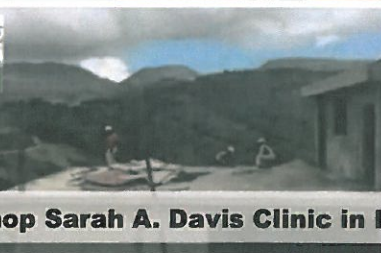


YAM Summit 2017—Johannesburg, South Africa



Progress of Bishop Sarah A. Davis Clinic in Haiti

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Report to the General Board

June 20-21, 2017

Los Angeles Airport Hotel

5711 West Century Blvd

Los Angeles, CA 90045

Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie,
General Board Chair

Bishop John Franklin White,
**President, Council of Bishops &
Chair of Global Witness & Ministry**

Bishop McKinley Young
Senior Bishop

Dr. George F. Flowers,
Executive Director of Global Witness & Ministry

Dr. Shirley Cason Reed
International WMS President



Women's Missionary Society
African Methodist Episcopal Church

REPORT TO THE GENERAL BOARD

Los Angeles, California
June 20-21, 2017

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

-Romans 1 KJV

To: Bishop McKinley Young, Senior Bishop
Bishop John Franklin White, President of the Council of Bishops & Chair of Global Witness and Ministry
Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Chair General Board
Dr. George F. Flowers, Executive Director, Global Witness and Ministry
All Bishops of the Church, Episcopal Supervisors, General and Connectional Officers, embers of the Women's Missionary, Clergy and fellow Laypersons.

I am excited to share this report with which represents the accomplishment and work of the Women's Missionary Society of the A. M. E. Church.

The work of the Connectional/International Women's Missionary Society depends upon the support of the Episcopal Districts and its member. I pause to say thank you to our Chair, Bishop John F. White, Dr. George F. Flowers, Executive Director, Global Witness and Ministry, past Presidents, our Episcopal Supervisors, Connectional Officers, past and present, Commissioners, Office Staff, every member, associate member, supporters and friends.

I offer praises to God for the opportunity to serve as the President of the awesome organization, I deem it an honor to serve God and His people. It is with a deep sense of humility and gratitude that I make this report to the General Board, giving an accounting of our stewardship and commitment to the work of the Connectional Women's Missionary. It is by His grace and mercy that we were blessed to carry out the work of missions during the past twelve months.

We answered God's calling to help hurting people in the United States and abroad. The WMS had a seat at the table, ensuring the UN Sustainable Development Goals were executed, allowing us to experience spiritual and economic growth.

The Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church continues to respond to the call to strengthen our faith and continue the ministry of Jesus Christ. We are called to do this in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth, we are called to do this in neighborhoods, cities, nations and our global community. We have answered the call through our twenty (20) Episcopal District and the office of Ecumenical and Urban Affairs.

The WMS operates through four (4) Commissions

- Commission on Administration, responsible for overall management of the organization
- Commission on Christian Social Action, responsible for planning and promoting social action
- Commission on Missionary Education & Interpretation, responsible for planning, conducting and supervising the educational thrust of the organization
- Commission on Membership & Recruitment, responsible for developing programs and planning activities to recruit and retain members.

The three primary focuses for the Connectional Women's Missionary Society were in conjunction with our 2015-2019 Quadrennial Theme, "**Transforming Lives, Building Communities and Impacting the World!**" Our scriptural foundation is found in Romans 12:1-2. These are some of our strategic plans and initiatives:

Focus 1: Transforming Lives:

We have The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a set of "**17 Transforming Global Goals**" with 169 targets between them.

Since its adoption, the 2030 Agenda has served as a new incentive for national and international action. The world now has the tools to ensure that people and the planet thrive. **The Women's Missionary Society has worked to ensure that The UN Sustainable Goals were addressed and plans executed that addressed injustices in all its forms.**

Unfortunately, President Trump just released his proposed fiscal year 2018 budget. It cuts at least \$865 billion from programs, such as SNAP (formerly food stamps), Medicaid, and refundable tax credits for low-income working families.

Such unprecedented cuts will destroy the safety net for countless children and families, in our own communities, and across the nation. These proposed cuts — on top of the more than \$880 billion in Medicaid cuts under the House-passed health care bill — are a double whammy for the 1 in 8 families in the United States who are at risk of hunger.

