

2016-2017 Report to the General Board Commission on Women in Ministry



Standing United. Moving Forward. Stronger Together



And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them possess an inheritance among their father's brothers and pass the inheritance of their father on to them.

Numbers 27:6-7 (NRSV)

*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 E. Anne Henning Byfield, Commission on Women in Ministry, Chairperson
Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, Connectional President Women in Ministry*

Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield, Chairperson

Commission Members

1st District: Presiding Elder Jocelyn Hart Lovelace

2nd District: Presiding Elder Ernest Montague

3rd District: Ms. Kimberly Brooks

4th District: Ms. Betty Tuggle

5th District: Rev. Fran Cary

6th District: Rev. Jonetta Prater

7th District: Ms. Vergie Tennison

8th District: Ms. Darlene Gordon

9th District: Rev. Albert Hyche

10th District: Miss Kendra Hill-Daughton

11th District: Bro. Charlie Nichols

12th District: Rev. Marcelle Fields

13th District: Rev. Troy Thomas

14th District: Rev. Margaret Fadehan

15th District: Bro. Theodore Messiah

16th District: Rev. Carlene Sobers

17th District: Rev. Moses Achola

18th District: Ms. Beatrice Mutokoa

19th District: Sis. Thumekile Mthanti

20th District: Presiding Elder Rosetta Swinton

No At-Large Members

Connectional Women In Ministry Executive Board

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, President

Rev. Ammie Davis, First Vice President

Rev. Joelynn T. Stokes, Second Vice President

Rev. Dr. Monica L. Spencer, Third Vice President

Rev. Louise Jacksons, General Secretary

Rev. Garland Higgins, Communications Secretary

Rev. Tyronda Howse Burgess, Financial Secretary

Rev. Angelique Mason, Treasurer

Rev. Pamela Rivera, Worship Director

Rev. Dr. Janie Dowdy-Dandridge, Herstorlographer

Rev. Nomalungelo Pamella Vena, Central/Southern Africa Coordinator

Connectional Consultants

Dr. Teresa L. Fry Brown, Ph. D., General Officer, 6th Episcopal District

Dr. Jacquelyn Grant Collier, Ph.D., 6th Episcopal District

Chaplain Benita Hill, 13th Episcopal District

Rev. Brenda Payne, Presiding Elder, 10th Episcopal District

Rev. Sandra Smith Blair, 5th Episcopal District

Greetings from Our Commission Chair



Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield
Chair, Commission on Women In Ministry
Presiding Prelate, 16th Episcopal District

The Lord Be Praised!

I greet you in celebration of a rich legacy of leadership, organization, empowerment, administration, and encouragement to those who are women in ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and beyond.

The General Board Meeting is the opportunity to report on the stewardship of Women In Ministry. To serve as the Chair of the Women in Ministry is an honor and blessing. As a former Connectional Officer of AME/WIM, I am witnessing the strength of God in maintaining its excellence over the years. Rev. Dr. Erika Crawford as President and her team of officers are not just continuing the vision but extending the vision and the capacity of this organization. Much has been accomplished and will be. Watch!!

Welcome to the General Board Meeting and to the continuation of God's servants Standing United, Moving Forward and being Stronger Together!

Anchored In Christ,

E. Anne Henning Byfield

E. Anne Henning Byfield, Chair

Greetings from Our Connectional President



Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford,
President
Connectional AME/WIM

Blessings!

It is a pleasure to greet you on behalf of the more than 4000 women globally serving in the multitude of ministerial offices of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. We give God thanks and praise for a fruitful first of four years.

This year, the members of the Connectional AME/WIM Executive Board worked diligently and deliberately to build on the firm foundation laid before us. We labored with our Commission Chair Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield, the Women in Ministry Commission Members, our Consultants and the Episcopal District Presidents working together to address three encumbrances facing clergywomen today; the **affirmation** of our call; **access** to information, resources and seats of power, influence and authority; and **advocacy**, identifying persons – male and female, clergy and lay - who are willing to be bold, intentional and purposeful advocates.

We are committed to steadfastly working as The Prophetic Voice for parity and justice for women in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the official professional organization for women pursuing excellence in ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

We are thankful for the opportunity to grow together and work together so that together as women of the word, together as sisters in Christ, together as daughters of God, together as workers in the Kingdom we can claim our inheritance like the daughters of Zelophehad [Numbers 27:6-7 (NRSV)] **“Standing United, Moving Forward, Stronger Together!”**

Claiming the Promises With A Glad Heart,

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford,
President

Summary of the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference

What a blessing it was to witness the sons and daughter of Allen gathered again in the City of Philadelphia to do the work of the church. In celebrating of 200 years of African Methodism, we believe it was pleasing to the Lord to have had women -both clergy and lay- represented and elected as Bishops, General Officers, Judicial Council Members and Delegates.

The Election of Bishops

We give God praise for the election of Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield, the 135th elected and consecrated Bishop of the Church. Bishop Henning Byfield was one of five women candidates for the episcopacy and her election now means there are two active women Bishops on the Bench, the other being Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, the 117th elected and consecrated Bishop; and one retired woman, Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry, the 122nd elected and consecrated Bishop.

The Election of General Officers

Likewise, we rejoice in the election of Dr. Teresa Fry Brown, Ph. D. as Historiographer / Executive Director for The Department Of Research And Scholarship. The election of Dr. Fry Brown was a re-election to this office having also served during the 2012-2016 Quadrennium. Dr. Brown is currently seated as the only woman General Officer, notwithstanding the candidacy of seven women.

The “Ordination of Jarena Lee”

It is with great joy that we received notice on April 8, 2016, that the Council of Bishops gave serious consideration to and acceptance of the recommendation of the Commission on Women in Ministry to posthumously ordain Jarena Lee, the first woman preacher of the AME Church, at the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference in Philadelphia, PA.

The Posthumous Conferral of Honoris Causa Ministerial Title for Jarena Lee, “act of ordination,” took place on July 13, 2016; two hundred twelve years after this phenomenal and fearless woman yielded the call. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown, Ph. D. composed and read a resolution to the General Assembly affirming that the Council of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church had “reviewed the life and legacy of Jarena Lee, examined her unquestionable devotion to God, read of her adherence to the duties and responsibilities of a minister in this Zion, and have seen and understood the evidence of her deep legacy now posthumously affirm the life and ministry by conferring the ministerial title Itinerant Elder to Reverend Jarena Lee (Honoris Causa).”

The Commission on Women in Ministry echoes the words of Dr. Teresa Fry Brown, “We thank God for the work of AME/WIM over the years. We are especially grateful for the guidance and advice of Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry. We are also thankful for the diligence of our [former] Connectional President, the Rev. Kimberly L. Detherage, Esq.”

The Election of 2016-2020 Executive Board

On Sunday July 10, 2016 at 2:30 PM at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Women in Ministry convened their quadrennial elections. Candidates were asked to submit Statements of Interest, photos and videos to the nominating committee chaired by Rev. Sandra Smith Blair (5th District) by February 11, 2016, the birthday of Rev. Jarena Lee. This information was shared

with the constituents via the AME/WIM website and sent directly to members with email addresses on file.

All eligible voters were asked to present a picture I.D. upon arrival and sign in. Plans to vote via electronic ballot had to be abandoned due to technological challenges and as a result, voting took place via the traditional casting of ballots. Dr. Teresa Fry Brown, served as the chair of the election committee and the results were as follows:

- Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, President (1st District)
- Rev. Ammie Davis, 1st Vice President (8th District)
- Vacant Position, 2nd Vice President
- Rev. Dr. Monica L. Spencer, 3rd Vice President (16th District)
- Rev. Dr. Louise Jackson, General Secretary (3rd District)
- Vacant Position, Communications Secretary
- Rev. Tyronda Howse Burgess, Financial Secretary (10th District)
- Rev. Angelique Mason, Treasurer (2nd District)
- Rev. Dr. Janie Dowdy-Dandridge, Herstoryographer (13th District)
- Rev. Pamela Rivera, Worship & Liturgy Director (10th District)
- Rev. Nomalungelo Pamella Vena, Central Southern Africa Coordinator (15th District)

At a later date, the newly elected Executive Board re-opened the search for a 2nd VP and Communications Secretary. Several applications were received and after discussion and discernment, the board elected the following:

- Rev. Joelynn T. Stokes, Esq. as 2nd Vice President (4th District)
- Rev. Garland Higgins, as Communications Secretary (6th District)

We are thankful to all of those who offered themselves for service and to the nominating committee and election committee who worked to ensure a smooth electoral process.

About Women in Ministry

AME/WIM is the official professional organization for women pursuing excellence in ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

We are an international organization serving the continental United States, Canada, Africa, India, the Caribbean, and Europe.

