



General Conference Commission
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Bishop James Levert Davis, Chair

General Conference Commission Reports

The General Board Meeting
Marriott Marquis Hotel
Atlanta, GA
June 29, 2022



General Conference Commission

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Bishop James Levert Davis, Chair

GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMISSION

Chairs and Co-Chairs

Bishop James L. Davis, Chair

Bishop David R. Daniels, Co-Chair

Bishop Silvester S. Beaman, Co-Chair

Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie, Co-Chair

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**General Conference Commission Chairperson Meeting
African Methodist Episcopal Church**

Virtual Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, May 10, 2022
2:00pm EST

-MINUTES-

Call to Order

Bishop James L. Davis, Chair of the General Conference Commission, called the meeting to order at 2:00pm EST. The meeting was opened with prayer.

Bishop Davis then thanked the bishops who were present on the call. He then asked everyone to review the agenda for adoption. Bishop Silvester Beaman moved for the adoption; Bishop Francine Brookins seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

Recognition of those present

The Chairman, Bishop James L. Davis, welcomed the Bishops, General Officers, and others to the meeting. He reiterated his appreciation to each Bishop serving as a Committee Chair and expressed his confidence that their leadership will make the forthcoming General Conference a success. Bishop Davis went on to elaborate the purpose of the meeting and proceeded to follow the agenda.

Greetings from the Chief Financial Officer

Greetings from the General Secretary and CIO

Review of the Conference Timeline

Ms. Sharon Blaylock

Ms. Blaylock, the Meeting Planner for the AME Church, walked the attendees through the timeline from the present up until the General Conference. She shared the rationale and the important markers along the way that need to be met to ensure a successful conference.

Committee Chairs Updates were offered:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| a. Program/Presentation Committee | Bishop Silvester S. Beaman |
| b. Finance Committee | Bishop Francine A. Brookins |
| c. Housing & Site Committee | Bishop Clement W. Fugh |
| d. Registration Committee | Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr. |
| e. Social Media/Website Production/ Marketing & Promotion Committee | Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie |
| f. Sponsorship Committee | Bishop Frank M. Reid, III |
| g. Technology Committee | Bishop Frederick Wright |
| h. Audio/Visual Committee | Bishop Stafford J. N. Wicker |
| i. Security Sub-Committee | Bishop Marvin C. Zanders |
| j. First Aid Sub-Committee | Bishop Harry L. Seawright |
| k. Culinary Committee/Public Relations Committee/Ecumenical Committee | Bishop Michael L. Mitchell |
| l. Election Committee | Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath |

Q & A Period

The Chairman opened the floor for questions by any of the Committee Chairpersons. Having satisfied all the questions raised, the meeting was adjourned and closed in prayer at 3 PM EST.

Attendees

	District Assigned	
Bishop James Levert Davis	Chair	P
Bishop David Rwhynica Daniels Jr.	Co-Chair	A
Bishop Silvester Scott Beaman	Co-Chair	P
Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie	Co-Chair	A
Bishop Francine Angelique Brookins	Finance	P
Bishop Clement W. Fugh	Housing and Site	P
Bishop Frank M. Reid III	Sponsorship	A
Bishop Frederick Wright	Technology	P
Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker	Audio/Visual	P
Bishop Marvin C. Zanders	Security	P
Bishop Harry L. Seawright	First Aid	P
Bishop Michael L. Mitchell	Ecumenical	P
Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath	Election	P
Bishop E. Earl McCloud	Host Bishop	A
Bishop Reginald T. Jackson		P

Other Attendees

Dr. Jeffery B. Cooper Sr.	General Secretary/CIO, Office of General Secretary	P
Mr. Marcus T. Henderson Sr.	Treasurer/CFO, A.M.E. Finance Department	P
Ms. Sharon Blaylock	Meeting Planner	P
Rev. Mark K. Tyler	Secretary	P

PROGRAM COMMITTEE/PRESENTATION

The Pandemic. The Promise. The Plan.