Our advocacy is more important now than ever. As Congress considers the President Trump's budget recommendations, we only have a short window of opportunity to stop these extreme cuts. **The Connectional WMS has partnered with other affiliates and Ecumenical teams, such as Bread for the World, Church World Services, Food Banks, and other organizations whose goal Zero Hunger** – To End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

On May 21, the WMS participated in the Bread for the World Prayer, Fasting and Advocacy Call to Action to serve as string advocates in our rallying against President Trump's and Congress' proposed budget cuts to those struggling with hunger and poverty. In addition, **The Connectional WMS has partnered with Bread for the World in their 2017 Offering of Letters campaign urges Congress to invest in and protect vital policies and safety-net programs** — including WIC, global nutrition, SNAP, and refundable tax credits. We have made

great progress in helping to reduce hunger and poverty in our country and around the world, **but our work remains unfinished.**

Transforming the World - Goal 3 of the Sustainable Goals seeks to ensure health and well-being for all, at every stage of life. The Goal addresses all major health priorities, including reproductive, maternal and child health; communicable, non-communicable and environmental diseases; universal health coverage; and access for all to safe, effective, quality and affordable medicines and vaccines. It also calls for more research and development, increased health financing, and strengthened capacity of all countries in health risk reduction and management.

Other initiatives that we have engaged: **From Sunday to Sunday, March 5 – 12, the Connectional WMS joined forces with the Balm In Gilead in observance of the 28th Annual National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS (NWPHA)..** “The purpose of the **2017 National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS** was to bring national attention to the AIDS epidemic in the United States and the extraordinary role faith communities *can and are playing* in AIDS prevention, **education, service and advocacy**,” states the [NWPHA website](#). “The National Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS promote the continuous national mobilization and education of faith communities to take an even greater role in the implementation of AIDS education and services within their local communities and across the nation.”

The Connectional WMS in partnership with The Balm in Gilead offered tool kits and resources, including a guide to family-prayer time planning and scriptural references for Christian communities.

Transforming Lives: **The WMS Campaign to END Obstetric Fistula.**

Obstetric Fistula is a devastating childbirth injury caused when a women or girl suffers from prolonged obstructed labor. During unassisted prolonged labor the pressure of the baby’s head on the mother’s pelvic bone damages her soft tissues, creating a hole or fistula between the vagina and the bladder and/or rectum. It is estimated that over 2 million women live with this condition in the world, with up to 10,000 new cases every year.

The Connectional Women’s Missionary Society of the AME Church, Commission on Christian Social Action launched this financial initiative in support of the Campaign to End Obstetric Fistula during the month of May, as we celebrated the observance of Mother’s Day. During the Executive Board Meeting a display was presented on the WMS Campaign to End Obstetric Fistula, handouts, such as newsletters, UNFPA fistula publications, and CD’s, giving a wide variety of information on Fistula were available, as a means of bring about further awareness of this devastating malady.

The dates observed for action and advocacy: February 3 - National “GO RED” Day (Wear Red, Speak Red, Go Red) for awareness and prevention of heart disease.

March 10 – National Women’s and Girl’s HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

May 8 – National Women’s Day check up

May 14-20 – National Women’s Health Week -- Asked Missionaries to conduct “healthy makeovers” sessions (promoting healthy hearts, healthy skins, healthy diets, healthy lives, healthy you)

June 12-18 National men’s Health Week – Conduct informational sessions to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage EARLY detection and treatment of disease among men and bots.

October 15-21 - THINK PINK Awareness Week – show support of breast cancer awareness by wearing pink ribbons throughout the week. Pink Spirit Honor and Recognition day on Sunday, October 15, 2015, in honor of celebration of survivors and in remembrance of those who have lost the fight.

Dec 1 – World AIDS Day – An opportunity to raise awareness and to unite worldwide in the fight against HIV infection and the spread of AIDS pandemic.

Transforming the World - Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls -Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

Providing women and girls with equal access to education, health care, decent work, and representation in political and economic decision-making processes will fuel sustainable economies and benefit societies and humanity at large.

Dates Observed for action and advocacy:

March 8- International Women’s Day

March 13- International History Month Recognition and Celebration . The theme was:

#BeBoldForChange

Call on the masses or call on yourself to help forge a better working world

April 11 -- Equal Pay Day.... Data from a [2016 study](#) illustrates that while white, non-Hispanic women make 83 cents for every dollar, Black women make 66 cents, and Hispanic women make 60 cents that men earn.

June 23 – International Widows Day – No woman should lose her status, livelihood or prosperity when her husband dies, yet millions of widows in our world face persistent abuse, discrimination, destitution and disinheritance.

Aug 26 – Women’s Equality Day

Focus 2 Building Communities:

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities addresses the need to make our cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Gun violence kills more than 90 Americans a day and injures hundreds more. That’s why this **June 2nd on National Gun Violence Awareness Day**, Americans across the country are asked

to **Wear Orange**—a color that demands to be seen—to send the powerful message that there is more we can do to end gun violence! The Connectional Women’s Missionaries Society joined forces with Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense In America. to demand action from legislators, state and federal; companies; and educational institutions to establish common-sense gun reforms. Americans across the country wore Orange on National Gun Violence Awareness Day and sent the powerful message that there is more we can do to end gun violence and to combat senseless deaths of our young black men and women. . We **DEMAND TO BE SEEN and to be HEARD!**

Focus 3: Impacting the World

The Non -Governmental Organization of the United Nations

First Ever – The NGO Convention 28th Annual Convention held in Washington, DC

The Women’s Missionary Society of the AME Church - Non-Governmental Organization to the United Nations Commission noted **a historical first** as we convened for our 28th Annual Convention with newly formed representatives Patricia Bradley, Jacqueline Mitchell Robinson, Alternate Carolyn Clemons, UN Youth Representative Eddie Scott and Logistic Chairperson Lisa McDonald.