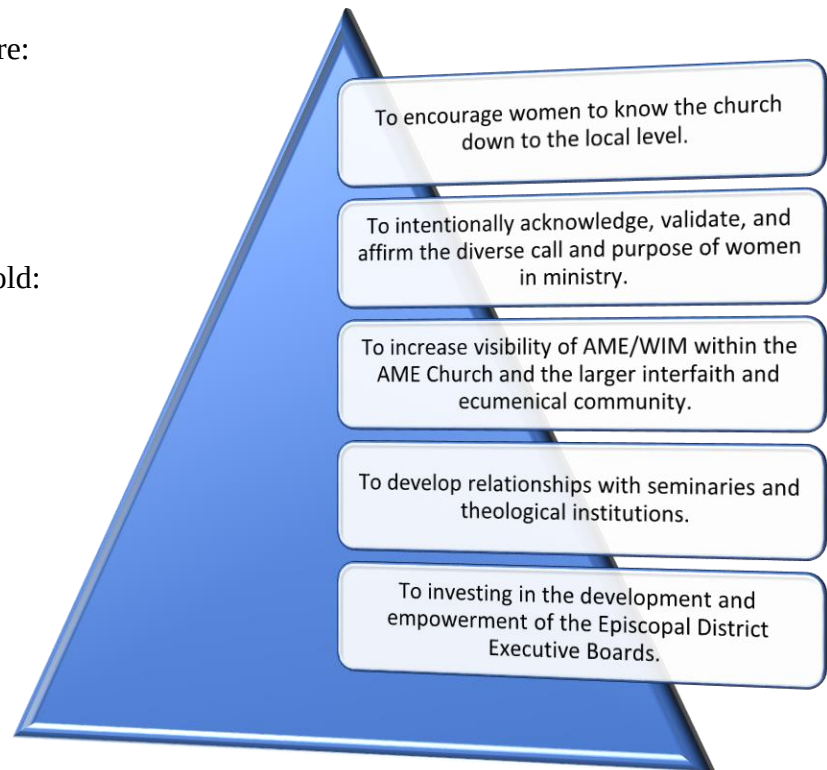
We are the prophetic voice for parity and justice through advocacy and activism for women in ministry. We operate within each of the 20 Episcopal Districts that define the African Methodist Episcopal Church. We are led by an Executive Board elected by its active membership; women preachers from across the Connectional Church. At each level (Episcopal District, Annual Conference and Presiding Elder District) AME/WIM has officers who serve, encourage and support the work of women in Christian ministry. Over four thousand women serve in ministerial capacities throughout the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

About The 2016-2020 Quadrennial Goals:

Our foci for this quadrennium are:

- Unity
- Preparation
- Relationships
- Gender Justice

Thus, our commitment is five-fold:



2016-2020 QUADRENNIAL THEME & OBJECTIVES

Under the leadership of its new Connectional President, Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, the newly elected AME/WIM Connectional Executive Board met September 7-8, 2016 in Baltimore, Maryland.

This was the first official meeting of the Connectional Executive Board elected on July 10, 2016

at the General Conference. At the close of the two-day meeting the board announced, “**Standing United, Moving Forward, Stronger Together**” as their quadrennial theme, based on Numbers 27:6-7 (NRSV): ⁶ *And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:* ⁷ *The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them possess an inheritance among their father’s brothers and pass the inheritance of their father on to them.*

The Bible mentions Zelophehad's daughters by name five times (Numbers 26:33; 27:1-7; 36:1-12; Joshua 17:1-6; and 1 Chronicles 7:15) giving legitimacy to their pursuit of justice – gender justice.

About The Quadrennial Theme:

- **Standing United** – AME/WIM is unified and focused on empowering and encouraging WIM across the connection.
- **Moving Forward** – AME/WIM is intentional about focusing on the future of our church, we are faith forward. We belong to a new generation and we are focused on exercising our gifts, fulfilling our purpose, individually and collectively and on possessing the promises of God.
- **Stronger Together** – AME/WIM is in pursuit of justice for all. We believe that all women are equally valued and we are committed to the equitable in the distribution of power, knowledge, resources and *access*.

About Our 2016-2020 Consultants

The 2016-2020 AME/WIM Consultants embody the wisdom, grace and breath of giftedness of AME Women in Ministry. They represent and are experienced in the pastorate, chaplaincy, and the academy. Our Consultants are leaders who diligently serve in the local and connectional church context and we are honored to have them serve. We praise God for their availability and willingness to serve with us this quadrennium.

- **The Reverend Teresa Fry Brown, Ph.D.**, General Officer serving as Director of Scholarship and Research Historiographer for the AME Church and the Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology.
- **The Reverend Jacqueline Grant Collier, Ph.D.**, former AME/WIM Ad-Hoc Chair and leading theologian who made significant contributions to Womanist Theology. Dr. Grant is the founder and director of the Office of Black Women in Church and Society and the Fuller E. Callaway Professor of Systematic Theology at the Interdenominational Theological Center.
- **Chaplain Benita Livingston**, serves as a ministerial associate in the Thirteenth Episcopal District at St. Andrews AME Church, Memphis, TN and as a Chaplain at the Memphis VA Medical Center.
- **The Reverend Brenda Payne**, a Presiding Elder and preacher who has served in various Annual Conferences and Episcopal Districts. She currently serves as the Presiding Elder

of the South Houston District, Tenth Episcopal District.

- **The Reverend Sandra Smith Blair**, former Connectional President of AME/WIM and serves as an Associate Minister at St. Paul AME Church, Berkeley, CA

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONNECTIONAL ACTIVITY

Rev. Lillian Frier Webb death

The officers, members of Women in Ministry and the connectional church were saddened by the passing of The Reverend Lillian Frier Webb on Wednesday January 25, 2017. AME Women in Ministry throughout the connection honor the life and legacy of the Reverend Lillian Frier Webb. Rev. Frier Webb answered her call to ministry and received her license to preach in 1960; the year women were given the right of ordination in the AME Church.

A phenomenal woman, Rev. Frier Webb was the first women to be ordained as an itinerant minister in the First Episcopal District. An ardent advocate and trailblazer she served as the first AME Connectional President for AME Women in Ministry from 1988-1996. Her work as president further solidified the foundational work laid by the ad hoc chair, Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Grant and our two inaugural Presidents Rev. Jeane B. Williams, and Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry.

Most notably, Rev. Frier Webb was instrumental in leading the 44th Quadrennial Session of the AME Church General Conference to approve the establishment of the Commission on Women in Ministry and the seating of the Connectional President as an ex-officio member of the General Board as well as a voting member of the General Conference. The Bylaws of AME/WIM were also then approved for inclusion in the *Doctrine and Discipline*.

Rev. Webb spearheaded a number of other initiatives, including the structural and geographic expansion of the organization, compiling data for a directory of women in ministry, sponsoring two quadrennial conferences, publishing a reprint of the *Spiritual Experience and Journal* of Jarena Lee our spiritual foremother, and initiating the *Bricks Without Straw* newsletter and authored a book “P.O.E.M. ing” as protocol and bylaws for AME/WIM.

The Rev. Lillian Frier Webb made great accomplishments throughout her life and was instrumental in addressing sexism and sexual misconduct in the AME Church, as well as the elevation of three women to the bishopric.

Meetings & Events

- ❖ The AME/WIM Executive Board meets together as a board monthly via teleconference, in addition to a monthly teleconference meeting with our Episcopal District Presidents. Due to time differences and limited technology, we continue to have challenges in maintaining regular contact with AME/WIM Leadership in the global districts.

We are in the planning stages for a Global WIM Conference for this quadrennium.

- ❖ We look with anticipation towards August 7-11, 2018 as we prepare for our 10th Quadrennial Conference. Bishop Harry L. Seawright and Supervisor, Rev. Sherita Seawright have invited us to the 9th Episcopal District and we have accepted with great thanksgiving.

Planning is underway, under the leadership of Rev. Ammie Davis, 1st VP, and we extend an invitation to the entire connectional church to come and share this experience with the Women in ministry as we look for a mighty move of God in the Daniel Payne Community Plaza in Birmingham, AL.

Registration will open in the fall of 2017.

- ❖ A highlight of our 2016 meeting at the General Board was the adoption of the AME Women in Ministry Executive Board Resolution to The Commission on Women in Ministry General Board Meeting December 2016.

The following resolution was presented to and adopted by The Commission on Women In Ministry; as well as the General Board.