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” *Jeremiah 29:11 (NSRV)*

Rationale:

We have been impacted by global pandemics: Health, Economic and Racial Justice. The world has changed. We have changed. We have changed. We may never be the same again.

Some things will return and some may not. God will replace other things or not. We. We can explore in what ways we can co-create with God a better future.

“As the post-quarantine era began, churches expanded their thinking and moved into new territories. We heard leaders asking the right question: How do we move forward most effectively in these uncharted waters? Though they could see the potential mission field of the digital world, most admitted they were not certain how best to reach people and minister to them in this new context. Their questions were not simply about navigating unfamiliar technologies, but about how best to move forward on all fronts. This new era will likely include some blending and balancing between digital and in-person ministry.”

Rainer, Thom S.. *The Post-Quarantine Church: Six Urgent Challenges and Opportunities That Will Determine the Future of Your Congregation* (Church Answers Resources) (p. 27). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.. Kindle Edition.

The Bible is replete with promises. In Jeremiah 29:11, there was a group of people suffering with the pandemics of their era. We are suffering with the aftermath of the pandemics of our era. The promise given to them is also given to us to give us a future and a hope.

What can we do to collaborate with the Lord to prepare the AME Church to have a vibrant, viable, relevant prophetic future. A failure to plan, is a plan to fail. What opportunities exist not in the midst of crises challenges and change?

“We all know some of the major consequences of COVID-19. Millions of people were infected. Hundreds of thousands died. The global economy was put to the test. In local communities in the US, scores of businesses were deeply harmed; some closed altogether. It will take years to fully grasp the emotional and psychological damage inflicted upon millions of people worldwide. Yet we also know that many people and organizations saw opportunities and benefited from the pandemic.”

Rainer, Thom S.. *The Post-Quarantine Church: Six Urgent Challenges and Opportunities That Will Determine the Future of Your Congregation* (Church Answers Resources) (pp. 25-26). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.. Kindle Edition.

“The Pandemic. The Promise. The Plan.”

Scripture Reference: Jeremiah 29:11



The Pandemic:

On April 10, 1816, the Reverend Richard Allen was installed as the Presiding Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Undoubtedly, The Right Reverend Richard Allen brought an impressive resume of innovative and forward-thinking leadership, which is critical for this appointment. Bishop Allen’s leadership during the Yellow Fever Pandemic of 1793 in Philadelphia and the resultant deformation of his name and African race would propel the new church to worldwide visibility and leadership. The then Reverend Allen did not cover to public opinion and falsehoods – but, rather, proactively and immediately responded in an unheard-of manner for Blacks at that time – by writing and publishing -- a publicly distributed pamphlet refuting accusations of such erroneous wrongdoing and bringing to light the subjects of racism and slavery.

This leadership remains today. The AME Church has been a vocal leader during the COVID pandemic – engaging worldwide renowned physicians and epidemiologists for accurate, up-to-date information for members and the world at large; providing research and studies on underserved global populations, and partnering with national and international health institutions to create walk-in testing and vaccination clinics; and promoting the world-wide distribution of critical information from the AME International Health Commission on an international level.

The Promise:

Jeremiah 29:11 reminds us that as we experience the pandemic's long-term social, political, and economic effects, God has a plan for us to prosper and hope for our future. The verse also reminds us not to believe in things that are too good to be true and instead trust God and His process. For it is only in His process that we can be assured of hope for the future.

The Plan

The African Methodist Episcopal Church is fervently planning for the “post- Pandemic church.” The Church will engage visionary experts, church leaders, and lay to formulate the **plan** that will indeed address societal, technological, health, political, and economic changes – many of which have already left their footprint – while others continue to develop and expand as we speak. We can trust that the African Methodist Episcopal Church has the **key** to opening this visionary and masterful plan to the entire world, as we seek to explore this new, exciting season of opportunity.

These designs are inspired by the Classic elegance of previous logo designs used for the AMEC General Conference, with modern upgrades to shapes and fonts used.