This 28th UN NGO Convention , marks **the first year the conference was held outside of New York City**. This year, we met in Washington, D.C., home of the International WMS Headquarters on October 12- 14, 2016. **however, we continue maintain the NGO office at 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, New York.**

The theme: Wake Up! We Have the POWER to Change this World! The Conference Highlights were: Advocacy Training, Ending Hunger: Empowering Women and Engaging Youth, The 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, Gun Violence Awareness, and Presentations by UN Representatives and International Experts.

Impacting the World: Executive Board Meeting and Service Day for the Connectional WMS/AMEC 2017

This EBM was held on January 25 – 28, 2017, Galt House Hotel - Louisville, Kentucky, graciously hosted by Bishop Jeffrey N, Leath, Supervisor Dr. Susan J. Leath, District President Ms.Gwen Dillihunt and District YPD Director Ms. LaTanya Germany and the talented Thirteenth Episcopal District. **The Theme was : Rise Up...Speak Up... Impact: For Such a Time as This!** Biblical Foundation: No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. **Micah 6:8**

The 2017 Early Bird Empowerment Session Topics were: **Step Up!** -Promoting Social and Economic Justice - **Wake Up!** -Promoting Healthy Living - **Rise Up!** - We Are One! (Bridging Generational Gaps)

Impacting the World through Outreach Opportunities:

EBM 2017

OUTREACH - MISSIONARIES ON THE MOVE

Donations totaling \$26,500 (Financial and in – kind donations)

Dare to Care Food Banks – On Thanksgiving Eve in 1969, nine year old Bobby Ellis died of malnutrition in his Louisville home. The stunned Kentucky community took action and created Dare to Care Food Bank, to ensure that no one in the community lacks enough food to live an active, healthy life. Today, Dare to Care partners with over 300 local social service agencies, such as food pantries, shelters and emergency kitchens to distribute food to the community. Missionaries will work in the warehouse, sorting and boxing up food items.

Home of the Innocents - is where Louisville's vulnerable children and youth find emotional, physical, and intellectual support that can transform their lives. The Home provides the community with a range of important residential, treatment and community-based programs including offering a safe haven for at-risk children; pediatric medical care; shelter and education for pregnant and parenting teens; crisis and intervention services; clinical treatment services and therapeutic loving foster and adoption services. Missionaries will participate in on hands activities.

St. Mark A.M.E. Church - is located in South Louisville at 1036 Euclid Ave.; a church with a heart for God and humanity, striving to have an active presence in the community to address the issues and challenges the residents face daily. To this end, the youth ministry created and planted The Little Free Library. Books are donated to encourage all to read: If the Book Fits, Read It! Books are free to take home and do not have to be returned once completed. The Church also has a Clothes Closet that offers free gently used clothing to community members. Missionaries will sort and organize books and clothing items.

West End School – is a free, private, boarding, college preparatory school for boys from Pre-K to Eighth Grade. The school strives to address all of the issues boys in the community face by creating for its students an environment of high expectations and personal responsibility. Through the school's rigorous academic and personal standards, students are encouraged to attain the highest possible level of scholarship, character and intellectual growth. Missionaries will take part in reading and helping the students with their class assignments.

Louisville Rescue Mission - exist to proclaim the gospel and extend God's mercy to the homeless and hurting of the greater Louisville area in support of the local church. The core values are Christ, Transformation and Community. The mission provides people with friendship, unconditional love and support. Over 500 plus men shower each week at the mission. Missionaries will sort and organize donations.

Family and Children's Place HANDS Program – protects and heal children, families and communities from violence, abuse and neglect; the program is working to prevent and stop the trauma of abuse, violence and neglect, and to help child victims and their families recover and heal. The program provides no-cost therapy in homes, offices and the community; child and family advocacy; information on victims assistance; case management; referrals to appropriate community services; and domestic violence groups for children impacted by violence in the home. Missionaries will do various assignments including helping with the before and after school program.

The Ronald McDonald House of Louisville; Area Nursing Home – 75 No-sew blankets were made to share with families.

Wayside Christian Mission – provides hope for people in need and continues to be Louisville's main safety net. With programs ranging from Men and Women's shelters to thrift stores, WCM offers a hand up, not a hand out. The Mission connects to the homeless community through its transportation van that searches the streets for those needing shelter. Missionaries will have an opportunity to assist in the thrift stores.

