497</u>	<u>2,524,610</u>
<b><u>OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY</u></b>		
Secretary's salary	52,535	51,471
Administration and travel	131,199	138,043
<b>Total</b>	<u>183,734</u>	<u>189,514</u>
<b><u>CHRISTIAN RECORDER</u></b>		
Editor's salary	52,535	51,471
Office operation and rent	38,687	38,688
Administration and travel	42,924	42,085
<b>Total</b>	<u>134,146</u>	<u>132,244</u>

(continued)



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES (CONTINUED)**  
**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**  
**(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2016)**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b><u>RETIRED GENERAL OFFICERS</u></b>	\$ 153,016	\$ 150,039
<b><u>WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY</u></b>	314,064	314,064
<b><u>OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT</u></b>	576,486	573,551
<b><u>SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY</u></b>		
Administration and travel	262,488	262,488
Child survival project	212,292	212,292
Clinic-Haiti and U.S.	24,732	24,732
Fund developer	25,764	25,764
R.A. Hildebrand Clinic	36,060	36,060
<b>Total</b>	<u>561,336</u>	<u>561,336</u>
<b><u>LAY ORGANIZATION</u></b>	194,964	194,964
<b><u>GENERAL ADMINISTRATION</u></b>		
General Conference Commission	30,447	9,676
General Board of Commissions	365,254	456,968
Legal	213,552	239,019
Compulations Committee	59,606	-
General Officers Council	8,083	8,083
Presiding Elder's Council	4,000	4,204
Social action	20,508	20,016
Connectional Council	6,434	21,000
Women in ministry	14,280	14,280
Board of Incorporators	42,501	26,681
Health office and operation	12,626	1,891
Judicial Council	13,532	8,090
Miscellaneous administration	44,806	42,556
Association of Scouts	6,080	6,080
Adminsitration for Community Education	6,672	-
Connectional ConVos	-	70,060
Music Committee	12,161	12,160
Richard Allen Young Adult Council	31,796	23,796
Website	46,630	72,152
Meeting planner	88,556	91,119
General office transition	187,148	123,814
Audit expense departments	47,500	30,233
General Officer's 403(b)	42,028	41,176
Bi-Cenntenial	145,000	-
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,449,200</u>	<u>1,323,054</u>

(continued)





**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES (CONTINUED)**  
**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**  
**(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2016)**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b><u>INTERDENOMINATIONAL COOPERATIVE FUND</u></b>		
National Council of Churches	\$ 31,100	\$ 1,990
World Methodist Council	69,489	20,000
Pan Methodist Council	606	8,256
Commission of Chaplains	19,300	21,375
COCU	-	11,323
Conferences on Black Churches	10,000	5,000
Other Denominational Allocation	9,500	8,100
World Council of Churches	28,208	28,862
American Bible Society	857	-
Total	<u>169,060</u>	<u>104,906</u>
<b><u>EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS</u></b>		
Morris Brown College	306,864	204,576
Wilberforce University	306,864	306,864
Allen University	306,864	306,864
Paul Quinn College	306,864	306,864
Edward Waters College	306,864	306,864
Shorter College	306,864	306,864
Payne Theological Seminary	306,864	306,864
Turner Theological Seminary	306,864	306,864
Theological Scholarships	92,004	126,746
AMEC University	218,118	218,118
Educational Foundation	2,808	39,505
Wilberforce Institute	218,472	218,118
Total	<u>2,986,314</u>	<u>2,955,111</u>
<b><u>EXTENDED BUDGET IN EDUCATION</u></b>		
Monrovia College	46,692	46,692
Bonner Campbell Training Center	62,122	71,400
R.R. Wright School	66,710	25
Richard Allen High School	10,008	10,008
Suzane School	20,016	20,016
Jordan Agricultural School	10,008	10,008
Anne Health Academy	6,672	6,672
Daniel Payne College	28,560	28,560
Kittrell College	18,344	20,016
Total	<u>269,132</u>	<u>213,397</u>

(continued)



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES (CONTINUED)**  
**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**  
**(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2016)**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b><u>EPISCOPAL DISTRICT PROJECTS</u></b>		
Camp Baber	\$ 30,580	\$ 33,360
Reid Center	40,032	40,032
Mother Bethel	33,360	33,360
Total	<u>103,972</u>	<u>106,752</u>
<b><u>GENERAL CONFERENCE</u></b>	<u>7,816,189</u>	<u>861,543</u>
<b><u>DEBT RETIREMENT</u></b>	<u>21,004</u>	<u>262,935</u>
<b><u>ENDOWMENT</u></b>	<u>8,979</u>	<u>81,051</u>
<b><u>CONTINGENCY RESERVE</u></b>	<u>183,452</u>	<u>211,184</u>
<b><u>SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION</u></b>		
Salary	52,535	51,471
Administration and travel	29,003	28,450
Housing	13,920	13,635
Total	<u>95,458</u>	<u>93,556</u>
<b><u>GLOBAL WITNESS AND MINISTRIES</u></b>		
Salary	52,535	51,471
Stipend	106,740	106,740
Administration and travel	110,010	108,758
Total	<u>269,285</u>	<u>266,969</u>
<b><u>RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIPS</u></b>		
Salary	52,535	51,471
Administration and travel	89,471	83,879
Housing	13,920	13,635
Total	<u>155,926</u>	<u>148,985</u>
<b><u>ANNUITY INVESTMENTS AND INSURANCE</u></b>		
Salary	52,535	51,471
Administration and travel	82,379	81,842
Housing	13,920	13,619
Total	<u>148,834</u>	<u>146,932</u>

(continued)  
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**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT**  
**SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES (CONTINUED)**  
**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**  
**(WITH COMPARATIVE TOTALS FOR 2016)**

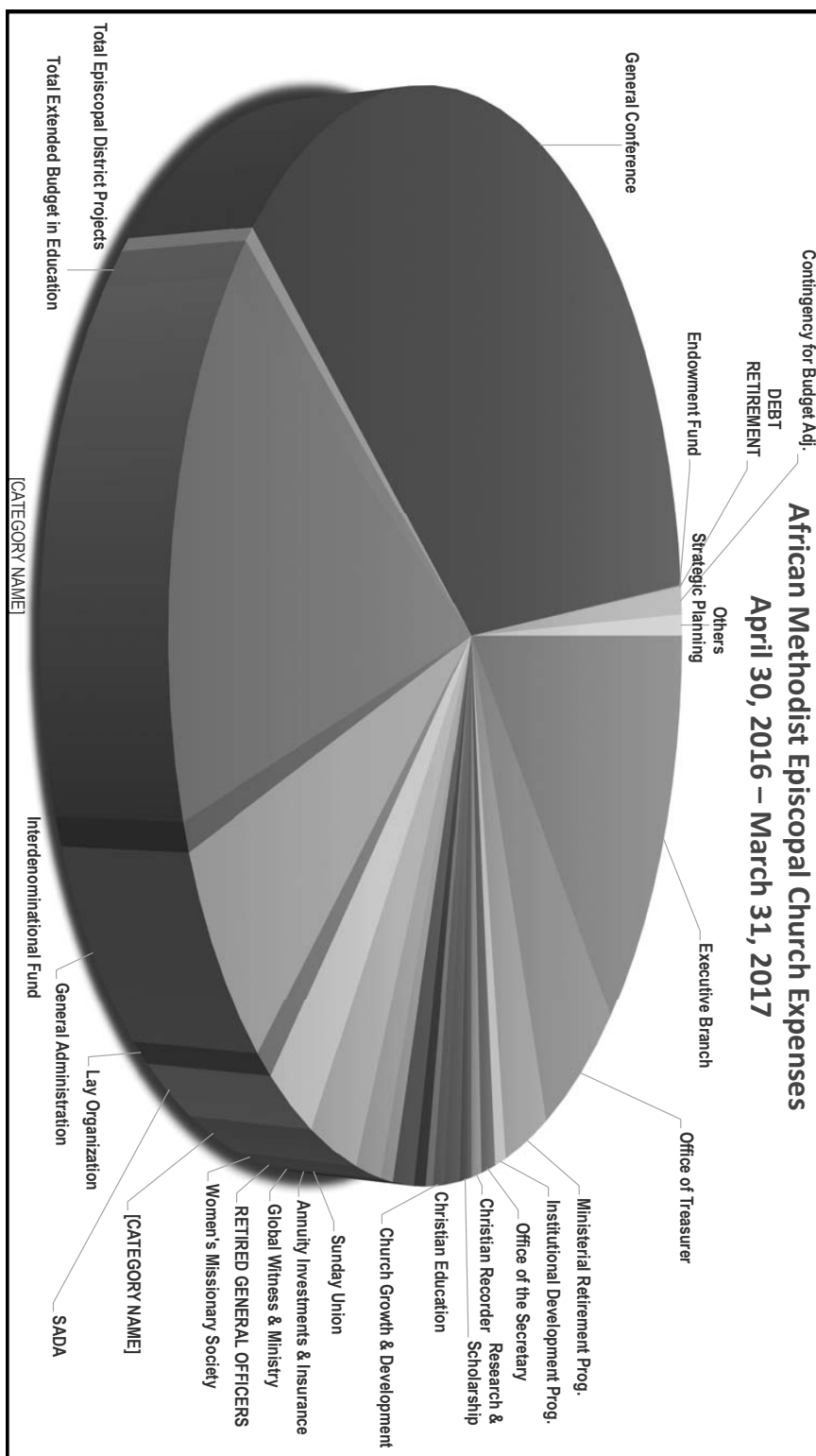
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b><u>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FUND</u></b>		
Salary	\$ 52,535	\$ 51,471
Administration and travel	134,749	134,518
Housing	13,940	13,635
Curriculum Uniform Services	<u>4,803</u>	<u>4,803</u>
Total	<u>206,027</u>	<u>204,427</u>
<b><u>CHURCH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT</u></b>		
Salary	52,535	51,471
Administration and travel	84,271	83,418
Housing	<u>13,920</u>	<u>13,639</u>
Total	<u>150,726</u>	<u>148,528</u>
<b><u>OTHER EXPENSES</u></b>		
Disaster Relief Fund-AMEC	37,095	-
Strategic planning	-	19
Haiti	-	34,995
Miscellaneous expenses	-	38,345
Becentennial Celebration	50,000	-
Global Dev. Council Mtg.	-	500
Miscellaneous donations	<u>95,395</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>182,490</u>	<u>73,859</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$ 21,295,771</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 14,618,298</u></b>