WHEREAS, it is asked in Micah 6:8 “...*what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?*” We stand in solidarity with the Church, fully committed to the Quadrennial Theme “***The African Methodist Episcopal Church: A Social Justice and Liberating Faith***” and;

WHEREAS, justice is a human right that must encompass the indispensable right for persons to live and work in our churches, communities and countries with dignity and pride free from oppression; and

WHEREAS, our pursuit of justice should include an intentional commitment to gender justice, so that we might live in a world where everybody, women and men, boys and girls are equally valued and able to share equitably in the distribution of power, knowledge, resources and access; and

WHEREAS, AME/WIM challenges the African Methodist Episcopal Church to recognize that in addition to addressing Political Justice, Criminal Justice,

Environmental Justice, and Economic Justice, A Social Justice and Liberating Faith must also address Gender Justice, both in the world and in the church; and

WHEREAS, it is our desire to see the sons and daughters of God, free from cultural, religious, institutional and interpersonal systems of privilege which have long oppressed persons through violence, imperceptions, oppression and repression based on gender; and

WHEREAS, as the adverse impact of gender injustice is primarily and most severely experienced by women and girls, who are discriminated against in the home, workplace, community and church; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we consciously and intentionally work for equitable and impartial treatment of all in accordance with the word of God which says to us God created them male and female, and God blessed them and called them "human" Genesis 5:2; and

WHEREAS, our Sister Communion, the United Methodist Church, having apologized to the AME Church for its injustice to people of color and desiring not to repeat a similar injustice to women has begun to address gender justice issues stating that:

“reliability as an agency of God's love assumes that we are paying attention to one another and we are seeking to empower, to unshackle, to raise up those who are still oppressed, repressed, derided and treated as "less than"; and

WHEREAS, the African Methodist Episcopal Church is, still on the journey towards fully respecting and valuing the gifts and call of all persons; and

WHEREAS, we trust that the AME Church will:

- Affirm the right of women to live free from violence and abuse,
- Affirm the importance of women by placing them in key leadership decision-making positions at all levels of the Church, our institutions and society,
- Urge our elected officials and government agencies to retain and enact legislation and policies that protect women against all forms of violence, economic injustice and discrimination.
- Eliminate gender-role stereotypes in all aspects of voluntary and compensatory participation in the Church and society,
- Affirm the right of women to equal treatment through employment, promotions, economic parity and justice.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that AME/WIM comes before you, ***“Standing United, Moving Forward, Stronger Together;”*** in support of human rights and asks The Commission on Women In Ministry to request of the General Board the following:

1. The adoption of this policy/statement regarding the equality and the value of

women:

We, The African Methodist Episcopal Church, affirm that all men and women are created equal by God and therefore, entitled to the value of personhood, parity in employment, equal distribution of responsibility and promotion in ministry.

We the African Methodist Episcopal Church-will work to eliminate gender-role stereotypes and discrimination in all aspects of voluntary and compensatory participation in the Church and society.

We will champion economic parity and justice by affirming the right of women to equal treatment and placement in key leadership decision-making positions at all levels of our Church, our Institutions and our communities.

2. That the General Board urge our elected officials and government agencies to retain and enact legislation and policies that protect women against all forms of misogyny, violence and discrimination.
3. That the General Board recognize March as International Women's History Month and strongly encourage local churches to recognize and celebrate the work of women in our Zion.

Organizing & Membership

#MyStoryHerstory

Connectional AME/WIM seized seriously the opportunity to be at the forefront of valuing the highly visible global mission of gender justice, unity, collectivism and honoring the shared pool of meaning in the stories of our sisters. Some of the most noteworthy ways women's stories empower and encourage one another's sacred journeys is through sharing and documenting stories. In telling our stories we listened, learned and sought to encounter the sacred spaces of both lay and clergy sisters. We discovered our collective challenges and successes strengthened the significance of standing united, moving forward and that we are truly stronger together. During the Month of March, we celebrated International Women's History Month. The earliest record of women standing together to encourage one another is found in Numbers 27:6-7.

Connectional Women In Ministry of the AME Church launched The "Her Story is My Story" Campaign. Jarena Lee, a Herstoric figure for women in ministry, one who was sanctioned to preach in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the first black woman in the United States to publish an autobiography is a "herstory" all of us can pause for a moment to reflect and appreciate. Her story in addition to so many others paved the way for many women today. The **Her Story is My Story**(#HerstoryMyStory) Campaign was, and will be as we move forward, an opportunity to celebrate the hidden yet valuable and encouraging stories of Preachers, Mothers, Sisters, Aunts, Daughters and Friends that have never been told. It is a herstoric honor to celebrate the lives of these women! In fact, women's autobiographies are

really the heart of Women's Legacy. During the month of March, we highlighted four women in the AME Church (Lay and Clergy):

- Rev. Gloria White Hammond, M.D. – Medical Doctor and Co-Pastor of Bethel AMEC, Boston
- Mother Charlotte Manye Maxeke – Missionary and church planter
- Stephanie D. Wilson - NASA Astronaut
- Chaplain Dianna Nicole Watkins-Dickerson – Active Duty Air Force Chaplain

We provided a HerStory My Story Resource kit from Numbers 27: 1-7 for Women's History Month which included downloadable and easy to print Bible studies, devotionals and litanies from Women in Ministry from across the connectional church. The Bible study generated meaningful stories and kindled conversations about gender equality, women's rights as well as lessons on the solidarity of sisterhood. As AME/WIM continues to plan the work of the HerStory My Story Campaign we will include a standing committee from the District Herstoryographers within the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is our hope to explore and capture a Herstory Documentary of the life of Jarena Lee and other women lay and clergy within the AME Church.

Communication/Administration

- Monthly electronic newsletter
- Established a quarterly page in The Christian Recorder.
- Developing a Press Package
- Established a new website address www.amewim.org and redesigned the page
- Created an electronic filing system of the business minutes of monthly WIM
- Connectional meetings, starting with the September transition meeting, the December 2016 General Board meeting and all special meetings.
- Created an electronic listing of all Connectional Officers, Consultants and Episcopal District Presidents, which includes their biographical information as well as all contact information.
- Created an electronic file that houses all of the President's meeting agendas for the Connectional Board and Episcopal Presidents meetings. The file also includes any attachments, along with any other special WIM correspondence.
- Evaluated the use of various electronic file-syncing and storage systems to begin the process of not only creating a system where documents can be shared for review and edits but to create a permanent house for the historical records of the Connectional Women-In- Ministry.

Membership Recruitment and Care

The **Membership Standing Committee** shall suggest strategies for identifying the needs of women in ministry, enhancing services to the membership and increasing participation in AME/WIM, and prior to the quadrennial election meeting shall assist with preparation of a list to establish the credentials of members for voting and nomination for office.

This quadrennial the Membership Standing Committee will address the following:

- Membership Support and Development
- Identifying the needs of WIM and the development of strategies and services to address those needs
- Increasing in members, participation and presence/visibility
- Strengthening our Connection and sisterhood Maintain the Connectional Roster
- Membership credentialing and eligibility determination
- Advocacy around issues related to WIM

Our focus will be addressed through the following:

a. Establishment of an **Each One Reach One Campaign**; whereby each active WIM will recruit at least one other woman in ministry, as well as least one Associate Member, (male clergy or laypersons). The District with the greatest increase and the WIM with the most recruits will receive an award, prize or etc. (Sub-Committee: Membership and Recruitment)

b. **Milcah (Sistor) Mentors**, will match mentors with mentees to enhance their ministerial, professional, and personal life; as well as share personal experiences, suggest ministerial resources, and offer thoughts and ideas about ministry. Several districts already have working models in place and we hope to glean from what is already being done. (Sub-Committee: Milcah Mentor)

c. **The Tirzah Clearing House** will serve as a virtual recycling center for gently used items such as robes, clothing, suits, bibles, books etc. The Tirzah Clearing House will be launched at the 2017 General Board Meeting our meeting in Los Angeles in June. Rev. Cecelia Justice is the chair of this Sub-Committee.

The aim of the Clearing House is to provide an opportunity for women to share/exchange gently used items with our sisters. All items are donated and women will be able to take what they need. The transport of all items to and from the meeting site is the sole responsibility of the giver or receiver. This will especially benefit our global sisters. All items not taken will be left with the District WIM Tirzah Coordinator for distribution.
(Sub-Committee: The Tirzah House)

The Membership Committee will also work to gather statistics and data regarding the numbers of women in ministry, committee assignments, pastoral appointments and etc.

Report Contributors:

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, Rev. Ammie Davis, Rev. Dr. Monica L. Spencer, Rev. Dr. Louise V. Jackson, Rev. Garland Higgins, Rev. Tyronda Howse Burgess, Rev. Dr. Janie Dowdy-Danriddle

Financial Report

African Methodist Episcopal Church
Connectional Women in Ministry
Statement of Activities
June 1, 2016 - May 31, 2017

INCOME

Connectional Allocation	14,280.00\$
Connectional Dues	13,165.00\$
Jarena Lee Breakfast	58,810.28\$
Premium Items Income	3,733.00\$
Public Offerings Received	-\$
Restricted Income - Robes	1,814.00\$
TOTAL INCOME	91,802.28\$

EXPENSES

Benevolence	1,352.42\$
Printing	5,300.83\$
Advertising and Marketing	2,365.22\$
Travel	50,469.23\$
General & Administrative Expense	2,243.72\$
General Conference Expense	600.00\$
Banking Fees	26.50\$
Honoraria - Public Worship	4,100.00\$
Premium & Promotional Expense	2,699.53\$
Registration Fees	-\$
Restricted Expense - Robes	2,990.00\$
Quadrennial Conference Expense	1,500.00\$
Public Offerings Expense	100.00\$
Jarena Lee Breakfast Expense	21,902.45\$
TOTAL EXPENSE	95,649.90\$
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	(3,847.62)\$