Impacting the World - The Connectional Women's Missionary Society Embark The FIRST International Young Adult Missionary (YAM) Empowerment Summit

This “**life changing and empowering**” summit was held on **May 11-14, 2017** in Johannesburg, South Africa. Under the innovative leadership of WMS International President Dr. Shirley Cason Reed, Connectional Third Vice President Hilda Matshoba, and Connectional Member-at-Large Sylvia Blake. The Summit, and was graciously and effectively hosted by Bishop Paul Kawimbe, Supervisor Lister Kawimbe, District President Makgabelo Molete and District member at large, Sister Patience Olyn, and members of the 19th Episcopal District. In addition to the presence and participation of Supervisor Constance Wicker and Supervisor Carolyn Brailsford, there were several current and former Connectional officers, as well as, **over 600 international YAMs/ SAMs present.**

This summit afforded Young Adult Members (YAMS) across this Connectional Church the opportunity to build an International Sisterhood, to engage in Intercultural Collaboration and to establish sustainable strategies and solutions that will “Speak Life” and positively IMPACT this troubled world.

The theme was: **“Speaking Life! Unleashing God's Power to Impact a Troubled World!”**
The preachers, speakers and presenters were phenomenal. To name a few of the passionate “Speaking Life” preachers/ speakers were: Bishop Stafford J. Wicker, The Honorable Minister Susan Shabango (President of the Republic of South Africa, Minister of Women), Ms. Carrie Tomlin Abrahams, (International CEO of Operations Smile) and Dr. Makaziwe Mandela (The daughter of Nelson Mandela).

Impacting the World through our partnerships with AFFILIATES AND ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

AARP

AARP, Inc., formerly the American Association of Retired Persons, is a United States-based ... With nearly 38 million members, AARP is one of the most powerful lobbying groups in the United States. AARP has One of the goals of the AARP Foundation is to reduce hunger among seniors through the Drive to End Hunger. **The Connectional WMS has partnered with AARP not only in increased AARP memberships, but also as” agents of change “in our quest to lead positive social change and deliver value to people 50 and over through information, advocacy and service.**

African Methodist Episcopal Church – Service and Development Agency, Inc. – AME SADA - “Helping People Help Themselves”

The African Methodist Episcopal Church Service and Development Agency (AME-SADA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Africa and the Caribbean. AME-SADA is the humanitarian relief and development entity of the AME Church;

Since its founding more than three decades ago, AME-SADA has demonstrated the implementation of its mission of “helping people help themselves” by providing essential assistance to those in need through health, micro-enterprise, agriculture and education programs as well as emergency humanitarian aid in Africa and the Caribbean. AME-SADA is looking to expand its programs as resources allow.

May 17th was designated as AME-SADA Sunday in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, this was an opportunity for bringing awareness and support to this non –profit organization.

Black Women’s Agenda

The Black Women’s Agenda (BWA) is devoted to advancing, securing, and protecting the rights of these women. Constantly, the women of BWA strive to acquire greater understanding and cooperation about issues that affect all women and their families, while searching for new knowledge and new conceptualizations about said problems. Through the establishment of social priorities (an agenda), BWA facilitates discussions that lead to effective policies and meaningful change. Their continuous vigilance on issues affecting Black women worldwide empower women to step up and mitigate the gender gaps that affect women in our society. **The Connectional WMS are National Collaborating partners and are committed to empowering and enriching the lives of black women and their families**

Bread for the World – is a collective Christian voice urging nation’s legislators to end hunger and poverty domestically and globally.

The 2017 Offering of Letters campaign urges Congress to invest in and protect vital policies and safety-net programs — including WIC, global nutrition, SNAP, and refundable tax credits. In addition, many of our churches operate or support **feeding programs, such as soup kitchens or food pantries, or other programs.** Churches also connect with people who are hungry and struggling with poverty **through CROP Walks, social ministry programs, and mission trips.** And many churches and their members financially support their denomination’s hunger programs and related agencies that work in relief and development in the U.S. and around the world. Churches make some of the best anti-hunger advocates because they can combine hands-on experience with their faith.

Children’s Defense Funds (CDF)

Leave No Child Behind’s mission is to ensure every child has a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. **The Connectional WMS has championed policies and programs that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse and neglect; and ensure their access to health care, quality education and a moral and spiritual foundation.**

Church Women United (CWU)

Church Women United's mission is to be a racially, culturally and theologically inclusive Christian women's movement celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice, specifically for women and children. CWU strives to provide for its members resources

and information on a wide range of social justice issues, opportunities for worship and action, and an expansive network of women and women's organizations working to ensure a better world for all.. CWU's members represent 26 supporting denominations and organizations

Church World Services

CWS has worked for seven decades with one goal: building a world where there is enough for all. We affirm the power of individuals and communities to take ownership of their future. We meet them right where they are, helping them create solutions they can maintain – and build on. That means a refugee family who is able to start a new life. Or someone rebuilding after disaster finds safety with dignity.