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT**  
**SCHEDULE OF GENERAL CONFERENCE DISTRICT FUNDS PAYMENTS**  
**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2017**

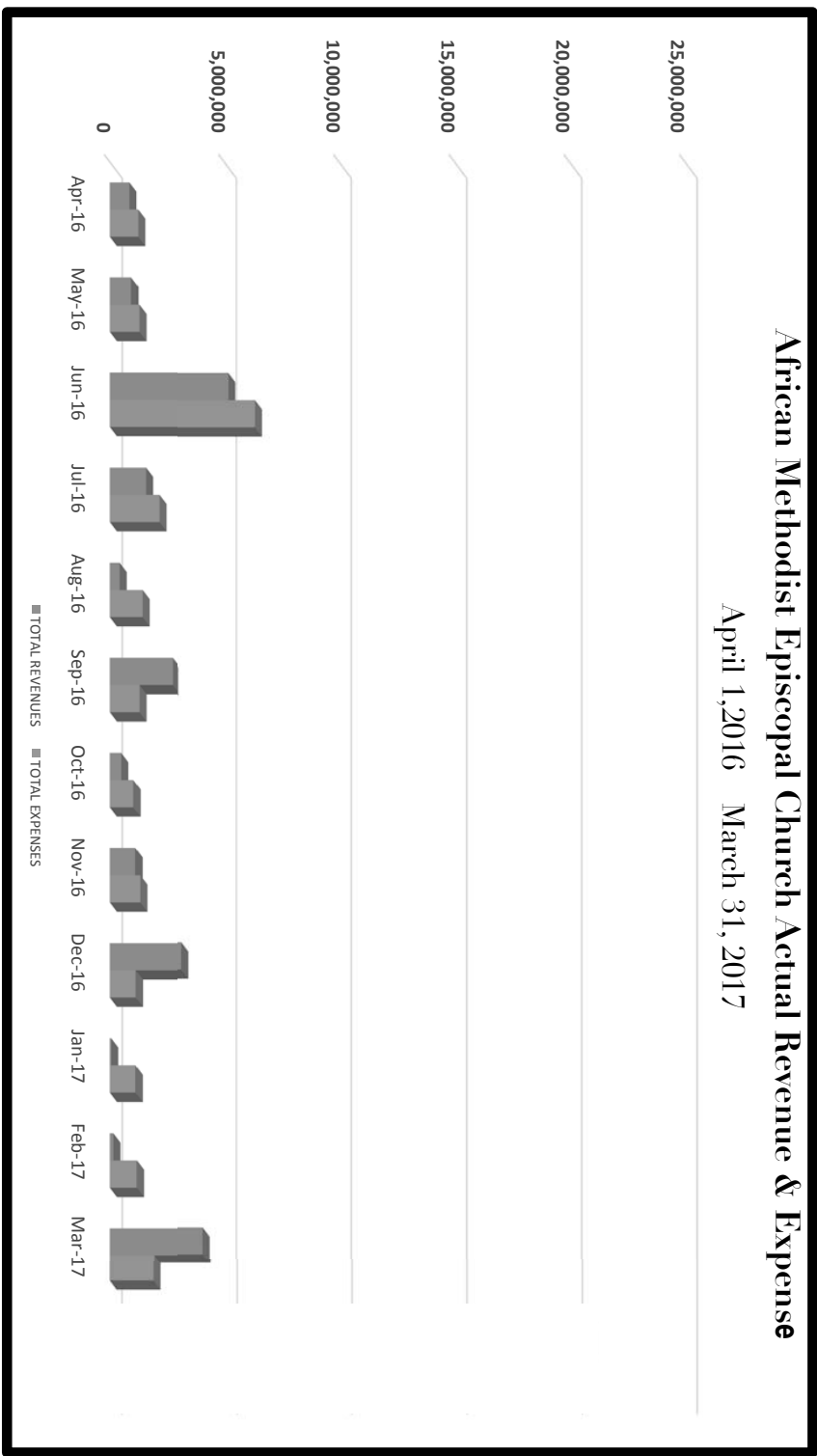
DISTRICT	31-Mar-17				31-Mar-18			
	Budget		Budget		Total Fiscal Year		Budget	
	Assessments for Fiscal Year 2017	Assessment Receivable	Deferred Revenue		2017 Amount Due	Cash Receipts	Assessments Receivable	Deferred Revenue
1 <sup>st</sup> District	\$ 1,988,662	-	1	\$	1,988,661	\$ 2,000,000	-	\$ 11,339
2 <sup>nd</sup> District	1,873,700	-	-		1,873,700	1,873,754	-	54
3 <sup>rd</sup> District	665,943	-	2		665,941	665,974	-	33
4 <sup>th</sup> District	1,265,290	-	6		1,265,284	1,265,284	-	-
5 <sup>th</sup> District	1,430,377	-	-		1,430,377	1,430,084	-	(293)
6 <sup>th</sup> District	1,397,089	-	-		1,397,089	1,397,091	-	2
7 <sup>th</sup> District	1,329,814	-	-		1,329,814	1,662,267	-	332,453
8 <sup>th</sup> District	427,342	-	-		427,342	428,000	-	658
9 <sup>th</sup> District	595,496	-	126		595,370	744,370	-	149,000
10 <sup>th</sup> District	854,851	-	6		854,845	854,852	-	7
11 <sup>th</sup> District	1,563,129	-	780		1,562,349	1,562,349	-	-
12 <sup>th</sup> District	466,286	-	4		466,282	466,288	-	6
13 <sup>th</sup> District	472,882	-	2		472,880	472,876	-	(4)
14 <sup>th</sup> District	2,000	-	11,100		(9,100)	-	-	9,100
15 <sup>th</sup> District	15,000	-	15,000		-	-	-	-
16 <sup>th</sup> District	2,000	-	-		2,000	2,000	-	-
17 <sup>th</sup> District	7,000	-	-		7,000	7,000	-	-
18 <sup>th</sup> District	7,000	-	-		7,000	7,000	-	-
19 <sup>th</sup> District	18,000	-	-		18,000	18,000	-	-
20 <sup>th</sup> District	2,000	-	-		2,000	2,000	-	-
Total	\$ 14,383,861	\$ -	27,027	\$	14,356,834	\$ 14,859,190	\$ -	\$ 502,356



See Independent Auditor's Report on Supplementary Information









AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL WITNESS AND MINISTRY  
(A Nonprofit Organization)  
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
MARCH 31, 2017 and 2016

Rodney Brown & Company  
Certified Public Accountants  
Chicago – Calumet City, IL



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL WITNESS & MINISTRY**

(A Nonprofit Organization)

**INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**MARCH 31, 2017**

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**Rodney Brown & Company**

Certified Public Accountants  
495 Burnham Avenue  
Calumet City, IL 60409  
708-933-0231 & 708-670-1394  
Fax: 708-801-9366

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Dr. George F. Flowers and the General Board  
AMEC Department of Global Witness and Ministry  
1587 Savannah Highway  
Charleston, South Carolina

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of African Methodist Episcopal Church Department of Global Witness and Ministry (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of March 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of African Methodist Episcopal Church Department of Global Witness and Ministry as of March 31, 2017 and 2016, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Rodney Brown & Company