Episcopal Districts

First Episcopal District

The Reverend Dr. Emilygail A. Dill, President

2016-2020 First District WIM Executive Board

President - Rev. Dr. Emilygail A. Dill

First Vice-President - Rev. Iona Smith-Nze

Second Vice-President - Rev. Dr. Iola Davis Williams

Secretary- Rev. Dr. Faye Taylor

Treasurer - Rev. Dr. Mattie Carmon

Financial Secretary - Rev. Deborah Finley-Jackson

Herstoriographer - Rev. Dr. Viola Morris Buchanan

Worship Director - Rev. Edna M. Parker

Conference WIM Coordinators

New Jersey – Rev. Dr. Angela Battle

New York- Rev. Jacqueline Lynch

Philadelphia- Rev. Lois Wilkinson

New England – Rev. Sharyn Halliday

Delaware- Rev. Dr. Jacquita Wright-Henderson

Western New York – Rev. Gloria JImpson

Bermuda – Rev. V. Deyone Douglas

AMEWIM Connectional President

Rev. Dr. Erika Crawford

Hospitalizations

Rev. Kanice D. Attles-Johns - Philadelphia

Rev. E. Jean Bonds – New Jersey

Rev. Evelyn Booze – New Jersey

Rev. Delores Lomack – New Jersey

Rev. Alberta Alexander – New Jersey

Rev. Gena Mae Johnson – New Jersey

Rev. Inez Holmes – New Jersey

Rev. Leona Gregory – New Jersey

Deaths

Rev. Lillian Frier-Webb – Former Connectional AME/WIM President – New York

Rev. Delores Lomack – New Jersey

Rev. Gena Mae Johnson – New Jersey

Rev. Thelma Kollack – New Jersey

Rev. Lois Mills – New Jersey
Rev. Leona Gregory – New Jersey
Evangelist Camilla M. Burris-Williams - Delaware

Female Ministers Who Have Retired
Rev. Juanita Henry – New Jersey

Ordinations

Itinerant Elders

Revs. Arlise Carson, Monique Wheeler, Eleanor Dixson-Hobbs, Sheila Trannum – New York
Rev. Lashonna Smith - Bermuda
Rev. Lugenure Jones, Rev. Terri. Michelle Collins, Rev. Diane Jefferson, Rev. Lilieth Baugh - Philadelphia
Rev. Leslie Moody, Rev. Dr. Carol Lawrence Rev. Zina Thompson – New Jersey
Rev. Mariama White-Hammond – New England

Itinerant Deacons

Rev. Lewanda Miller, Rev. Nicole Ottley – New York
Revs. Lisa Younger-Richardson, Carshena Eunice Baker, Tianda Smart, Ivy Berry – Philadelphia
Rev. Deborah Carpenter – Delaware
Rev. Crystal Newby Reynolds – New Jersey

Local Elders

Rev. Sharice Wallace, Rev. Cornelia Aldrena Mabry - New York
Rev. Adrienne Harvard, Rev. Rhonda Littleton-Johnson – New Jersey
Rev. Sybil Brook – New England

Local Deacons

Rev. Lorraine Dantzler, Rev. Sharon Grizzell, Rev. Shirley Wilson– New York
Rev. Beatrice Sims – Philadelphia

Seminary Graduates

Licentiate Taneki Dacres – New York
Rev. Monique Wheeler – New Brunswick Theological Seminary - New York
Rev. Michelle Collins – Lutheran Theological Seminary - Philadelphia
Rev. Diane Jefferson – Payne Theological Seminary – Philadelphia
Rev. Eleanor Dixson- Hobbs – United Theological Seminary – New York
Rev. Crystal Newby-Reynolds – Drew University Theological Seminary – New Jersey
Rev. Mariama White-Hammond – Boston University School Of Theology – New England

Doctor Of Ministry Graduates

Lic. Dr. Sanayi Beckles Canton – New York
Rev. Dr. Ellen Canty McEachern – New Brunswick Theological Seminary – New York
Rev. Dr. Patricia Ann Southerland McAllister – Lancaster Theological Seminary – Philadelphia
Rev. Dr. Cheryl Auguste – New Brunswick Theological Seminary - New Jersey
Rev. Dr. Mattie Coleman – Drew University Theological Seminary – New Jersey
Rev. Dr. Edna Parker – New York Theological Seminary – New York

The Year In Review

The year 2016-17 has been an exciting journey for the First Episcopal District Women in Ministry. At the close of the General Conference we enthusiastically welcomed back Bishop Gregory Ingram and Rev. Dr. Jessica in anticipation of four more outstanding years of ministry under their leadership. In true Team Ingram style they have returned with much vision and vigor challenging us to deepen our relationship with Christ and to strive for ministerial excellence.

The year had begun with the Rev. Dr. Natalie Alford, former First Vice-President for the First District AMEWIM, being appointed Presiding Elder of the historic Philadelphia District just prior to the General Conference. The First District WIM hosted the Connectional AME/WIM for their Quadrennial Meeting and Annual Jarena Lee Awards Breakfast in Philadelphia, Pa with much aplomb. We were ecstatic when the Rev. Dr. Erika Crawford of the New Jersey Conference was elected as President for the 2016-2020 term with an overwhelming majority.

One of the highlights of the year was the Executive Board Retreat that was held in Philadelphia prior to the Founder's Day Celebration. The Rev. Ammie Davis and the Rev. Dr. Glenell Lee-Pruitt led the District WIM leadership in a full day of workshops designed to strengthen our leadership skills and assist us as we continue to advance the work of WIM in the district.

The remainder of the year has been filled with preparation for the next Quadrennium. The District WIM election was held in November with three new officers joining the Executive Board. The Rev. Iona Smith-Nze of Delaware was elected as First Vice-President, The Rev. Mattie Carmon of New Jersey was elected to serve as Treasurer, and the Rev. Edna Parker was elected as Worship Director. We welcomed four new Annual Conference Coordinators to the team; The Rev. V. Deyone Douglas – Bermuda, The Rev. Dr. Jacquita Wright-Henderson – Delaware, The Rev. Dr. Angela Battle – New Jersey, and The Rev. Lois Wilkinson, Philadelphia. Special thanks and commendation are offered to our outgoing Executive Board Officers and Annual Conference Coordinators. We especially highlight the Rev. Dr. Natalie P. Alford for her commitment as the First District AMEWIM Vice-President from 2012-16 and the Rev. Dr. Deborah Blanks who served as Worship Director from 2008-16. The Annual Conference Coordinators who completed their term in office were the Rev. Iona Smith-

Nze – Delaware, the Rev. Margaret Bailey – New Jersey, the Rev. – Western New York, and the Rev. Kanice Attles-John – Philadelphia. Each brought to their office their own unique style of leadership and were instrumental in the growth in WIM throughout the First District.

Each Annual Conference is working assiduously to support the Women in Ministry in their respective areas with innovative programs that provide opportunities for support, mentorship and fellowship amongst all WIM. At the District level, we are currently working on a strategic plan to advance our work both at the District and Conference level. We will begin this process with WOMENSPEAK sessions, where we are encouraging conversations among small groups of women ministers to discuss AME/WIM and how the women ministers in the district can best be supported by us in their development as women ministers.

Our Annual WIM Celebration acknowledging the milestones achieved amongst the women in ministry during the past year was held at our recent Planning Meeting in Philadelphia and we are currently preparing for our Annual Fellowship Luncheon in Delaware and the compilation and publication of our WIM Lenten Devotional. This year's theme will be "All Things New". In October, we will hold our WIM Summit. This year's focus will be centered on Ministerial Self-care and will be hosted by the New Jersey Conference.

This report would not be complete without acknowledgement of a sad moment in this year's journey. In February, we bid farewell to one of the trailblazers and stalwarts of Women in Ministry, the Rev. Lillian Frier-Webb. As a founding member and former Connectional President of AME/WIM she was extremely passionate about the advancement of women in ministry and served as a mentor to many both within our District and throughout the Connection. This was recognized by the participation of all females in the service of remembrance that was held during the Wake. Her Homegoing Celebration was attended by persons throughout the Connection and the sanctuary was filled. There was a sea of white with lavender accents on the left side of the building that confirmed the deep regard for Rev. Webb by the AME/WIM sisterhood. Her strong leadership, compassion, keen insight, sharp wit and advocacy will be greatly missed. To God be all the glory!!



Second Episcopal District
The Reverend Anna E. Mosby, President

2016-2020 Second District WIM Officers

Rev. Anna E. Mosby – President

Rev. Betty F. Strickland – 1st Vice President

Rev. Dr. Valdes Snipes-Bennett – 2nd Vice President
Rev. Debra A. Grant – Secretary
Rev. Dr. Sherri L. Brooks – Financial Secretary
Rev. Dr. Helen L. Holton – Treasurer
Rev. Kim E. Moss – Herstoryographer
Rev. Dana Porter Ashton – Worship Leader

Conference Coordinators

Rev. Roslyn Crosby – Baltimore
Rev. Latia Suite – Washington
Rev. Amy C. Hodge Ziglar – Virginia
Rev. Gaylian Barbour – North Carolina
Rev. Gwendolyn I. Benjamin – Western North Carolina

WIM Who Superannuated This Conference Year

Rev. Dr. Ruth J. Travis
Rev. Emma Jean Leche
Rev. Dorinda Cummings

WIM Who Transitioned This Conference Year

Rev. Leotis Walker
Rev. Dr. Shirley DeCoster
Rev. Alice Baldwin
Rev. Selene Miles

District Highlights

The Second Episcopal District Women In Ministry has had an exciting and productive Conference Year. It has been a year of transition, as Episcopal District officers were elected during the Second District Mid-Year Convocation in November, 2016. The Executive Board is excited to lead the nearly 1,000 women throughout the Second District who have said “Yes” to God’s call to ordained ministry. We are creatively working to increase membership and participation in WIM at all levels. Several new Conference Coordinators were elected during our series of Annual Conferences from March – May, 2017. There is a spirit of enthusiasm as we continue to serve across the District with excellence. Our Quadrennial Vision and objectives are:

ELEVATE, EMBRACE, EMPOWER, ENCOURAGE

“Now as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness ... so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.”