[CWS Opposes President Trump's Budget Request that would Gut Life-Saving Humanitarian Assistance, Balloon Irresponsible Deportation Force](#)

[CWS Partners with Interfaith Leaders in support of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#)

Church World Service recently played a key role in organizing the following interfaith letter to President Trump and members of his administration regarding the critical issue of climate change and its impact on poor and vulnerable communities worldwide. May 9, 2017 President Donald Trump The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20500 [...]

National Council of Negro Women (NCNW)

NCNW) is a non-profit organization with the mission to advance the opportunities and the quality of life for African-American women, their families and communities. NCNW fulfills this mission through research, advocacy, national and community-based services and programs in the United States and Africa. With its 28 national affiliate organizations and its more than 200 community-based sections, NCNW has an outreach to nearly four million women, all contributing to the peaceful solutions to the problems of human welfare and rights

The American Red Cross

The **American Red Cross (ARC)**, also known as the **American National Red Cross**, is a humanitarian organization that provides emergency assistance, disaster relief and education in the United States

Internal Programs

The Young People and Children's Division (YPD) continues to be active and working for the cause of missions across the Connection. In January we attended the WMS Executive Board Meeting in Louisville, KY. We were blessed to present over 25,000.00 in scholarship awards to young people through our Self Denial Program. While in KY we participated in a out reach ministry called The Pajama Project;, we collected over 125 story books and 100 pairs of pajamas for children in foster care. Our 2017 Leadership Training Institute was held in the Fabulous Fifth Episcopal District. Our many Thanks to Bishop and Supervisor Fugh, 5th District Director Sis. Denise Brown and 5th District YPD President William Cordier and the wonderful people of the Fifth for a superb entertainment. For five days the St. Louis Airport Marriott was turned into YPD Headquarters. To Bishop John White, President Shirley Reed, Directors on every level and the Young People whom we serve, we salute you with heartfelt love and appreciation for your continued prayers and support. We Thank! all those persons who sacrifice to ensure our young

people are loved, prayed over and trained in the ways of God, continue to pray as we continue to do God's will for his Children.

Blessings,

Wanda T. Ringgold, Connectional YPD Director

PME Dialogue Institute for Mission Study

The 2017 edition of the Mission Education Curriculum was published and distributed . The General theme is "The Millenium Development Goals Post 2015: The Road Traveled -The Journey Ahead". The focus is on the Sustainable Development Goals that are universal and demand action from all countries. We are pleased to be a part of this initiative and to work towards the achievement of these goals that are believed to advance basic living standards in the world. The Geographical theme , " The Middle East", presents an opportunity for us to become aware of current issues and concerns of our sisters and brothers in that region of the world. We are presently preparing for the 2018 curriculum publication and the upcoming PME Dialogue.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Maske

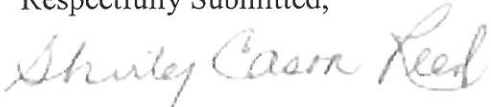
Handy Simmons Scholarship Scholarship/Book Awards were made to 70 AME students pursuing higher education. Special thanks to C. Ann Thomas and commission members for an outstanding.

The Missionary Magazine continues to thrive, thanks to over 8,161 faithful subscribers throughout the Global AME church and friends. This year the Missionary Magazine Editor launched a website to provide an easy method to upload articles, and purchase annual subscriptions. The Website address is: www.wms-magazine.com. The May-June issue of The Missionary Magazine centers around International Widows' Day, which is celebrated June 23, 2017. The majority of our Episcopal District Presidents uploaded their articles through the New Missionary Magazine website."

The Disaster Relief (M.I .T. E.) Initiatives Over \$20,000 was collected and given for the 8th Episcopal District tornado victims.

The WMS Foundation held its annual Board meeting January 25, 2017 at the Galt House Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky. The Foundation continues to support the work of Districts 14-20 and India. Special Donations were give to the Haiti Project and the Sixth Episcopal to assist with Disaster Relief.

Respectfully Submitted,



Shirley Cason Reed,
International WMS President

FINANCIAL REPORTING: April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017

The Connectional Women's Missionary Society is pleased to submit the Financial Report for fiscal year ending March 31, 2017. Through the generosity of our missionary sisters, and our partners in mission, we were able to meet the needs and challenges of our mission projects.

Audit Results and Opinion

The Women's Missionary Society demonstrated sound fiscal management and accountability measures as shown in the audit completed in May 2017, by the independent accounting firm of Abrams Foster Nole & Williams, P.A. The audit did not disclose any material errors, irregularities or material weaknesses in internal controls. The report represents an unqualified opinion ("clean opinion") for the period.