*Rodney Brown and Company*

Calumet City, IL. 60409  
May 26, 2017



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL WITNESS AND MINISTRY**  
 (A Nonprofit Organization)  
 Statement of Financial Position  
 As of March 31, 2017 and 2016

<u><b>ASSETS</b></u>	<u><b>2017</b></u>	<u><b>2016</b></u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash	\$128,533	\$128,809
Temporarily restricted checking	3,537	4,216
Interest receivable	250	250
Total Current Assets	132,320	133,275
<u>Property and Equipment</u>		
Furniture & Equipment	12,000	12,000
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(12,000)	(12,000)
Total Property and Equipment	--	--
<u>Other Assets</u>		
Endowment CD's and savings accounts (Notes 3, 4)	232,405	221,827
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 364,725</b>	<b>\$ 355,102</b>
<u><b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b></u>		
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accounts payable	\$ 9,841	\$ 1,000
Due to others	301	982
Total Current Liabilities	10,142	1,982
Total Liabilities	10,142	1,982
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Unrestricted	122,078	130,995
Permanently Restricted (Notes 3, 4)	232,505	222,125
Total Net Assets	354,583	353,120
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 364,725</b>	<b>\$ 355,102</b>

See Notes to Financial Statements





# **DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL WITNESS AND MINISTRY**

(A Nonprofit Organization)

Statement of Activities

For the year ended March 31, 2017

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</u></b>				
Connectional Allocations	\$	\$153,432	\$	\$153,432
In-Kind Support (Note 5)		178,069		178,069
Subscriptions	70,825			70,825
Interest income	199		408	607
Endowment contributions			9,972	9,972
Net Assets Released from restrictions	<u>153,432</u>	<u>(153,432)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
Total Revenue and Support	\$224,456	\$178,069	10,380	\$412,905
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>				
Mission Stipends	\$ 66,871	\$	\$	\$ 66,871
Missions work	36,941			36,941
In-kind mission work (Note 5)		178,069		178,069
Relief efforts	5,000			5,000
Administrative assistant	9,600			9,600
Editors & writers	8,200			8,200
Printing	35,000			35,000
Fringe benefits	9,359			9,359
Travel & conferences	11,893			11,893
Rent	16,200			16,200
Telephone	5,985			5,985

(Continued on Next Page)

See Notes to Financial Statements



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL WITNESS AND MINISTRY**  
 (A Nonprofit Organization)  
 Statement of Activities  
 For the year ended March 31, 2017

(Continued)

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Insurance	3,235			3,235
Office expenses	1,792			1,792
Accounting	6,000			6,000
Promotion & advertising	2,945			2,945
Information technology	2,941			2,941
Miscellaneous other cost	2,223			2,223
Contributions	3,333			3,333
Dues	<u>5,855</u>			<u>5,855</u>
 Total expenses	 \$ 233,373	 \$ 178,069	 \$ ----	 \$ 411,442
 (Decrease)/Increase in net assets	 \$ ( 8,917)	 \$ --	 \$ 10,380	 \$ 1,463
Net Assets – April 1, 2016	<u>\$ 130,995</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$222,125</u>	<u>\$ 353,120</u>
 Net Assets- March 31, 2017	 <u>\$ 122,078</u>	 <u>--</u>	 <u>\$232,505</u>	 \$ <u>354,583</u>

See Notes to Financial Statement



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL WITNESS AND MINISTRY**  
 (A Nonprofit Organization)  
 Statement of Activities  
 For the year ended March 31, 2016

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</u></b>				
Connectional Allocations	\$	\$153,432	\$	\$153,432
In-Kind Support (Note 5)		128,440		128,440
Subscriptions	68,650			68,650
Relief revenue	10,000			10,000
Other revenue	263			263
Interest income	11		600	611
Endowment contributions		6,500	2,915	9,415
Net Assets Released from restrictions	<u>153,432</u>	<u>(153,432)</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
Total Revenue and Support	\$232,356	\$134,940	3,515	\$370,811
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>				
Mission Stipends	\$ 74,662	\$	\$	\$ 74,662
Missions work	21,426			21,426
In-kind mission work (Note 5)		128,440		128,440
Various relief efforts		6,500		6,500
Administrative assistant	9,700			9,700
Editors & writers	4,800			4,800
Honorarium	1,000			1,000
Printing	30,017			30,017
Fringe benefits	9,273			9,273
Travel & conferences	11,275			11,275
Rent	16,200			16,200

(Continued on Next Page)

See Notes to Financial Statements



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL WITNESS AND MINISTRY**  
 (A Nonprofit Organization)  
 Statement of Activities  
 For the year ended March 31, 2016

(Continued)

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Telephone	5,077			5,077
Insurance	2,302			2,302
Office expenses	3,630			3,630
Accounting	5,750			5,750
Promotion & advertising	5,555			5,555
Contributions	4,564			4,564
Dues	4,405			4,405
Information technology	430			430
Other cost	<u>1,637</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>1,637</u>
Total expenses	\$ 211,703	\$134,990	\$ ----	\$ 346,643
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$ 20,653	\$ --	\$ 3,515	\$ 24,168
Net Assets – April 1, 2015	<u>\$110,342</u>	<u>\$ --</u>	<u>\$218,610</u>	<u>\$328,952</u>
Net Assets- March 31, 2016	<u>\$ 130,995</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>\$222,125</u>	<u>\$353,120</u>

See Notes to Financial Statement



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL WITNESS AND MINISTRY**  
(A Nonprofit Organization)  
Statement of Cash Flows  
For the year ended March 31, 2017 and 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b><u>Cash flows from operating activities</u></b>		
Increase/(decrease) in net assets	\$ 1,463	\$ 24,168
Increase /(decrease) in accounts payable	8,841	----
(Decrease)/increase in due to others	<u>(681)</u>	<u>(13,687)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	\$ <u>9,623</u>	\$ <u>10,481</u>
<b><u>Cash flows from investing activities</u></b>		
Increase in endowments	\$ <u>(10,577)</u>	\$ ( 3,515)
Net cash (used) for investing activities	<u>(10,577)</u>	<u>( 3,515)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash	\$ ( 954)	\$ 6,966
Cash- Beginning of period	\$ <u>133,024</u>	\$ <u>126,058</u>
Cash- End of period	\$ <u>132,070</u>	\$ <u>133,024</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements





**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL WITNESS AND MINISTRY**  
(A Nonprofit Organization)  
Notes to Financial Statements  
March 31, 2017

**NOTE 1- SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The Department of Global Witness and Ministry

The African Methodist Episcopal Church Department of Global Witness and Ministry is a nonprofit organization through its initiatives and programs pursue a Global mission in ministry, witness and gospel proclamation. The Department of Global Witness falls under the umbrella of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and carries on its mission in the name of the Church. The Church provided connectional allocations to the Department in the amount of \$153,432 and \$153,432 for the years ending March 31, 2017 and March 31, 2016 respectively. The Department of Global Witness and Ministry strives to keep alive, vibrant and growing the good news of Christ Jesus throughout the world by word, deed and sign. The Department of Global Witness and Ministry also print a quarterly mission magazine titled "The Voice of Missions". The Organization is exempt from income taxes.

Basis of Accounting

The Department of Global Witness and Ministry financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Sales are recognized when a sale is made. Expenses are recognized in the period in which the related liability is incurred.

Promises to Give

Contributions are recognized when the donor makes a promise to give to the Organization that is, in substance, unconditional. Contributions that are restricted by the donor are reported as increases in unrestricted net assets if the restrictions expire in the fiscal year in which the contributions are recognized. All other donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in temporarily or permanently restricted net assets depending on the nature of the restrictions. When a restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets.

Contributions

Contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted net assets depending on the existence or nature of any donor or management restrictions.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the use of management's estimates.



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL WITNESS AND MINISTRY**  
(A Nonprofit Organization)  
Notes to Financial Statements  
March 31, 2017

Cash and cash equivalents

The Department considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. Cash and cash equivalents for purposes of the statement of cash flows include permanently restricted cash and cash equivalents.

Financial Statement Presentation

The Organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets.

Property and equipment

Property and equipment are capitalized at cost. Depreciation is computed using the straight line method of depreciation over the estimated life of the asset. Furniture and equipment costing greater than \$1,000 are capitalized; items costing less than \$1,000 are expensed. Items are depreciated between three and five years, depending on their estimated useful life.

Subsequent events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through May 26, 2017, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. Events occurring after that date have not been evaluated to determine whether a change in financial statements would be required.

**NOTE 2- LEASES**

The Department entered into a lease arrangement for two years for the period beginning November 1, 2014 and ending October 31, 2016 to lease office space at \$1,350 per month. The lease has matured and the department continues to rent space on a month to month basis at \$1,350 per month.

2018	1,350
Total Future minimum lease payments	<u>\$ 1,350</u>



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL WITNESS AND MINISTRY**  
(A Nonprofit Organization)  
Notes to Financial Statements  
March 31, 2017

**NOTE 3- RESTRICTED NET ASSETS**

The entire amount classified as restricted net assets are related to funds raised for an endowment to be used for missionary purposes. Management has restricted these assets for the purpose that the funds were raised for. Any earnings on these assets are restricted at this time.