(2 Corinthians 8:7 NRSV)

- To continue to **elevate** 2nd District WIM, and its members, as essential to ensuring parity, equal opportunity, equal representation and equal respect for all in the work of ordained ministry;
- To **embrace** members and increase membership in a spirit of inclusion and involvement;
- To **empower** members to utilize their God-given gifts and talents in all areas of ministry by providing training, guidance and mentoring; and
- To **encourage** members to expand ministry within and beyond the pulpit, always serving in a spirit of **excellence**.

We were also pleased to begin working with the newly elected Connectional AME/WIM Executive Board. We celebrate the election of our own Rev. Angelique Mason, Connectional AME/WIM Treasurer. In support of the Connectional AME/WIM, Rev. Dana Porter Ashton and Rev. Dr. Helen L. Holton submitted inspiring meditations for inclusion in the 2017 AME/WIM Lenten Devotional.

The Second District WIM, specifically the Baltimore Conference, was honored to hold a Welcome Reception and luncheon for Bishop E. Anne Henning-Byfield on January 7, 2017. Bishop Henning-Byfield is the 135th elected and consecrated Bishop of the AME Church, and Chair of the Commission on Women In Ministry. The event was co-hosted by Retired Episcopal Supervisor, the Rev. Dr. Cecelia Williams Bryant, and the Rev. Dr. Ann Lightner-Fuller, Pastor of Mt. Calvary AME Church.

This year we celebrated the Rev. Dr. Vanetta Brice, CPA, appointed to serve as the first female Treasurer of 2nd Episcopal District and the Washington Conference; the Rev. Dr. Oretha P. Cross who preached the Opening Sermon during the Virginia Annual Conference; the Rev. Anita Thompson who served as Host Coordinator for the Western North Carolina Annual Conference; and countless other sisters providing leadership throughout the District.

To ensure membership needs are addressed, and information of interest is shared, our component meeting during Founder's Day 2017 was entitled #RealTalk. It provided a time of candid discussion and team building for all in attendance. Additionally, the results of an online survey will be incorporated as we plan a District retreat, regional meetings, other events and membership outreach and retention.

We look forward to a new Conference Year and believe the best is yet to come. To God be the Glory for all God has done, is doing, and definitely will do as we move forward in service!

Conference Highlights

Baltimore Conference

- Granted scholarship funds to those Baltimore Conference Women in Ministry members elected as delegates and alternates to the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference. These gifts were made possible by a scholarship fund established in 2015 to assist WIM with ministry-related travel and various hardship situations that may arise.
- Get out the Vote: Panel-led workshops were held during both Presiding Elder District Conferences. The theme was “Eyes Wide Open” and WIM panelists educated, informed, encouraged and charged all attendees to “Get out the Vote.”
- Outreach to the Homeless: During the month of December 2016, the Women in Ministry led an outreach program where blankets were collected and distributed to the homeless population in Baltimore City. This project was not only comforting to the homeless population but heartwarming to all those who served the least of these.
- The BACWIM co-hosted a reception and luncheon for Bishop E. Anne Henning-Byfield, the 135th Elected and Consecrated Bishop of the AME Church, and Chair of the Commission on Women In Ministry.
- Scholarship Fund was held on March 25, 2017 at Payne Memorial AME Church, where the Rev. Dr A. Qismat Alim is the Pastor. The guest preacher was the Rev. Anna E. Mosby, our newly elected Second Episcopal District President of WIM.

Washington Conference

- Coordinated a one-day conference specifically to encourage dialogue and disseminate necessary information for ministry.
- Hosted an Annual Winter Revival, providing opportunities for New Women In Ministry to highlight their gifts and talents.
- Raised funds to provide monetary support for developing congregations.
- Hosted an Annual Summer and Christmas Fellowship.
- Developed mentoring opportunities for Women In Ministry.
- Planned the Women In Ministry Noon Day Worship Services held during Annual Conference.
- Worked collaboratively with the District Coordinators in their effort to advance the possibilities for Women In Ministry.
- Worked diligently to ensure opportunities for all Women In Ministry and to identify potential candidates for future Women In Ministry leadership roles.

Virginia Conference

- Our Conference theme was “WIM Sisters Serving the Church and the Community for the 21st Century.”
- Finally supported WIM who were elected Delegates and Alternates to the General Conference. WIM awarded each Delegate and Alternate \$300 to help with travel expenses and to purchase a ticket to the Jarena Lee Breakfast.

- The District Coordinators planned and facilitated the WIM component sessions with record participation and program excellence.
- Planned and successfully executed a community ministry outreach which included two women's shelters, one on the Eastern Shore and one in Newport News.
- Awarded \$2,100 to seminary graduate students for the 2016-17 fall and spring semesters.
- Led by Exhorter Danita Mosely and WIM Chaplain, Rev. Sabrena McCormic, established a Prayer Network with a 24-hour prayer vigil leading up to the Second District Annual Conferences.

North Carolina Conference

The Lord has been good to us! We had a productive year in Women in Ministry, creating even the more a Sisterhood that embraces, supports and uplifts. We were able to come together to discuss various topics of concern such as:

- Church Growth, Ministry to different types of Congregations
- Advancement of Education
- Sexism
- Social Action
- Balance of Family and Church Life
- Self Health

Western North Carolina Conference

The WIM in the Western North Carolina Conference found new and exciting ways to serve God and the churches and communities entrusted to us. We learned to understand the call in a broader context and continue to seek the pathways and practices that lead to God's ultimate purpose for the called. Highlights include:

- Christmas donations to community ministries and donated volunteer hours to several schools, mentoring projects and nursing homes throughout Western North Carolina.
- E-blast soliciting feedback on becoming more effective leaders.
- Gifts of \$200 to four female Pastors of growing churches to assist with their Conference expenses.
- A one-day Women In Ministry Unity Retreat is planned for June 17, 2017. We will explore the best seller, "Becoming Myself: Embracing God's Dream of You" by Stasi Eldredge.

Third Episcopal District
The Reverend Dr. Peggy E. G. Turner, President

The Third District AME Women in Ministry met during the 2016 Third District Planning Convocation. On Thursday, November 3, 2016, elections were held for new officers. The officers elected were Revs. Dr. Peggy E. G. Turner, President; Vanessa R. Cummings, 1st Vice President; N. Lynn Felts, 2nd Vice President; Deborah J. Watt, Secretary; Debra Smoot, Treasurer; Edwinna W. Davis, Financial Secretary; Deborah Austin Sanders, Herstoryographer; and Shirley Lyons, Worship Leader. Rev. Louise V. Jackson, former Third District WIM President, is the Connectional WIM General Secretary and serves as the Third District WIM Consultant. Ms. Kimberly Brooks is our WIM Commission member. On November 4, 2016, the officers met informally and established monthly executive board teleconferences. Rev. Peggy Turner was able to attend the Connectional Presidents meeting during the December 2016 General Board meeting. The information gained was very beneficial in planning for the Third District AME WIM goals and activities.

Our first Jarena Lee Luncheon was held during the 2017 Mid-Year Convocation. Rev. Dr. Monica L. Spencer, Connectional 3rd Vice President, was our luncheon presenter. She graced us with a dynamic presentation on the Connectional theme, "Standing United, Moving Forward, Stronger Together." Dr. Spencer was also met with us for our late night meeting that was energizing and fruitful. She discussed the Connectional WIM agenda and initiatives for the 2016-2020 Quadrennial and answered questions. Rev. Dr. Erika Crawford, Connectional WIM President will share with us at our Third District WIM retreat to be held on July 28-29, 2017 at Cambridge, Ohio. We are planning to begin a Third District WIM service project, Third District AME WIM Procedure Guidelines, the *Milcah* Mentoring Program, the "Each One Reach One" Campaign, and ways to enhance and expand the Third District AME WIM. A WIM Newsletter and News Updates were started.

This year, Rev. Lucinda Burgess, Dayton District, Ohio/South Ohio Conference received the Master of Divinity degree from Payne Theological Seminary in May, 2017. Rev. Dr. Betty W. Holley, Presiding Elder for the Columbus-Springfield-Xenia District is the new Director for the Master of Divinity Degree Program at Payne Theological Seminary. Rev. Dr. Melonie Valentine, Presiding Elder for the Dayton District, had copies of her book, *Quit Waiting To See Who Shows Up*, for purchase at the 2016 General Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Third District Conference Coordinators are currently planning for their Annual Conference WIM meeting and worship service. The activities of the Annual Conferences are as follows:

North Ohio Conference
Rev. Rose Russell, Conference Coordinator

The North Ohio WIM pastors and ministers annually engage in various activities to glorify our God, minister to His people, and to touch the lives of those in our communities. These events range from sharing in ecumenical worship services, addressing community and social ills, and of course involve activities to help our churches meet their local and connectional responsibilities.