Highlights of Financial Results

Key financial highlights for fiscal year 2017 are as follows:

- Total Net Assets increased \$104,702 from 2016 or 17.28%.
- Total Assets increased \$ 59,839 or 8.17% from 2016; this is primarily due pledges for the Haiti Project.
- Total Liabilities decreased \$ 47,365, or 36.66%.
- Total revenue decreased from \$2,831,615 in fiscal year 2016 to \$1,580,143 in fiscal year 2017, a 44.20% decrease. The decrease in revenues came as a result of the Haiti Project pledges paid in the previous fiscal year.
- Total expenses decreased from \$2,809,095 in fiscal year 2016 to \$1,403,900 in fiscal year 2017, a 50.02% decrease.

Statement of Financial Position

The Statement of Net Position answers the question of how the organization did financially during the fiscal year. This statement includes all assets and liabilities, both financial and capital, and short-term and long-term using the accrual basis of accounting and economic resources focus, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all revenues and expenses during the year, regardless of when the cash is received or paid.

Table 1 provides a summary of the Organization's Financial Position as of March 31, 2017 compared to the prior year.

(Table 1)
Statement of Financial Position

	2017	2016
Assets		
Current Assets	\$ 254,677	\$487,749
Non-Current Assets,	537,926	245,015
Total Assets	792,603	732,764
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	81,819	129,184
Net Position		
Restricted	240,171	302,298
Unrestricted	470,612	303,783
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 710,783</u>	<u>\$606,081</u>

Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position

(Table 2)
Change in Net Position

	2017	2016
Operating Revenue		
Revenue	\$1,575,426	\$2,838,988
Investment Income	4,717	(7,373)
Total Revenues	<u>1,580,143</u>	<u>2,831,615</u>
Operating Expenses		
Personnel Expenses	307,505	369,589
Program Costs	697,823	2,153,041
Administrative Expenses	395,852	283,745
Depreciation	2,720	2,720
Total Expenses	<u>1,403,900</u>	<u>2,809,095</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>\$ 176,243</u>	<u>\$ 22,520</u>

Table 2 shows the changes in Net Position for fiscal year 2017, as well as a listing of revenues and expenses. For this fiscal year the revenue factor improved from FY16.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeanette Harris

Dr. Jeanette Harris
Connectional Treasurer



Abrams
Foster
Nole &
Williams, P.A.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Executive Board
Connectional Women's Missionary Society
of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
Washington, DC

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Connectional Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (WMS), which comprise the statements of financial position as of March 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related statements of activities and changes in net assets 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 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.

Certified Public Accountants & Business Advisors

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 Connectional Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 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.

Other Matter

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplementary schedules outlined in the Table of Contents are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are 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.

Abrams, Foster, Nole & Williams, P.A.

Abrams, Foster, Nole & Williams, P.A.
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Baltimore, Maryland

May 25, 2017

**CONNECTIONAL WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY of the
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
Statements of Financial Position
March 31, 2017 and 2016

	2017	2016
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 231,625	\$ 416,090
Accounts receivable	2,500	-
Inventory	20,552	71,659
Total current assets	<u>254,677</u>	<u>487,749</u>
Property and Equipment		
Construction in Progress	286,217	-
Office equipment	63,093	63,273
Furniture & fixtures	59,903	59,903
Total property & equipment	<u>409,213</u>	<u>123,176</u>
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(111,458)</u>	<u>(108,918)</u>
Net property and equipment	<u>297,755</u>	<u>14,258</u>
Other Assets		
Deposits	-	2,500
Investment-Endowment/Board designated	240,171	230,757
Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 792,602</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 735,264</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 68,319	\$ 102,960
Accrued expenses	13,500	26,224
Total current liabilities	<u>81,819</u>	<u>129,184</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	470,612	303,783
Restricted	-	71,541
Endowment/Board designated	240,171	230,757
Total net assets	<u>710,783</u>	<u>606,081</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u><u>\$ 792,602</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 735,264</u></u>

“The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements”

**CONNECTIONAL WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY of the
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
Years Ended March 31, 2017 and 2016**

	2017	2016
Changes in Unrestricted Net Assets		
Revenue		
Revenue	\$ 1,575,426	\$ 2,838,988
Investment income (loss)	4,717	(7,373)
Total revenue	<u>1,580,143</u>	<u>2,831,615</u>
Expenses		
Program services		
Personnel expenses	307,505	369,589
Program costs	697,823	2,153,041
Total program expenses	<u>1,005,328</u>	<u>2,522,630</u>
Supporting services		
Administrative expenses	395,852	283,745
Depreciation & amortization	2,720	2,720
Total supporting services	<u>398,572</u>	<u>286,465</u>
Total unrestricted expenses	<u>1,403,900</u>	<u>2,809,095</u>
Increase in unrestricted net assets	176,243	22,520
Change in temporarily restricted net assets		
Revenue	-	71,541
Net assets released from restrictions	(71,541)	-
(Decrease) increase in temporarily restricted net assets	<u>(71,541)</u>	<u>71,541</u>
Increase in net assets	104,702	94,061
Net assets at beginning of year	606,081	512,020
Net Assets at End of Year	<u>\$ 710,783</u>	<u>\$ 606,081</u>