**NOTE 4- ENDOWMENT**

The current executive director of the Department of Global Witness and Ministry organized a campaign to establish an endowment for the Department in 2001. Parishioners, family, friends and mission supporters were asked to contribute to the endowment. The Voice of Missions also contributed to the endowment fund. The endowment is to be everlasting, eternal and irrevocable. Donors were informed that the endowment will be used when a natural or human disaster occurs on the mission field internationally or domestically. No executive director of the Department of Global Witness and Ministry, bishops of the executive branch, treasurer of the Church, general officers or the general board will be able to spend, borrow or use monies of the endowment fund of the Department of Global Witness and Ministry until a proposed principal level is obtained. Once the proposed principal level is obtained, investment income earned by the endowment shall be used for its intended purpose. Earnings received by the endowment certificates of deposits are reinvested until the proposed principal level is obtained. The balance in the endowment certificates of deposit and savings account and the restricted net assets represent donations received since the inception of the endowment in 2001 and earnings on those donations. None of the endowment funds have been expended since its inception. The endowment funds are invested in certificates of deposit and a savings account at a local bank. The ending balance for endowment CD's and savings as of March 31, 2017 and 2016 was \$232,405 and \$221,827, respectively.

**NOTE 5 – IN-KIND SUPPORT AND EXPENSE**

The Department of Global Witness and Ministry work with various organizations and companies to provide commodities, goods and services to places in the world in need of these goods and services. The amount presented in the financial statements, represent the amount recorded as in kind revenue by the Department, this exact amount is recorded as in kind expenses.



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL WITNESS AND MINISTRY**  
 (A Nonprofit Organization)  
 Notes to Financial Statements  
 March 31, 2017

**NOTE 6- FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

The AMEC's Department of Global Witness and Ministry financial assets are measured at fair value on a recurring basis at March 31, 2017 consistent with the fair value hierarchy provisions of FASB ASC 820-10

	<u>Fair Value Measurement at Reportable Date Using</u>		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identifiable Asset (Level1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level2)	2017 Total
<u>Unrestricted</u>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 128,533		\$ 128,533
<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,537		\$ 3,537
<u>Permanently Restricted</u>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 44,970		\$ 44,970
Certificates of Deposit	\$ --	\$ 187,435	\$ 187,435
Total Fair Value	\$ <u>177,040</u>	\$ <u>187,435</u>	\$ <u>364,475</u>



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES**  
**(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)**  
**AUDIT REPORT**  
**March 31, 2017 and 2016**

Rodney Brown & Company  
Certified Public Accountants  
Chicago-Calumet City, IL





AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

March 31, 2017 and 2016

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### **Rodney Brown & Company**

Certified Public Accountants

495 Burnham Avenue

Calumet City, IL 60409

708-933-0231 & 708-670-1394

Fax: 708-801-9366

Dr. Jerome Harris and the Commission of Bishops  
AMEC Department of Retirement Services  
280 Hernando Street  
Memphis, Tennessee

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of African Methodist Episcopal Church Department of Retirement Services (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of March 31, 2016 and 2015 and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

#### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of African Methodist Episcopal Church Department of Retirement Services as of March 31, 2016 and 2015, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Rodney Brown & Company

Calumet City, IL 60409

May 5, 2016



DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2017 and 2016

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash	\$ 997,688	\$1,080,798
Funds held by property manager	16,921	24,725
Annuity hardship receivable	10,440	---
Total Current Assets	<u>1,025,049</u>	<u>1,105,523</u>
<u>Property, plant and equipment</u>	<u>336,481</u>	<u>375,710</u>
<u>Other Assets</u>		
License agreement	75,000	75,000
Less: agreement amortization	<u>(48,750)</u>	<u>(45,000)</u>
Net license agreement	26,250	30,000
Other investments and receivables	<u>538,956</u>	<u>348,496</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>565,206</u>	<u>378,496</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ <u>1,926,736</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>1,859,729</u></b>
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Payroll taxes payable	\$ 7,516	\$ 3,005
Accounts payable	10,105	11,110
Annuities and premiums to be remitted	<u>909,094</u>	<u>991,053</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>926,715</u>	<u>1,005,168</u>
Net Assets- Unrestricted	<u>1,000,021</u>	<u>854,561</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ <u>1,926,736</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>1,859,729</u></b>

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to the financial statements



DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY AND CHANGES IN NET ASSET  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

For the Year Ended March 31, 2017

**PAGE 1 OF 2**

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</u></b>			
AMEC General Budget Support	\$ ----	\$ 53,451	\$ 53,451
Annuity and insurance payments received		7,710,343	7,710,343
Rental income	39,610	---	39,610
Investment earnings	13,369	---	13,369
Administrative revenue	650,000	---	650,000
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>7,763,794</u>	<u>(7,763,794)</u>	<u>--</u>
Total Revenue and support	<u>8,466,773</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>8,466,773</u>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>			
Annuity and insurance payments made	7,695,323	---	7,695,323
Salaries and wages	160,500	---	160,500
Payroll taxes	9,754	---	9,754
Leased equipment	4,613	---	4,613
Insurance	13,917	---	13,917
Travel and conferences	83,758	---	83,758
Bank charges	962	---	962
Information technology	18,000	---	18,000
Legal and accounting	20,940	---	20,940
Postage and delivery	11,590	---	11,590
Office supplies and expense	44,678	---	44,678
Donations	6,075	---	6,075
Telephone	19,341	---	19,341
Honorariums	50,000	---	50,000
Professional fees	25,000	---	25,000

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to the financial statements



DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY AND CHANGES IN NET ASSET  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

For the Year Ended March 31, 2017

PAGE 2 of 2

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
<b><u>EXPENSES (Continued)</u></b>			
Depreciation and amortization	\$ 42,979	\$ ---	\$ 42,979
Building security	41,304	---	41,304
Building insurance	8,910	---	8,910
Building repairs and maintenance	30,943	---	30,943
Utilities	19,941	---	19,941
Real estate and city taxes	10,701	---	10,701
Building management	2,084		2,084
Total Expenses	<u>8,321,313</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>8,321,313</u>
Change in net assets	145,460		145,460
Net Assets- Beginning of period	<u>854,561</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>854,561</u>
<b>NET ASSETS- END OF PERIOD</b>	<b>\$ <u>1,000,021</u></b>	<b><u>          </u></b>	<b>\$ <u>1,000,021</u></b>

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to the financial statements





**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES**  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY AND CHANGES IN NET ASSET**  
**(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)**

For the Year Ended March 31, 2016

**PAGE 1 OF 2**

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</u></b>			
AMEC General Budget Support	\$ ----	\$ 58,107	\$ 58,107
Annuity and insurance payments received		7,857,888	7,857,888
Rental income	21,084	---	21,084
Interest income	72	---	72
Administrative revenue	790,529	---	790,529
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>7,915,995</u>	<u>(7,915,995)</u>	<u>--</u>
Total Revenue and support	<u>8,727,680</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>8,727,680</u>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>			
Annuity and insurance payments made	7,734,414	---	7,734,414
Salaries and wages	162,058	---	162,058
Payroll taxes	9,567	---	9,567
Leased equipment	4,613	---	4,613
Insurance	20,906	---	20,906
Travel and conferences	62,203	---	62,203
Bank charges	3,114	---	3,114
Information technology	27,250	---	27,250
Legal and accounting	15,500	---	15,500
Postage and delivery	5,499	---	5,499
Office supplies and expense	34,221	---	34,221
Donations	24,770	---	24,770
Telephone	21,378	---	21,378
Other expenses	378	---	378
Honorariums	24,200	---	24,200
Dues and subscriptions	2,753	---	2,753
Professional fees	100,000	---	100,000
Fines and penalties	354	---	354

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to the financial statements



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY AND CHANGES IN NET ASSET  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

For the Year Ended March 31, 2016

**PAGE 2 of 2**

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>EXPENSES (Continued)</u></b>			
Depreciation and amortization	\$ 48,983	\$ ---	\$ 48,983
Building security	36,269	---	36,269
Building insurance	8,972	---	8,972
Building repairs and maintenance	31,152	---	31,152
Utilities	21,052	---	21,052
Real estate and city taxes	10,656	---	10,656
Building management	<u>1,044</u>		<u>1,044</u>
Total Expenses	<u>8,411,306</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>8,411,306</u>
Change in net assets from operations	316,374		316,374
Write-off receivables	<u>386,408</u>		<u>386,408</u>
Change in net assets	(70,034)		(70,034)
Net Assets- Beginning of period	<u>924,595</u>		<u>924,595</u>
<b>NET ASSETS- END OF PERIOD</b>	<u>\$ 854,561</u>		<u>\$ 854,561</u>

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to the financial statements



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES**  
**(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