Each spring, NO/WIM hosts a conference to aid, minister to, grow, and encourage members in different ways. This year's conference, "Safety in the Sanctuary," will focus on how to keep our churches safe and how to prepare members to respond in the event of an outbreak of violence in the church, whether an active shooter or other violent act.

The Rev. Shameka Jones-Taylor has put forth substantial effort by communicating with Commander Johnny Johnson of the Cleveland Division of Police, Bureau of Community Policing. On April 29, Sergeant Higgins, the Cleveland Police Department's ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) expert, came to the conference to help conference attendees learn how to respond in order to try to avoid tragedy of any sort.

Specifically, the NO/WIM spring conference was held from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, 2017, at Greater Bethel Church, Cleveland, where the Rev. Dr. Cecelia Williams is pastor. God's people at Greater Bethel will provide a light lunch and there was a \$20 donation.

Rev Rose Russell, Coordinator
Rev Barbara Huston, Assistant Coordinator
Rev Lisa Martin, Recording Secretary
Rev Michelle Thomas, Treasurer
Rev Shameka Jones Taylor, Financial Secretary
Rev Dr Cecelia Williams, Chaplain
Rev Patricia Monday, Worship Leader
Rev Brenda Johnson, Herstoryographer

Pittsburgh-West Virginia Conference
Rev. Jeannette Hubbard, Conference Coordinator

During the historic 149th Session of the Pittsburgh-West Virginia Annual Conference held at Bethel AME Church, Pittsburgh, PA., the Women in Ministry (WIM) of the Pittsburgh Conference and Women in Ministry (WIM) of the West Virginia Conference came together to form what is now Women in Ministry of the Pittsburgh-West Virginia Conference. Comprised of women pastors who hail from the Allegheny-Scranton, Pittsburgh, Wheeling and Charleston Districts, the newly-formed WIM elected the following officers for the 2016-2017 conference year: Reverend Jeannette Hubbard, Conference Coordinator; Reverend Roberta Smith, Assistant Coordinator; Reverend

Debra Watt, Secretary; Reverend Carolyn Hairston, Treasurer; and Reverend Melva Hartzog, Chaplain/Worship Leader.

The Pittsburgh-West Virginia WIM held teleconference calls on January 17th (19 participants) and February 14th to discuss the following:

- The purpose of AME/WIM
- Ways of strengthening the bonds of sisterhood by developing relationships that will assist WIM.
- Ways of supporting and encouraging members of WIM.
- Establish a set date and time for teleconference calls.
- Future programming plans for WIM Pittsburgh-West Virginia.
- Information about Third District WIM program, retreat and obligations and retreat and AME WIM.
- WIM district and connectional financial obligations.
-

The District Coordinator for the West Virginia Conference is Reverend Georgia Morrow; the District Coordinator for the Allegheny-Scranton District is Reverend Melva Hartzog. The Allegheny-Scranton District has 20 churches with 10 women pastors (including one that pastors two churches). The Pittsburgh District has 22 churches with six women pastors (including two who pastor circuit churches). The West Virginia Conference, comprised of the Wheeling and Charleston Districts, have 7 churches pastored by women preachers.

Ohio-South Ohio Conference **Rev. Mila P. Cooper, Conference Coordinator**

The Ohio-South Ohio Women in Ministry (WIM) is on the move. We enjoyed our *Winter Retreat – “A Time of Refreshing”* on Saturday, January 28th in Yellow Springs, Ohio. The retreat included a spiritual formation exercise, vision board activity as well as food, fellowship and fun. Our next ministry event is our Conference worship service which is being planned for a Friday in September at 7:00 p.m. at Wayman A.M.E. Church in Dayton, Ohio. The entire conference is asked to join us in worship and support – all clergy, lay, missionaries, Sons of Allen, and young people.

Our annual meeting and elections will be held at the seat of the Annual Conference at Mt. Vernon A.M.E. Church in Columbus, Ohio on Saturday, October 8, 2017.

Elections were held at our annual meeting prior to Annual Conference on October 1st at Wayman A.M.E. Church in Dayton. Elected officers are: the Revs. Mila P. Cooper (Coordinator), Kathryn Davis (Assistant Coordinator), Melody Essex (Recording Secretary), Jacqueline Randolph (Treasurer), Candy Hardy (Financial Secretary), Barbara Baccus (Worship Leader) and Stephanie Ransom Kelley (Herstorlographer). We are pleased to announce the following appointments to our executive board: the Revs.

Aimee Hurst Anderson (Public Relations), Phyllis Clemons (Dayton District Coordinator), Reyna Mangrum Hughes (Columbus-Springfield-Xenia District Coordinator), Alice Cato (Cincinnati District Coordinator), Edwinna Davis and Peggy Turner (ex-officio/past conference presidents).

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them pass and inheritance of their father on to them.
Numbers 27:6-7 NRSV



Fourth Episcopal District

The Reverend Alene E. Styles-Glover, President

Fourth Episcopal District WIM are partnering on the execution of the mission and goals set for the 2016 – 2020 Quadrennial. Several tenets undergird our focus and drive us to collectively lift the presence of women in ministry and leadership in the African Methodist Episcopal Church: increase membership attraction; improve member retention; and further engage women in ministry across all six conferences; Intentional recognition and support of women in ministry; greater awareness of issues important to women; diversity and inclusion of women across the episcopacy; expanding scope of outreach to women in ministry in Episcopal Districts Fourteen through Twenty and within the Fourth, AME India; a more comprehensive documented history of the contributions and achievements of women in ministry; further building, expanding and enabling effective collaborate ministry to women and communities; and enabling women to lead with context, praxis, while developing optimal and impactful kingdom ministry.

Fourth District WIM continue to lead and make phenomenal kingdom ministry impacts:

Celebrating Women in Leadership:

Fourth Episcopal District AME WIM, Executive Board

- President, Rev. Alene E. Styles-Glover
- First Vice President, Rev. Dr. Cecelia GreeneBarr
- Second Vice President, Rev. Dr. Sheiler Stokes
- Secretary, Rev. HaLana Thompson
- Financial Secretary, Rev. Dorinda Phillips
- Worship Leader, Rev. Danita Bell

Conference Coordinators:

- Chicago Annual Conference – Rev. Janice Cummings
- Michigan Annual Conference – Rev. Sharinese Jackson
- Indiana Annual Conference – Rev. Tess Brooks Stephens

- Illinois Annual Conference – Rev. Tinnie Randall
- Presiding Elder, AME-India Annual Conference – Rev. Sarah Abraham
- Presiding Elder, South District Indiana Annual Conference – Rev. Elaine P. Gordon
- Chicago Conference, Chair, Board of Ministerial Efficiency – Rev. Charlene Bulls-Mills
- Dean of Canadian Conference, Board of Ministerial Training – Rev. Tracey Leigh Thomas
- Dean of Indiana Conference, Board of Ministerial Training – Rev. Dr. Kathleen M. Wright
- Dean of Illinois Conference, Board of Ministerial Training – Rev. Adrian Johnson
- Vice President of Downriver Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance – Rev. Arnita M. Traylor, Pastor, St. John AME Church River Rouge, MI
- Executive Board Member, Michigan Faith in Action – Rev. Sharinese Jackson, Pastor Quinn Chapel AME, Flint Michigan

Celebrating Recent Authors:

- Rev. Shonda Nicole Gladden – “Becoming: Reflections on Maximizing Failures and Living into My Best Self”
- Rev. Ericka Bailey – “I Survived”
- Rev. Arnita M. Traylor – “Shine: Hidden No More.... Sisters Light Up the World through Speaking Truth to Power”

Celebrating the 8th Annual AME-India Conference and Women in Ministry

Connectional AME WIM, 2nd Vice President, Rev. Joelynn Stokes, Esq. and Fourth District 1st Vice President Rev. Dr. Cecelia GreeneBarr were among the delegation attending the 8th Annual AME-India Annual Conference, Chennai, India.

Rev. Dr. GreeneBarr shared “Women can certainly be found doing ministry in India. Presiding Elder Sarah Abraham is more than a founder and preacher with a title; she is admired and respected by both men and women as a spiritual mother and example of integrity.

We certainly face our share of ministerial hindrances. But as I listened to the women talk about the dangers they face, both from within their household and the community at large, my heart experienced a heaviness that doesn’t compare to any of the struggles I’ve personally faced or those of the women I know here at home. These women love the Lord and have been serving Jesus long before the AME Church connected with them. Their countenance was peaceful, irrespective of the sacrifices of safety and security. I would ask that we all intercede for Presiding Elder Sarah Abraham and for all of the women who love and serve Jesus Christ in India”.

Fourth Episcopal District, AME WIM are unashamedly and unapologetically committed to the challenge, the charge and the opportunity to step ahead "Standing United, Moving Forward, Stronger Together".