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**CONNECTIONAL WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY of the
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
Statements of Cash Flows
Years Ended March 31, 2017 and 2016

	2017	2016
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Changes in net assets	\$ 104,702	\$ 94,061
Adjustments to reconcile changes in net assets provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation expense	2,720	2,720
Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities		
(Increase) decrease in assets		
Accounts receivable	(2,500)	950
Prepaid expenses	-	16,776
Deposits	2,500	8,500
Increase (decrease) in liabilities		
Accounts payable & accrued expenses	(47,364)	18,115
Deferred revenue	-	(574,888)
Total adjustments	<u>(44,644)</u>	<u>(527,827)</u>
Cash provided by operating activities	<u>60,058</u>	<u>(433,766)</u>
Cash Flows From Investing Activities		
(Purchase) sale of investments	(9,414)	6,557
Sale of inventory	51,108	(47,713)
Construction in progress	<u>(286,217)</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash (used) by investing activities	<u>(244,523)</u>	<u>(41,156)</u>
Net (decrease) increase in cash and equivalents	(184,465)	(474,922)
Cash and equivalents at beginning of year	<u>416,090</u>	<u>891,012</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 231,625</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 416,090</u></u>

“The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements”

**CONNECTIONAL WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY of the
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2017 and 2016

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Nature of Activities

The purpose of the Connectional Women's Missionary Society (WMS) of the African Methodist Episcopal Church shall be to help people grow in the knowledge and experience of God through His Son, Jesus Christ, through continual Christian training. The WMS seeks fellowship with other women in the United States, Africa and the Caribbean by initiating and maintaining a support system that will enable all people to achieve fulfillment.

The WMS is an operating department within the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. The operations of the WMS are funded primarily by support from the AME Church and various Church Districts. The structure of the WMS organization is the Senior and Young People's Division (YPD), Episcopal District, Conference Branch, Area, and Local Society Levels.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the WMS are prepared in accordance with FASB Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) as the source of authoritative accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America on the accrual basis of accounting with a fiscal year ending March 31.

C. Basis of Presentation

The financial statement presentation follows the guidance of FASB 168 Accounting Standards Codification (ASC); ASC-958-205, *Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Programs*. Under ASC-958-205, WMS is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted, temporarily restricted, permanently restricted.

Unrestricted net assets – Unrestricted net assets are the net assets that are neither permanently restricted nor temporarily restricted by donor-imposed stipulations. Board designated net assets are classified as unrestricted.

Temporarily restricted net assets – Temporarily restricted net assets result from contributions and grants whose use is limited by donor-imposed stipulations. Net assets may be temporarily restricted for various purposes, such as use in future periods or use for specific purposes. The temporarily restricted net assets as of March 31, 2017 and 2016 are \$-0- and \$71,541.

**CONNECTIONAL WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY of the
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2017 and 2016

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

C. Basis of Presentation (Continued)

Permanently restricted net assets are funds subjected to donor-imposed stipulations that are maintained permanently by the WMS. There were no permanently restricted net assets as of March 31, 2017.

D. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The WMS considers all cash and unrestricted highly liquid investments with maturity of three months or less at the date of acquisition to be cash equivalents.

E. Financial Instruments with Concentration of Financial Risk

The WMS maintains its cash accounts with commercial banks as well as brokerage firms. The accounts at the commercial banks are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) for all accounts per depositor of \$250,000. The cash accounts at the brokerage firm are insured by the Securities Investors Protection Corporation (SIPC) up to \$250,000 and the securities are insured by the SIPC up to \$500,000 for each brokerage account. The risk is managed by maintaining all deposits in high quality financial institutions. The SIPC insurance does not protect against market losses on investments.

F. Unrestricted Net Assets (Society Contributions)

All types of contributions received are deemed unrestricted in nature.

G. Use of Estimates

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

H. Investments

Investments in marketable securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities are valued at their fair values in the statement of financial position.

**CONNECTIONAL WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY of the
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2017 and 2016

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

I. Support and Revenue

Support and revenue are considered to be available for unrestricted use unless specifically restricted by the donor.

J. Inventory

Inventories consist of promotional items stated at the lower of cost or market determined on the first-in first-out basis.

K. Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable at March 31 are considered fully collectible. No allowance for doubtful accounts is considered necessary.

L. Property and Equipment

Acquisitions of property and equipment in excess of \$500 are capitalized. Property and equipment are carried at cost or, if donated, at the approximate fair value at the date of donation. Depreciation is computed using primarily the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Depreciation expense as of March 31, 2017 and 2016 was \$2,720, respectively.

M. Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue represents pre-registration fees which have been received, but the event has not taken place. These fees will be recognized when the event occurs.

N. Income Taxes

As an operating department of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, WMS is exempt from Federal and District of Columbia income taxes under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is defined as other than a private foundation under Section 509 (a) of the Code. All income received during the year was related to WMS' tax-exempt purpose. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been made in the accompanying financial statements.

**CONNECTIONAL WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY of the
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2017 and 2016

2. BOARD DESIGNATED NET ASSETS

In 1988, the Board of Directors (the Board) of WMS established an irrevocable trust endowment fund (Board Designated) for the purpose of lifting the moral sights and levels of the black family through door to door roving, training youth church missionaries to work cooperatively within the AME Church to attract and inspire black youth to reject negative life patterns, and provide funds for programs and leadership resources within the AME Church world community. During fiscal year ended March 31, 2001, the Board increased the endowment from \$100,000 to \$200,000. Under the terms of the endowment, the principal must remain intact; however, income from the principal may be used only for the stated purpose of the fund. At March 31, 2017, the balance in the endowment fund was \$240,171.

The Board designated \$100,000 in investments, the principal and interest of which is to be used to support the Sojourner program, which was established as a mechanism for members of the AME Church and others to share their skills and talents with AME churches and their communities in Africa, South America, the Caribbean and rural areas of the United States.

The funds set aside for Board designated purposes at March 31, 2017 and 2016 consisted of the following:

<u>Endowment Fund/Board Designated</u>		
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Money market funds	\$ 22,219	\$ 21,609
Mutual funds-fixed income	144,985	144,367
Mutual funds-equities	39,220	32,624
Mutual funds-alternative investments	<u>33,747</u>	<u>32,157</u>
Total Investments	<u>\$240,171</u>	<u>\$230,757</u>

3. CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS

WMS has spent \$286,217 toward the Haiti project. Funds raised to date total \$190,383.

**CONNECTIONAL WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY of the
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2017 and 2016

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (GAAP) establish a hierarchy for inputs used in measuring fair value. That hierarchy maximizes the use of observable inputs and minimizes the use of unobservable inputs and requires that the observable inputs be used when available.

The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

Level 1

Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2

Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the assets or liability, either directly or indirectly.

Level 3

Inputs that are unobservable that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the measurement of the assets or liabilities.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for instruments measured at fair value on a recurring basis and recognized in the accompanying statements of financial position, as well as the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy.

Mutual funds: Valued at the net assets value ("NAV") of shares held by the WMS at year end.

Money market funds: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which money market funds are traded.

**CONNECTIONAL WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY of the
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Notes to Financial Statements

March 31, 2017 and 2016

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

The following represents the WMS's fair value measurements of investments recognized in the accompanying statements of financial position that are measured on a recurring basis and the level within the fair value hierarchy as of March 31, 2017 and 2016:

Fair Value Measurement at Reporting Date Using:

		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
<u>2017</u>	Fair Value			
Money market funds	\$ 22,219	\$ 22,219	\$ -	\$ -
Mutual funds-fixed income	144,985	144,985		
Mutual funds-equities	39,220	39,220		
Mutual-alternative investments	33,747	33,747	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 240,171</u>	<u>\$ 240,171</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Fair Value Measurement at Reporting Date Using:

		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
<u>2016</u>	Fair Value			
Money market funds	\$ 21,609	\$ 21,609	\$ -	\$ -
Mutual funds-fixed income	144,367	144,367	-	-
Mutual funds-equities	32,624	32,624	-	-
Mutual-alternative investments	32,157	32,157	-	-
Total	<u>\$ 230,757</u>	<u>\$ 230,757</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

**CONNECTIONAL WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY of the
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 2017 and 2016

5. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

FASB Accounting Standards Codification ASC-855-10-50, *Subsequent Events*, requires organizations to evaluate events and transactions that occur after the statement of financial position date but before the date the financial statements are available to be issued. ASC 855-10-50 requires entities to recognize in the financial statements the effect of all events or transactions that provided additional evidence of conditions that existed at the statement of financial position date, including the estimates inherent in the financial statement preparation process. Subsequent events that provide evidence about conditions that arose after the statement of financial position date should be disclosed if the financial statements would otherwise be misleading. The WMS has evaluated subsequent events through the date the financial statements were available to be issued on May 25, 2017 and determined there are no material transactions to disclose.

Save the Dates

October 30, 2017

Dedication Ceremony

Bishop Sarah Frances Davis Women's Clinic
Delice, Haiti

October 12 -13, 2017

UN NGO Conference

Embassy Suites
Washington, DC

December 8-9, 2017

PME Dialogue

Double Tree Hotel BWI
Baltimore, MD

January 31 - February 3, 2018 **2018 Executive Board Meeting**

Baltimore, MD