March 31, 2017 and 2016

<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Changes in net assets	\$ 145,460	\$ ( 70,034)
Adjustments to reconcile net assets to net cash		
Depreciation	42,979	48,983
(Decrease) Increase in payables	3,506	167
(Decrease) Increase premiums to be remitted	( 81,959)	( 750,319)
Increase in other assets and receivables	<u>( 2,636)</u>	<u>91,981</u>
Net cash flows from (used by) operating activities	<u>107,350</u>	<u>(679,222)</u>
 <b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net (increase) in other investments/assets	(190,460)	---
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	<u>---</u>	<u>( 5,894)</u>
Net cash flows (used by) investing activities	<u>(190,460)</u>	<u>( 5,894)</u>
 Net (decrease)increase in cash and cash equivalents	( 83,110)	( 685,116)
Cash at beginning of the period	<u>1,080,798</u>	<u>1,765,914</u>
 <b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD</b>	 <u>\$ 997,688</u>	 <u>\$ 1,108,798</u>

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to the financial statements



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

March 31, 2017 and 2016

NOTE 1- ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE

The Department of Retirement Services of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (f/k/a the Department of Annuity Investments and Insurance) is a not-for-profit organization incorporated on October 5, 1964. The purpose of the Organization was to administer the ministerial annuity and group life insurance plans on behalf of the Connectional Church. At the 46<sup>th</sup> quadrennial session of the general conference held in Cincinnati, Ohio in 2000: the responsibilities of administering the Connectional Stewardship Program was added to the responsibilities of the department which also functions as the primary source of human resources information for the Church on a limited basis.

At the Bishops Council/ General Board meeting held in Kingston, Jamaica in June 2013, the name of the department was changed to its current name as the Department of Retirement Services. Previous names used by the department were the Pension Department, Department of Employee Security and the Department of Annuity, Investments and Insurance.

The Department receives revenue from the thirteen Episcopal districts of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Department receives a 2% commission from annuity premiums received, no commission is received from life insurance premiums collected or additional voluntary annuity contributions. This 2% commission is used to partially fund the operations of the Department. The majority of the operating revenue is obtained from Symetra Financial and Retirement Services Company. Symetra Financial and Retirement Services Company (f/k/a Safeco Insurance Company) is the investment company that annuities are purchased through. The group life insurance plan as of March 31, 2017 was underwritten through the Principal Life Insurance Company.

As of March 31, 2017 and 2016, the total account balances of annuities held and invested on behalf of the clergy servants and full time employees of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was \$119,801,000 and \$117,522,000 respectively.



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

March 31, 2017 and 2016

NOTE 2- SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Property and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost and include expenditures that materially increase the life of the related assets. Maintenance, repairs and minor renewals are charged to expense. When assets are sold or retired, the related cost and accumulated depreciation are removed from the accounts and any gains or losses are reflected in income. Items costing less than \$1,000 are expensed.

b) Marketable Securities

The Organization held no marketable securities in their name as of March 31, 2017.

c) Cash and cash equivalents

All liquid investments with a maturity of less than six months of less when purchased are considered to be cash equivalents.

d) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that effect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

e) Financial statement presentation

The financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenue is recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when the expense is incurred. The Organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets and permanently restricted net assets.

f) Cash in excess of FDIC limits

During the current fiscal year, the Organization maintained cash balances in excess of the FDIC insurance limits.





AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

March 31, 2017 and 2016

NOTE 2- SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

g) Subsequent events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through April 21, 2017, which is the date the financial statement were available to be issued. Events occurring after that date have not been evaluated to determine whether a change in financial statements would be required.

h) The Organization is affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church and is exempt from income taxes.

NOTE 3- PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

The following is a summary of property, plant and equipment at cost, less accumulated depreciation:

<u>Description</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Estimated Life</u>
Building	\$ 336,500	\$ 336,500	30 years
Building improvements	336,373	336,373	30 years
Leasehold improvements	95,964	95,964	5 to 10 years
Furniture and equipment	261,848	261,848	5 to 10 years
Interactive software	<u>237,564</u>	<u>237,564</u>	10 years
Sub-total	\$ 1,268,249	\$1,268,249	
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>( 931,768)</u>	<u>( 892,539)</u>	
Net property plant and equipment	\$ <u>336,481</u>	\$ <u>375,710</u>	

The title to the building was quit claimed to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc. The African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc. has title, but the Department is allowed to continue to treat the property as if it is owned by the Department, this includes collecting rents, paying all expenses and using the property as it deems fit. The property is carried on the books at historical cost less accumulated depreciation.



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DEPARTMENT OF RETIREMENT SERVICES  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

March 31, 2017 and 2016

NOTE 4- OPERATING LEASE

The Department leases certain equipment under monthly operating leases. Lease expense for this equipment for the years ended March 31, 2017 and 2016 was \$4,613 and \$4,613, respectively. Future minimum lease payments are as follows:

March 2018	<u>\$1,044</u>
Total	<u>\$1,044</u>

NOTE 5- OTHER ANNUITY INVESTMENTS

The Department makes limited, short term investments on a guaranteed or secured basis from time to time in an effort to increase Plan earnings. The anticipated return on these investments is seven percent annualized. As of March 31, 2017 the amount invested in this short term investment totaled \$470,460. This investment matures December 31, 2018.

NOTE 6- WRITE OFF OF OTHER ASSETS

In prior years, the department management attempted to create additional nontraditional revenue streams to increase department revenue and provide financial support to the General Church. These efforts were identified as the Storehouse Stewardship Initiative and the Captive Insurance Company. The startup costs associated with these efforts have been collectively recognized as assets. These efforts have failed to be realized as profitable initiatives and the related amount of \$386,408 was written off during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016.



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION**

**(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)**

**AUDIT REPORT**

**March 31, 2017 and 2016**

Rodney Brown & Company  
Certified Public Accountants  
Chicago- Calumet City, IL



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

March 31, 2017 and 2016

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495 Burnham Avenue  
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Fax: 708-801-9366

#### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To Rev. Roderick D. Belin and the Publishing Board  
The African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Sunday School Union  
500 Eighth Avenue South  
Nashville, TN 37203

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of African Methodist Episcopal Church Sunday School Union (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of March 31, 2017 and March 31, 2016, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

#### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of African Methodist Episcopal Church Sunday School Union as of March 31, 2017 and March 31, 2016, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.





### **Other Matter**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The schedule of sales and cost of sales and the schedule of selling, general and administrative expenses on pages 13 and 14 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

*Rodney Brown and Company*

Rodney Brown and Company  
Calumet City, IL 60409  
May 5, 2017



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

March 31, 2017 and 2016

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash	\$ 41,713	\$ 39,453
Accounts receivable	49,537	87,201
Inventory	275,707	288,903
Prepaid expenses	<u>12,187</u>	<u>12,929</u>
Total Current Assets	379,144	428,486
Property, plant and equipment	<u>1,207,780</u>	<u>1,545,450</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ <u>1,586,924</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>1,973,936</u></b>
<u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>		
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accounts payable	\$ 231,390	\$ 109,521
Accrued expenses	67,543	63,835
Current maturities of long term debt	<u>326,149</u>	<u>321,680</u>
Total Current Liabilities	625,082	495,036
Long term debt	<u>--</u>	<u>81,253</u>
Total Liabilities	625,082	576,289
Net Assets- Unrestricted	<u>961,841</u>	<u>1,397,647</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ <u>1,586,923</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>1,973,936</u></b>

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to the financial statements



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

March 31, 2017 and 2016

	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<u>REVENUE</u>		
Literature and other sales	\$ 1,781,220	\$1,888,287
Rental income	79,340	66,534
Forgiveness on lease obligation	<u>-</u>	<u>103,130</u>
Total Revenue	<u>1,860,560</u>	<u>2,057,951</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Cost of sales	1,362,652	1,363,342
Selling, general and administrative expenses	922,147	949,249
Interest	<u>11,567</u>	<u>15,502</u>
Total Expenses	<u>2,296,366</u>	<u>2,328,093</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	( 435,806)	(270,142)
Net Assets- Beginning of period	<u>1,397,647</u>	<u>1,667,789</u>
NET ASSETS – END OF PERIOD	\$ <u>961,841</u>	\$ <u>1,397,647</u>

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to the financial statements



**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION**  
**(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

March 31, 2017 and 2016

<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Changes in net assets	\$ (435,806)	\$ (270,142)
Adjustments to reconcile net assets to net cash		
Depreciation	337,670	360,165
Decrease in accounts receivable	37,664	14,196
Decrease in inventory	13,196	43,194
Increase in accounts payable	121,869	38,997
Decrease in other assets	742	3,787
Increase/(decrease) in accrued expenses	<u>3,709</u>	<u>( 3,049)</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities	<u>79,044</u>	<u>187,148</u>
 <b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	<u>---</u>	<u>( 5,303)</u>
Net cash flows (used by) investing activities	<u>---</u>	<u>( 5,303)</u>
 <b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Incurrence of debt	118,000	190,000
Payment of maturing debt	<u>( 194,784)</u>	<u>(389,928)</u>
Net cash flows (used by) financing activities	<u>( 76,784)</u>	<u>(199,928)</u>
 Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	2,260	( 18,083)
Cash at beginning of the period	<u>39,453</u>	<u>57,536</u>
 <b>CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF PERIOD</b>	<b>\$ <u>41,713</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>39,453</u></b>

See independent auditor's report and accompanying notes to the financial statements



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

March 31, 2017 and 2016

NOTE 1- ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE

The Sunday School Union is a department of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The objectives of the department are to unite, strengthen and extend the Sunday school work of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; to provide ample and suitable literature for the Church; to aid the needy Sunday Schools thereof; to encourage holding of Sunday school conventions and institutes for the training of teachers. The Sunday School Union promotes the advancement of Christianity by disseminating religious knowledge in the form of books and periodicals through publishing, manufacturing and the distribution to both churches and lay persons. The main source of revenue is from the sale of books and periodicals.