Fifth Episcopal District
The Reverend Carolyn Baskin-Bell, President

Total Women in the District - 388

Itinerant Elders - 149

Itinerant Deacons - 47

Local Elders - 65

Local Deacons - 51

Licentiates - 37

Licensed Evangelists - 38

Exhorters -1

Seminarians - 12

Pastors - 59

New Churches - 1

Associate Members (Male Clergy and Laypersons) - 12

DECEASED:

- Reverend Penny Pitchford-Itinerant Elder of MidWest-Pastored St. Paul AME, Kansas City Kansas
- Reverend Camille Crawford-Itinerant Elder
- Reverend Iva Williams, Local Elder
- Reverend Tarez Hollins, Itinerant Deacon of Southern California

Superannuated:

Reverends: Noella Austin Buchanan
Gayle Davis-Culp of Southern California
Gloria Butler, MidWest Conference
Janice Parker, Missouri
Thetius Pinkard, California
Rev. Dr. Rosalind Polston
Reverend Tawana Davis, Desert Mountain

Supernumerary:

Reverend Dr. Helen Hunter, Desert Mountain

Chaplains:

Rev. Jerrye Champion

Rev. Lonzie Symonette

Rev. Dr. Helen Hunter

Deborah Hill

Olga Copeland

Naomi Harris of Desert Mountain

Reverend Dr. Lois Woodard, Southern California

SPECIALIZED MINISTRIES: Reverends: Makela Benoit Mims, Dionne Carter, Sandra Smith-Blair; Cynthia Joseph, Brenda Pope, Bonnie , Gloria Williams, Lorraine Canaday, Janis Williams, Annisteen Tate-Cammack, Dorisalene Hughes, Lorraine Allen; Aileen Wynne, Missouri Conference

PRESIDING ELDERS:

Reverend Francis Cary-MidWest

Reverend Darlene Singer Smith-Missouri

Received MASTER OF DIVINITY DEGREE -Reverend Makela Benoit Mims, California Conference; Reverend Rochelle Settle of Southern California Conference

Received DOCTOR OF MINISTRY DEGREE - Reverend Dr. Anna Clark Jones, Pacific Northwest; Reverend Doctors: Barbara Brooks; Charolyn Jones; Mary Minor and Rosa Medina of Southern California Conference

HIGHLIGHTS from the FIFTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT WOMEN IN MINISTRY

We are grateful to God for the leadership of The Right Reverend Clement W. Fugh and Supervisor Alexia Fugh. The prayers and support of our Episcopal Team encourage the inclusivity of all gifts in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

The Women of the Fifth continue to celebrate the theme, “Holy and Whole: Standing Together, Moving Forward and Stronger Together. Our goals for this Quadrennial are: 1) Prayer Circles on a weekly/monthly basis to strengthen Sistering Spirit 2) Engaging in awareness activities to celebrate Connectional theme 3) Mentoring/Sistering activities in the Spirit of Milcah and Tirzah 4) Marjorie Casson Scholarship-Awarding two scholarship to seminarians 5) Quarterly Newsletter-Lifting up the achievements and accomplishments of WIM.

2016 Planning Meeting focused on election of officers for this 2016-2020 Quadrennial as follows: President, Reverend Carolyn Baskin-Bell; First Vice President, Reverend Mercedes Tudy Hamilton; 2ndVice President, Reverend Patricia Winfrey; Secretary,

Reverend Karen Anderson; Treasurer, Reverend Cecelia Justice; Financial Secretary, Reverend Sherielyn Curry Lasley; Worship Leader, Reverend Dr. Cassandra Gould; Chaplaincy, Reverend Lonzie Symonette; Scholarship, Presiding Elder Darlene Singer Smith and Reverend Dr. Betty Hanna Witherspoon; Advisors: Reverend Brenda J Hayes, Reverend Noella Buchanan; Reverend Pamela Mason.

MidYear WIM Session offered two powerful ministries presented by Reverend Francine Brookins, pastor of Bethel AME, Fontana, California and candidate for Episcopal Service 2020, who reviewed the ByLaws of AME WIM and Reverend Dr. Karla Cooper, pastor of Quinn Chapel AME, Lincoln, Nebraska, addressed the Daughters of Zelophehad by preaching Numbers 27:6-7.

All Six Conferences are led by Committed Coordinators: **Reverend Dr. Charolyn Jones, Southern California** where the WIM were blessed during the Annual Day with the preaching and teaching of the Reverend Dr. Teresa Fry Brown, Executive Director of Research and Scholarship; Consultant to AME WIM. Our own Bishop Clement W. Fugh preached for the Jarena Lee Prayer Breakfast in April 2017.

Desert Mountain, Coordinator, Rev. Dr. Geleta Smith led WIM in Annual Day exploring Spiritual Gifts and utilizing them for the work of the ministry of Christ.

California Conference, Coordinator, Rev, Loretta Dickerson-Smith experienced prayer and the arts in the worship experience and also shared personal items with women returning to the workforce.

Missouri Conference, Coordinator, Rev. Karen Anderson held Jarena Lee Scholarship and Award Prayer Breakfast and celebrated the history of the Missouri WIM by a compilation and publication by Herstoryographer, Rev. Dr. Jo Ann B. Owens.

Pacific Northwest, Coordinator, Reverend Teresa Swift engaged a revival, "Those Preaching Men and Women," brought firepower to PNW Conference. **Midwest**

Conference, Coordinator, Reverend Victoria Parker, shared an original dramatic presentation created by Reverend Rachel Williams Glen during their Annual Day. The Fifth Episcopal District Women in Ministry are excited to host the AMEWIM Reception and Installation Worship events as we celebrate the Investiture of our Beloved Bishop, The Right Reverend Clement W. Fugh.

We praise God for the opportunity to serve God and God's people.

Sixth Episcopal District

Reverend Dr. Jonetta Prater, President

2016-2017 6th Episcopal District WIM Executive Board

The Reverend Dr. Jonetta Prater, President
The Reverend Dr. Michele Williams, 1st Vice President
The Reverend Esther K Powers, 2nd Vice President
The Reverend Libya Baaqar, Secretary
Reverend Brenda Brown, Financial Secretary
The Reverend Pamela Hobbs, Treasurer
The Reverend Gloria Walden, Worship Leader

6th Episcopal District Conference Coordinators

The Reverend Beverley Griffin, South Georgia Conference
The Reverend Vickie Alston, Southwest Georgia Conference
The Reverend Debbie Grant Neal, Old Georgia Conference
The Reverend Karen Bennett, Augusta Georgia Conference
The Reverend Sandra Simmons, Macon Georgia Conference
The Reverend Hope Sutton, Atlanta North Georgia Conference

AMEWIM Connectional Officers

The Reverend Dr. Monica Spencer, 3rd Vice President
The Reverend Garland Higgins, Corresponding Secretary

AMEWIM Connectional Consultants

The Reverend Dr. Teresa Fry Brown - Bandy Professor of Preaching
The Reverend Dr. Jacquelyn Grant-Collier - Callaway Professor of Systematic Theology

AME General Officer

The Reverend Teresa Fry Brown

General Board Member

The Reverend Dr. Jonetta Prater, President
The Reverend Conitras M. Houston

The Year in Review

The SED has seen a significant increase in the intentional inclusion of women in all areas and on all levels of ministry in the 6th Episcopal District. Two women were elected to serve on the 2016-2020 General Board. The opening worship for Founder's Day was preached by a woman. The series of annual conferences in Georgia had a new favor. Two annual sermons, one communion service, one ordination service, an ecumenical service and Noonday worship during Planning Meeting were all preached by women. Women have also been included in the leadership of the finance committees, Board of

Examiners and Christian Education. They serve as conference Trustees and presiding elders.

The SED WIM Executive was installed by Bishop Reginald T. Jackson on Thursday, June 1, 2017 during the Planning Meeting.

We look forward with great anticipation to hosting AMEWIM during the 2018 General Board meeting in Atlanta, GA.



Eighth Episcopal District ***Reverend Dr. Leoda Topps, President***

The Eighth Episcopal District Women in Ministry has been blessed with an outstanding year of worship and service. Each annual conference Women in Ministry had a wonderful and productive Annual Day with workshops, outreach ministry, fellowship and worship service. The outreach ministries included providing meals, donating school supplies, serving in soup kitchens, working with senior citizens, and providing sisters with gifts and words of encouragement throughout the conference year. WIM donated to those that were affected by floods in LA and tornados in MS. The WIM has been busy doing ministry that will make an impact on the lives of people and bring change in the community

The Eighth Episcopal District Moody-Cherry-Boyd Legacy Scholarship Breakfast was held at the Bonner Campbell Complex Edwards, MS in December 2016.

We have members of Women In Ministry that have graduated from seminary, some are attending seminary and other have been attending workshops and training to better equip themselves for service in ministry.

We continue to pray for one another that we may grow and our service to the Lord will grow and bring glory to His Name.



Ninth Episcopal District ***The Reverend Deborah Peppers, President***

We are excited that the Connectional AME/WIM accepted our proposal to host the 2018 Quadrennial Conference, August 7-11, 2018, at Daniel Payne Community Plaza in Birmingham, Alabama.

We kicked off 2016 with a Post-Resurrection Retreat which allowed the attendees to bond and become more trusting of one another. During the Planning Meeting, the following members were elected to the Executive Board this quadrennial.