NOTE 2- SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Property and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost and include expenditures that materially increase the life of the related assets. Maintenance, repairs and minor renewals are charged to expense. When assets are sold or retired, the related cost and accumulated depreciation are removed from the accounts and any gains or losses are reflected in income. Items costing less than \$1,000 are expensed.

The title to the building was quit claimed to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc. The African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc. (parent organization), has title, but the Department is allowed to continue to treat the property as it is owned by the Department, this includes collecting rents, paying all expenses and using the property as it deems fit. The property is carried on the books of the Department at historical cost. Depreciation of property, plant and equipment is provided over the estimated lives of the depreciable assets using the straight line method. For the year ending March 31, 2017 and 2016, the Sunday School Union expensed \$337,670 and \$360,165, respectively, in amortization and depreciation.

b) Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market (first-in, first-out method) for goods and materials purchased from others. Inventories of finished goods produced by the Sunday School Union are priced at 50% of estimated retail value, which approximates cost (first-in, first- out method).





AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

March 31, 2017 and 2016

NOTE 2- SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

c) Marketable Securities

The Organization had no marketable securities for the years ending March 31, 2017 and March 31, 2016.

d) Cash and cash equivalents

All liquid investments with a maturity of less than six months of less when purchased are considered to be cash equivalents.

Interest paid on the cash basis was \$11,567 for the year ending March 31, 2017 and \$15,502 for the year ending March 31, 2016.

e) Accounts receivable

Accounts receivable are stated net of an allowance for doubtful accounts.

f) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that effect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

g) Financial statement presentation

The financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Revenue is recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when the expense is incurred. The Organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets and permanently restricted net assets.

h) Cash in excess of FDIC limits

During the current fiscal year, the Organization maintained cash balances in excess of the FDIC insurance limits.



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

March 31, 2017 and 2016

NOTE 2- SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

i) Subsequent events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through May 5, 2017, which is the date the financial statement were available to be issued. Events occurring after that date have not been evaluated to determine whether a change in financial statements would be required.

j) The Organization is affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church and is exempt from income taxes.

NOTE 3- PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

The following is a summary of property, plant and equipment at cost, less accumulated depreciation:

<u>Description</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Estimated Life</u>
Land	\$ 190,386	\$ 190,386	-----
Building and improvements	1,720,236	1,720,236	10 to 50 years
Machinery and equipment	3,050,408	3,050,408	3 to 15 years
Office furniture	166,912	166,912	5 to 10 years
Capitalized leased equipment	<u>1,078,365</u>	<u>1,078,365</u>	3 to 15 years
Sub-total	\$ 6,206,307	\$6,206,307	
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(4,998,527)</u>	<u>(4,660,857)</u>	
Net property plant and equipment	<u>\$1,207,780</u>	<u>\$1,545,450</u>	

The title to the building was quit claimed to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc. The African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc. (affiliated organization) has title, but the Department is allowed to continue to treat the property as if it is solely owned by the Department. This includes collecting rents, paying all expenses and using the property as it deems fit. The property is carried on the books of the Department at historical cost less accumulated depreciation.



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

March 31, 2017 and 2016

NOTE 4- LOANS AND CAPITAL LEASES

The following is a summary of loans and capital leases outstanding at fiscal year end:

<u>Description</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
A short term loan settlement made to pay-off the two leases. The equipment was returned and the outstanding lease balances of \$223,130 was settled for a total of \$120,000. The payment terms were \$10,000 per month for twelve months beginning September 2015.	----	\$ 50,000
A commercial loan with a local bank dated February 25, 2013. The interest rate is 4.5% and the loan term is five years. Monthly interest and principal payments are \$7,544. The loan is secured by printing equipment.	81,222	166,047
A unsecured line of credit with a local bank. The total credit line available is a maximum of \$100,000 with an annual interest rate of 6%. The total amount outstanding is classified as a current liability.	89,938	86,886
A unsecured loan from the African Methodist Episcopal Church Inc. No interest rate is specified. The total amount outstanding is classified as a current liability.	154,989	100,000
Sub-total	\$326,149	\$402,933
Less: Current maturities	<u>326,149</u>	<u>321,680</u>
LONG-TERM DEBT OUTSTANDING	<u>\$ ---</u>	<u>\$ 81,253</u>



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)

March 31, 2017 and 2016

NOTE 4- LOANS AND CAPITAL LEASES (Continued)

The following are required lease/loan payments for the next five years:

March 31, 2018	\$ 326,149
March 31, 2019-22	---
Total payments	<u>\$ 326,149</u>



## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION





AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)  
SCHEDULE OF SALES AND COST OF SALES

March 31, 2017 and 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<b><u>Sales</u></b>		
Literature sales	\$ 1,421,020	\$ 1,545,845
Other sales	<u>360,200</u>	<u>342,442</u>
Total Sales	<u>\$ 1,781,220</u>	<u>\$ 1,888,287</u>
<b><u>Cost of Sales</u></b>		
Beginning inventory	288,903	332,097
Purchases; materials, supplies & finished goods	312,046	312,424
Direct labor	547,739	554,360
Machinery repairs and maintenance	123,151	91,461
Utilities	57,236	63,206
Factory expenses	10,033	9,923
Freight and postage	<u>298,891</u>	<u>288,774</u>
Less: Ending inventory	<u>275,707</u>	<u>288,903</u>
Cost of Sales	<u>1,362,652</u>	<u>1,363,342</u>
Gross Profit from sales	<u>\$ 418,568</u>	<u>\$ 524,945</u>



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION  
(A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION)  
SCHEDULE OF SELLING, GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

March 31, 2017 and 2016

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Health insurance and fringe benefits	\$ 207,119	\$ 189,454
Donations	350	1,150
Payroll taxes	37,332	40,093
Depreciation expense	337,670	360,165
General insurance	9,255	15,652
Office supplies and expense	57,199	57,296
Meetings, conferences, committees and travel	45,053	34,565
Professional fees	15,500	15,000
Taxes and licenses	51,679	72,196
Telephone	22,899	23,488
Dues and subscriptions	3,061	3,001
Building repairs and maintenance	29,606	34,168
Promotions and advertising	79,294	64,465
Payroll processing and bank fees	12,230	11,626
Vehicle expenses	3,929	1,257
Good and welfare	4,314	18,194
Commissions	---	5,336
Leased equipment	<u>5,657</u>	<u>2,143</u>
 Total	 \$ <u>922,147</u>	 \$ <u>949,249</u>



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
(A Nonprofit Organization)  
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
MARCH 31, 2017 & 2016

Rodney Brown & Company  
Certified Public Accountants  
Chicago – Calumet City, IL



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

(A Nonprofit Organization)

### INDEX TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH 31, 2017 and 2016

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## **Rodney Brown & Company**

Certified Public Accountants  
495 Burnham Avenue  
Calumet City, IL 60409  
708-933-0231 & 708-670-1394  
Fax: 708-801-9366

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Rev. Garland F. Pierce  
Executive Director  
AMEC Christian Education Department  
500 Eighth Avenue South  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of African Methodist Episcopal Church Christian Education Department (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of March 31, 2017 and 2016 and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

#### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of African Methodist Episcopal Church Christian Education Department as of March 31, 2017 and 2016, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Rodney Brown & Company  
*Rodney Brown and Company*

Calumet City, IL 60409  
May 5, 2017



**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**  
(A Nonprofit Organization)  
Statement of Financial Position  
As of March 31, 2017 and 2016

**ASSETS**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Cash	\$ 60,375	\$69,835
Due from others	---	4,803
Total Current Assets	60,375	74,638
<u>Property and Equipment</u>		
Equipment	7,284	7,284
Leasehold improvements	4,307	4,307
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(11,591)	(11,591)
Total Property and Equipment	-0-	-0-
<u>Other Assets</u>		
Restricted cash	---	74,638
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 60,375</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 74,638</u></b>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Accounts payable	\$ --	\$ --
Total Current Liabilities	--	---
Total Liabilities	---	---
<u>Net Assets</u>		
Net Assets- Unrestricted	60,375	74,638
Total Net Assets	60,375	74,638
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 60,375</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 74,638</u></b>