The Rev. Deborah Peppers President

Dr. Letitia Watford 1st Vice President

The Rev. Mattie Edwards 2nd Vice President

The Rev. Mary Garrett Secretary

The Rev. Debbie Dowdell Financial Secretary

Dr. Clementine Warren Worship Leader

The Rev. Monique Summers Herstoryographer

The Annual Conference Coordinators that serve with the Executive Board are:

The Rev. Sandra Anderson Alabama River Region

The Rev. Charles Marie Davis Northwest Alabama

The Rev. Robyn Burnett Southeast Alabama

The Rev. Bruny Mitchell-Paul Northeast Alabama

Dr. Lugenia Johnson Southwest Alabama.

We exhibited splendid work during the Mid-Year meeting. We fellowshiped at a restaurant for breakfast before the opening of the Mid-Year Conference. Connectional officers (Dr. Erika Crawford, President; the Rev. Ammie Davis, 1st Vice President, and Dr. Monica Spencer, 3rd Vice President), presented a workshop on the Purpose and Power of the AME WIM. "Pack-A-Purse" was our service project. "Pack-A-Purse" is a mission project for AIM (Aid to Inmate Mothers) that provides purses and personal hygiene items to assist women who are recently released from Prison. Our goal was to pack and provide 25 purses/bags, but the final count was 51.

Highlights:

Major appointments

✓ Dr. Letitia Watford was appointed Presiding Elder of the Tuskegee District

✓ The Rev. Gloria Hall was promoted to the first church on her PE District.

Graduations

DMin

✓ The Rev. Agnes Lover, DMin

✓ The Rev. Carmen Avery Walker, DMin

MDiv

✓ The Rev. Robyn Burnett

✓ The Rev. Karen Jarmon

✓ The Rev. Nicole Slater

Master Degree

✓ The Rev. Christine Thomas

Bachelor Degree

- ✓ The Rev. Brunhilde Mitchell-Paul
- ✓ The Rev. Cynthia Johnson

Retirees

- ✓ The Rev. Irmatine Chasting
- ✓ The Rev. Beletia Diamond

Deaths

- ✓ The Rev. Elizabeth Charles
- ✓ The Rev. Elsie P. Copes
- ✓ The Rev. Valerie Tyus

Ordinations

Itinerant Elder

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ✓ The Rev. Angie Cox | ✓ The Rev. Nicole Slater |
| ✓ The Rev. Tracey Horne | ✓ The Rev. Lisa Taylor |
| ✓ The Rev. Karen Jarmon | ✓ The Rev. Christine Thomas |
| ✓ The Rev. Cynthia Johnson | |

Board of Examiners ~ Admissions

- ✓ Chellette Henderson
- ✓ Laniece Stanton

License to Preach

- ✓ Sister Loretta Fuller was the only person reported.

The 9th Episcopal District under the leadership of Bishop Harry L. Seawright and the Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright, will **STAND UNITED** as we **MOVE FORWARD** because we are **STRONGER TOGETHER**.



Tenth Episcopal District

The Reverend Gloria Cash Sams, President

10th District Executive Board

1st Vice President - Rev. Dr. Cynthia Cole
2nd Vice President - Rev. Alma Phillips
3rd Vice President - Rev. Lernetta Patterson
Secretary - Rev. Idotha Battle
Treasurer - Rev. Shelia Sidberry-Thomas

Financial Secretary - Rev. Patricia Smith
Herstorlographer - Rev. Etta Anderson
Worship Director - Rev. Sonia Beatty Scott

Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd was the special guest at our WIM gathering held during Founder's Day. She shared her journey of ministry with the group.

We have a continuous 6:00 a.m. Friday morning devotional and prayer conference call.

We are currently in the planning stage for "worship on the beach" this summer.



Eleventh Episcopal District *The Reverend Bettye Watson, President*

To God be the Glory for the wonderful women in ministry of the *Electrifying* Eleventh Episcopal District under the leadership of a very supportive team, Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr. and Supervisor Mrs. Connie Speights Richardson. We are thankful for a supportive Bishop, we have witness the elevation of more Women in Ministry to larger congregations, placement on committee since our leaving the General Conference.

The Women in Ministry continue to support the projects within their conferences: S.O.S. (Supporting our Sisters) where WIM gather for worship once a quarter to support a sister in a small congregation. All six conferences continue to gather and distribute items to women and children shelters around the District. During Founders Day our project was Pack the Bag, we packed left over conference bags with items for students and were able to bless 130 students attending Edwards College. The Women in Ministry of the 11th are excited about our WIM retreat to be held in August. During this past series of annual conferences a time of learning was set aside, along with workshops on self-care, as well as at each Episcopal meeting.

To God be the glory for all God has allowed us to do and especially for the growth we have witnessed. And the work is still All Divine.



Thirteenth Episcopal District

The Reverend Dr. Maxine L. Thomas, President

The 13th District WIM is excited about ministry and service and ministers therein have demonstrated their love for God, our Zion and humanity as they have preached with power, excellence, and grace as well as groomed themselves, spiritually, academically and professionally. They are participating as Deans of the Board of Examiners on both the Conference and District levels. We are blessed with two female Presiding Elders, and at least three quarters of female preachers in the District serve as Pastors. They serve as instructors of the Board of Examiners and as members of the team on Ministerial Training. Thirteenth District WIM members have distinguished themselves as scholars and leaders. And whenever they gather, their testimonies and their praise attest to their faith in and love for God as they inspire and edify each other.

This year, each Conference has been actively involved in ministry: Their activities have included:

- Kentucky Conference—Held a One-Day Conference on April 28 titled, “I’m Every Woman” – Renew, Refresh, Self-Care, at Embry Chapel, Elizabeth, KY, Rev. Stephanie Raglin, host; Dr. Maxine Thomas founded My Sister’s Keeper Bible and Leadership Academy and graduated the first class of eight women; two WIM members, Rev. LaVeeshia Pryor and Rev. Stephanie Raglin received Master of Divinity degrees from Lexington Theological Seminary and Asbury Theological Seminary respectively
- West Tennessee Conference—a new AME mission, Living Waters Fellowship was started by Rev. Terri Strong in Memphis in October 2016; West Tennessee new website for WIM news and events; Wellness and Restoration workshop July 2017.
- East Tennessee Conference—Has planned a luncheon, “It Is Well” to be held on September 2, 2017 in Fayetteville, TN.
- Tennessee Conference—had one graduate - Rev. Candace Perkins, Itinerant Deacon, received her M.Div. from Payne Theological Seminary, May 12, 2017.

Rev. Linda Brown-Saffore coordinated the Regional Founder's Day celebrations for the 3 Districts that comprise the TN Annual Conference. Rev. Sherri Cowley Scott, TN WIM Coordinator, presented the Jarena Lee story during the North Nashville District celebration.

Planning a WIM Roundtable to discuss issues confronting women clergy - in August or September.

The 13th District WIM will have African American Women Training and Empowerment Seminar – “Woman, Dry Your Weeping Eyes” on Wednesday, June 28 at the District Learning Academy where they will receive training in how to develop a ministry to meet the needs of women in the 21st century. The host church is Taylor Chapel AME Church in Bowling Green, KY.



Twentieth Episcopal District

Reverend Fanny D. Mdzeka, President

I greet you all in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ. 20th Episcopal District is composed of 7 conferences. In the 7 conferences, we have 16 WIM members as follows; North Malawi Conference 1, Central Malawi Conference 1, South Malawi Conference 3, North East Zimbabwe Conference 6, Central Zimbabwe Conference 2, South West Zimbabwe Conference 3 to make a total of 16. No information from Uganda conference due to lack of communication and I did not visit the conference. Of these 16 WIM Members only 2 are Presiding Elders. One is from South Malawi Conference and the other one is from Central Zimbabwe Conference.

We thank the connectional WIM for their effort to communicate to us and give as the information when is needed. We thank our bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford for his support [Financially] and encouraging us, we thank God to have him in 20th District. I thank also all WIM members of 20th District for their support.

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

1. I managed to visit six conferences out of seven.
2. We managed to elect conference presidents or coordinators during our Annual Conferences. As follows:
 - a. North Malawi none
 - b. Central Malawi Rev. Lillian Lilly Kapanda
 - c. South Malawi Rev. Rosetta Swinton
 - d. North East Zimbabwe Rev. Florence McLaren
 - e. Central Zimbabwe Rev Nontokozo Khumalo
 - f. South East Zimbabwe Rev Debola Manyowa
3. We manage to lay a foundation together by participating as WIM on our Annual conferences.
4. We managed to communicate with the South and Central Coordinator
5. We managed to send the representative to Episcopal District President Meeting on December 5 2016.

PROBLEMS

1. Poor communication systems

2. Geographical problems.
3. Lack of resources
4. Sexism
5. Gender bias

FUTURE PLANS

1. Meeting with WIM & Exhorters in Central Malawi conference on 1 July 2017
2. Meeting with all WIM Members in October 2017
3. To provide scholarships to WIM members to continue their education
4. To attend all Annual Conferences & assess their programs from 15th August 2017 to second week of October 2017

CONCLUSION

We kindly ask the President and connectional committee to continue to communicate, teach and encourage us because we are still learning. We appeal to the Executive Board and WIM across the connection to assist us with acquiring technology to help ease our communication, i.e. laptops, video cameras or iPad. Secondly we are looking forward to WIM members within the district to continue their education; to fight against sexism within and out of the church and empower women to be positioned for promotions.