See Notes to Financial Statements





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

(A Nonprofit Organization)

Statement of Activities

For the year ended March 31, 2017

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	Temporarily <u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</u></b>			
Subscription sales	\$ 68,351		\$ 68,351
Resource sales	<u>15,225</u>		<u>15,225</u>
Total Sales	83,576		83,576
<u>Cost of Sales</u>			
Material purchases	11,393		11,393
Resource development and related cost	21,603		21,603
Printing, postage and other cost	<u>45,481</u>		<u>45,481</u>
Cost of Sales	<u>78,477</u>		<u>78,477</u>
Gross profit from sales	5,099		5,099
Other Revenue and support			
General Budget revenue		110,871	110,871
Offerings	2,894		2,894
Registration fees and conferences		39,856	39,856
Other revenue	<u>12</u>		<u>12</u>
 TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	 \$ 8,005	 \$150,727	 \$158,732

See Notes to Financial Statements



**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**  
 (A Nonprofit Organization)  
 Statement of Activities  
 For the year ended March 31, 2017

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</u></b>			
Salaries and editor	\$ 22,525		\$ 22,525
Adverting	475		475
Accounting services	5,750		5,750
Information and technology	10,358		10,358
Supplies	8,389		8,389
Utilities	6,002		6,002
Bank fees	133		133
Fringe benefits	5,490		5,490
Office supplies and expenses	1,095		1,095
Subscriptions and dues	1,500		1,500
Rent	10,540		10,540
Connection meeting expenses	31,996		31,996
Contributions	2,551		2,551
Consultants	4,725		4,725
Honorariums	13,200		13,200
Travel and conferences	14,616		14,616
Meetings	<u>      </u>	<u>33,650</u>	<u>33,650</u>
 TOTAL GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	 139,345	 33,650	 172,995
 Change in Net Assets	 (131,340)	 117,077	 (14,263)
 Net assets released from temporarily restricted	 117,077	 (117,077)	 ----
 Net Assets- Beginning of year	 <u>74,638</u>	 <u>      </u>	 <u>74,638</u>
 Net Assets- End of year	 <u>\$ 60,375</u>	 <u>----</u>	 <u>\$ 60,375</u>

See Notes to Financial Statement



**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**  
 (A Nonprofit Organization)  
 Statement of Activities  
 For the year ended March 31, 2016

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>REVENUE AND SUPPORT</u></b>			
Subscription sales	\$ 73,825		\$ 73,825
Resource sales	<u>3,127</u>		<u>3,127</u>
Total Sales	76,952		76,952
<b><u>Cost of Sales</u></b>			
Material purchases	2,915		2,915
Resource development and related cost	19,833		19,833
Printing cost and mailing	<u>23,455</u>		<u>23,455</u>
Cost of Sales	<u>46,203</u>		<u>46,203</u>
Gross profit from sales	30,749		30,749
<b><u>Other Revenue and support</u></b>			
General Budget revenue		110,871	110,871
Unrealized (loss) gain		( 15,505)	( 15,505)
Investment earnings		5,125	5,125
Offerings	54		54
Registration fees and conferences	<u>      </u>	<u>17,933</u>	<u>17,933</u>
TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	\$ 30,803	118,424	149,227

See Notes to Financial Statements



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

(A Nonprofit Organization)

Statement of Activities

For the year ended March 31, 2016

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b><u>EXPENDITURES</u></b>			
Salaries and editor	\$ 35,150		\$ 35,150
Accounting services	5,500		5,500
Information and technology	6,487		6,487
Ministry support	5,160		5,160
Legal	4,519		4,519
Supplies	5,985		5,985
Utilities	5,231		5,231
Bank fees	350		350
Fringe benefits	12,388		12,388
Subscriptions and dues	50		50
Rent	11,760		11,760
Advertising and marketing	4,860		4,860
Connection meeting expenses	11,764		11,764
Contributions	2,900		2,900
Honorariums		7,800	7,800
Meetings		14,059	14,059
Transfer to restricted trust		134,859	134,859
Travel and conferences	15,526		15,526
Other cost	<u>1,142</u>		<u>1,142</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>128,772</b>	<b>156,718</b>	<b>285,490</b>
 Change in Net Assets	 ( 97,969)	 ( 38,294)	 (136,263)
 Net assets released from temporarily restricted	 104,499	 (104,499)	 ----
 Net Assets- Beginning of period	 <u>68,108</u>	 <u>142,793</u>	 <u>210,901</u>
 Net Assets- End of period	 <u>\$ 74,638</u>	 <u>---</u>	 <u>\$ 74,638</u>

See Notes to Financial Statement



**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**  
 (A Nonprofit Organization)  
 Statement of Cash Flows  
 For the year ended March 31, 2017 and 2016

<u><b>Cash flows from operation activities</b></u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Change in net assets	\$( 14,263)	\$(136,263)
Decrease (increase) in other receivable	4,803	
Increase (Decrease) in accounts payable	<u>          </u>	<u>( 1,858)</u>
 Net cash provided (used) for operating activities	 (9,460)	 (138,121)
  Net increase (decrease) in cash	  ( 9,640)	  (138,121)
Cash- Beginning of period	<u>69,835</u>	<u>207,956</u>
Cash- End of period	\$ <u>60,375</u>	\$ <u>69,835</u>

See Notes to Financial Statements



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

(A Nonprofit Organization)

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2017 and 2016

### **NOTE 1- SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **Nature of Activities**

The Christian Education Department of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is a nonprofit organization designed to promote the educational ministry of the Church. The Christian Education Department accomplishes its mission by providing publications and holding meetings geared toward clergy and others that teach Christian values. The Organization is exempt from income taxes. The Christian Education Departments' financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting. Sales are recognized when a sale is made. Expenses are recognized in the period in which the related liability is incurred.

#### **Revenue**

Revenue is derived from three main sources. The finance department of the African Methodist Episcopal Church provides an annual allocation to the Department. This revenue is for the operation of the department and is recorded as temporarily restricted until operational expenditures are incurred and the temporary restriction is released. The other sources of revenue are from the sale of subscriptions and publications and amounts received for conferences and other educational meetings.

#### **Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the use of management's estimates.

#### **Cash and cash equivalents**

The Department considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents. Cash and cash equivalents for purposes of the statement of cash flows exclude permanently restricted cash and cash equivalents. Temporarily restricted cash is included in cash on the statement of cash flows.

#### **Financial Statement Presentation**

The Organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets.

#### **Contributions**

Contributions received are recorded as unrestricted, temporarily restricted, or permanently restricted net assets depending on the existence or nature of any donor restrictions.





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

(A Nonprofit Organization)  
Notes to Financial Statements  
March 31, 2017 and 2016

### **NOTE 1- SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### Subsequent events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through May 5, 2017, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued. Events occurring after that date have not been evaluated to determine whether a change in financial statements would be required.

#### Income taxes

The Organization is a not-for-profit organization that is exempt from income taxes because of their affiliation as a Church organization. As a Church organization, the organization is not required to file a tax return.

#### Net Assets

Net assets are reported as unrestricted, temporarily restricted or permanently restricted. Unrestricted net assets represent unrestricted resources available to support the Organization or temporarily restricted resources which have become available for use by the Organization in accordance with the funding source. Temporarily restricted net assets represent amounts received that are designated for a purpose or have a time restriction that can be fulfilled either by actions by the Organization pursuant to those restrictions or with the passage of time. Permanently restricted net assets represent gifts with donor restrictions that the original gift amounts be maintained in perpetuity as an endowment. The governing body of the Organization may also permanently restrict net assets.

### **NOTE 2- EQUIPMENT AND LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS**

Equipment and leasehold improvements are capitalized at cost. Depreciation is computed using the straight line method of depreciation over the estimated life of the asset. Furniture, equipment and leasehold improvements costing greater than \$2,000 are capitalized, items costing less than \$2,000 are expensed. Items are depreciated between three and five years, depending on their estimated useful life.



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

(A Nonprofit Organization)

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2017 and 2016

### **NOTE 3 – LINE OF CREDIT**

The Department has established a working line of credit with a local bank. The line of credit is dated February 22, 2016 and matures February 20, 2018. The maximum amount that can be drawn on the line is \$25, 000. The interest rate is variable based upon the banks index rate plus 1%. The line was not drawn on for the fiscal years ending March 31, 2017 or March 31, 2016.

### **NOTE 4- LEASES**

The Department entered into a lease arrangement for one year as of August 2016 to lease office space at \$950 per month until the August 2017.

### **NOTE 5- RESTRICTED CASH -TRANSFER TO TRUST**

The Organization received a cash contribution during the fiscal year ended March 31, 2015 in the amount of \$142,585. Management elected to temporarily restrict this cash and the interest earned on this cash until a legal trust could be established. During the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016, the Vincent Foster trust was established and the amount that had been temporarily restricted, along with all interest, dividends, gains and/or losses were transferred to the trust.



CHURCH GROWTH DEVELOPMENT – AME CHURCH  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE  
REVIEW  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
MARCH 31, 2017 AND MARCH 31, 2016



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**WILLIAM FULTON, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT**

**10461 MABRY MILL**

**CORDOVA, TENNESSEE 38016**

**(O) 901-870-1364 (F) 901-743-3561**

**INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT**

To the Board of Trustees of  
Church Growth Development – AME

I (We) have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Church Growth Development - AME (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of March 31, 2017, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, I (we) do not express such an opinion.

**Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

**Accountant's Responsibility**

My (Our) responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. Those standards require me (us) to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether I am (we are) aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. I (We) believe that the results of my (our) procedures provide a reasonable basis for my (our) conclusion.

**Accountant's Conclusion**

Based on my (our) review, I am (we are) not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Summarized Comparative Information**

I (We) previously reviewed Church Growth Development AME's 2015 financial statements and in my (our) conclusion dated June 6, 2016, stated that based on my (our) review, I was (we were) not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the 2016 financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. I am (we are) not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended March 31, 2016, for it to be consistent with the reviewed financial statements from which it has been derived.

William Fulton, Certified Public Accountant

Memphis, Tennessee

May 26, 2017  
Report Date



CHURCH GROWTH DEVELOPMENT - AME CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
March 31, 2017 AND March 31, 2016

<u>ASSETS</u>		
<u>Current Asset</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Cash	\$ 9,798	\$ 9,090
<u>Total Current Asset</u>	9,798	9,090
<u>Capital Assets</u>		
Equipment	50,439	50,439
Furniture and Fixtures	4,108	4,108
Accumulated Depreciation	(10,681)	(7,954)
<u>Total Fixed Assets</u>	43,866	46,593
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 53,664</b>	<b>\$ 55,683</b>
<u>LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS</u>		
<u>Current Liability</u>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 899	\$ 899
<u>Total Current Liability</u>	899	899
<b>NET ASSETS, UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b>52,765</b>	<b>54,784</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITY AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 53,664</b>	<b>\$ 55,683</b>

See accompanying notes and accountant's report





CHURCH GROWTH DEVELOPMENT - AME CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
For the Years Ended March 31, 2017 AND March 31, 2016

<u>UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
AME Church Office - Funding	\$99,444	\$77,467
Secret Chamber Subscriptions	44,593	63,965
Seminar Registration fees	7,150	
Other Income - Posted Check	<u>5,635</u>	<u>6,826</u>
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b><u>156,822</u></b>	<b><u>148,258</u></b>
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Administrative - Office Expense	\$ 28,553	\$ 27,707
Advertising Expenses	-	2,525
Auto Expenses	847	490
Benevolence	-	233
Bank fees	880	479
Books	3,233	797
Computer, Software, Equipment	4,138	1,410
Communications	2,448	1,739
Contributions Churches	5,345	2,490
Continuing Education	14,035	8,610
Depreciation	2,727	2,727
Flowers Expense	345	851
Furniture Fixture Equipment	-	225
Equipment leases	6,404	14,070
Garments/Vestments	-	492
Insurance	-	1,090
Janitorial	-	24
Laundry and Cleaning	-	98
Legal & Professional	5,300	2,832
Lodging	2,526	9,251
Meals and Entertainment	4,542	2,659
Medical	1,539	1,700
Merchant fees	3,165	
Office Supplies	544	1,092
Postage/Shipping	-	10,071
Postage/Bulk- Secret Chamber	11,191	-
Printing and Copying	1,032	600
Professional	-	691
Program Supplies	5,600	
Rent	2,500	7,859
Seminar	12,798	-
Special Speakers	-	500
Stipends	17,800	13,305
Supplies - Miscellaneous	5,269	1,067
Telephone	6,111	2,872
Travel and Lodging	<u>9,968</u>	<u>11,127</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>158,841</b>	<b>131,684</b>
 Decrease/Increase in Net Assets	 (2,019)	 16,574
 Beginning Net Assets	 <u>54,784</u>	 <u>47,911</u>
Prior Period Adjustment	-	(9,701)
<b>Ending Net Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 52,765</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 54,784</u></b>

See accompanying notes and accountant's report



CHURCH GROWTH DEVELOPMENT - AME CHURCH  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
For the Years Ended March 31, 2017 AND March 31, 2016

Cash Flows for Operating Activities	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Changes in net assets	\$ (2,019)	\$ 16,574
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by operating activities.		
Adjustment of Net Assets	-	(9,702)
Decrease in Account Payable	-	(521)
Depreciation	<u>2,727</u>	<u>2,727</u>
Net Cash Used by Operating Activities	<u>708</u>	<u>9,078</u>
Net Increase in Cash Equivalents	708	9,078
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<u>9,090</u>	<u>12</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENT AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 9,798</u>	<u>\$ 9,090</u>

See accompanying notes and accountant's report



## CHURCH GROWTH DEVELOPMENT- AME CHURCH

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

MARCH 31, 2017

#### **NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This summary of significant accounting policies of the Church Growth Development – AME Church, is presented to assist in understanding the Organization's financial statements. The financial statements and notes are representations of the Organization's management who is responsible for the integrity and objectivity of the financial statements. These accounting policies conform to generally accepted accounting principles and have been consistently applied in the preparation of the financial statements.

#### **Nature of Operations**

The organization was created to encourage and organize church growth in all changes throughout our Zion, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, to bring salvation and hope to African Americans in prisons and inner cities; and to enhance the quality of church music and worship in the changes and conferences in the AME church. Also, the Division shall assist pastors in leading all people and promoting gospel locally and abroad. The Executive Director is responsible for day to day operations.

#### **Income Taxes**

Church Growth Development – AME Church is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Tennessee. It is an organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, no provision has been made for federal income taxes in the accompanying financial statements. There was no unrelated business income for the year ended March 31, 2017. Tax years that remain open for examination include years ended December 31, 2012 through December 31, 2015.

#### **Basis of Presentation**

The organization reports information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets:

Unrestricted-Resources over which the Board of Directors has discretionary control. Designated amounts represent those net assets, which the Organization has set aside for a particular purpose.

Temporarily Restricted- Resources subject to donor imposed restrictions that either expire by the passage of time or can be fulfilled and removed by actions of the Organization pursuant to the donors' stipulations.

Permanently Restricted- Resources from contributions and other inflows of assets whose use by the Organization is limited by donor-imposed stipulations that neither expire by passage of time nor can be fulfilled or otherwise removed by actions of the organization. The donors of these resources permit the Organization to use all or part of the income earned, excluding capital appreciation, for unrestricted purposes.



## CHURCH GROWTH DEVELOPMENT- AME CHURCH

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

MARCH 31, 2017

#### **Revenue Recognition**

Revenues for year ended March 31, 2017 are comprised of funds from the sale of subscriptions, registration fees and funding from the National AME office. Revenues are recorded as unrestricted.

#### **Donated Services**

The contribution of services by the volunteers is not recognized in the financial statements unless the services received (a) create or enhance nonfinancial assets or (b) require specialized skills which are provided by individuals possessing those skills and would typically need to be purchased if not provided by donation. The donated services for years ended December 31, 2016 did not meet the requirements above, therefore no amounts were recognized in the accompanying financial statements.

#### **Capital Assets**

Property and equipment additions are recorded at cost, or if donated, at estimated fair value on the date of donation. The Organization capitalizes expenditures in excess of \$1,000. Depreciation is computed using primarily the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the related assets, generally 5-7 years. Maintenance and repairs are charged to expense in the period incurred.

#### **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the organization considers cash in the checking accounting as cash equivalents.

#### **Advertising Policy**

The organization expenses advertising cost as incurred. The organization did not incur advertising expense as of the year ended March 31, 2017.

#### **Compensated Absences policy**

It is impractical to estimate the amount of compensation for sick day absences as their usage is restricted for certain circumstances and limited for payment upon termination, and accordingly, no liability has been recorded in the accompanying financial statement.



## CHURCH GROWTH DEVELOPMENT- AME CHURCH

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

MARCH 31, 2017

#### **Note – 2 Concentration**

For the year ended March 31, 2017, the organization had a concentration (payments from the National A.M.E office) as a critical source of revenue and support. Those payments accounted for 63% of the organization's revenue. The organization relied on those payments as its primary source of revenue for the year ended March 31, 2017. The continued success of receiving support from the National A.M.E office could have a significant impact on the organization's ability to fulfill its mission.

#### **Note – 3 Subsequent Events**

Management has evaluated subsequent events through May 26, 2017, which is the date the financial statements were available to be released.