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FINANCE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

To: General Conference Commission

From: Bishop Francine Brookins, Finance Committee Chair
Ms. Penny S. Oliver
Rev. Dr. Darryl R. Williams
Rev. Horace McKay
Mr. Robert Turner
Mr. Godfrey Musonda
Rev. Dr. Bernard Clarke

Date: June 16, 2022

Re: General Conference Commission Finance Committee

Under the guidance of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), the Finance Committee of the General Conference Commission is tasked with the responsibilities of providing financial oversight for the General Conference to include:

- Oversees financial responsibilities and approval process
 - Determines the overall budget
 - Monitors Cash Flow
 - Records income and expenses
 - Creates ongoing financial reports and updates
 - Compiles final report
-

The Chair met with the CFO and working finance staff team members for an initial review of the status of planning for the General Conference. As of the time of this meeting we are in the process of developing the budget as follows:

- Gathering information from prospective vendors in order to establish meeting expenses
- Identifying anticipated staffing needs and costs
- Identifying other meeting related expenses
- Working with accounting to determine adequate registration rates and timelines
- Working to reduce operating costs and find ways to ensure positive financial outcomes for participants and the church.

The General Conference Finance Committee Chair and members will work to support the office of the CFO in General Conference planning by assisting in ongoing and careful analysis of expenses. We will provide ongoing financial reports as required above.

HOUSING & SITE COMMITTEE

General Conference 2024 Housing Report

Blocks Contracted in 2015 & 2019			
HOTEL	Location	Distance to the Duke Energy Convention Center	Daily Rate
Hilton NP	Downtown Cincinnati	0.1 mile	\$175
Hyatt Regency	Downtown Cincinnati	82 Feet	\$185
Westin Cincinnati	Downtown Cincinnati	0.2 mile	\$186
Marriott River Center	Covington, Kentucky	2 miles (7 minutes)	\$175
Embassy Suites River Center	Covington, Kentucky	2.1 miles (8 minutes)	\$172
Radisson	Covington, Kentucky	1.7 miles (5 minutes)	\$170
* Millennium was removed			
2022 Pending Contracts			
HOTEL	Location	Distance to the Duke Energy Convention Center	Daily Rate
Renaissance	Downtown Cincinnati	0.4 mile	Pending
Cincinnatian	Downtown Cincinnati	0.4 mile	Pending
Hampton Inn	Downtown Cincinnati	0.4 mile	Pending
Courtyard	Downtown Cincinnati	0.5 mile	Pending
Kinley	Downtown Cincinnati	0.3 mile	Pending
Homewood Suites	Downtown Cincinnati	0.4 mile	Pending
21c Museum Hotel	Downtown Cincinnati	0.5 mile	Pending
TownePlace Suites	Downtown Cincinnati	0.2 mile	Pending

We have a current shortage of 155 rooms. We are in ongoing talks with a number of hotels where we have pending contracts to increase the blocks.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMISSION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT

Technology Committee Staff: Meeting Planner, General Conference Commission Chair, Technology Committee Chair

Technology Committee Members: Bishop Frederick A. Wright (Chair), Rev. Dr. Mark K. Tyler, Mr. Robert Chambliss, Ms. Deborah Langston, Rev. Waka Eisenhower Davis, Mr. Derrick Khumalo, Rev. Dr. Bernard Clarke (At-Large)

Responsibilities: Responsible for ensuring that technology platforms and equipment are readily accessible and meet the needs of all of the Episcopal Districts while providing appropriate data security and privacy before and during the General Conference.

- *Sourcing all equipment and systems
- *Liaison with tech vendors
- *Managing logistics and setup
- *Scheduling and managing test runs
- *Day of production and troubleshooting
- *Assess and advise about current and new information technology trends
- *Establish onsite audio/visual and IT needs
- *Property vetting all companies before selection is made

Progress Report:

- *RFPs have been submitted to various technology companies to address the needs of the meeting
- *A rubric is being developed in order to properly compare the RFPs that are received. This will aid in properly vetting the companies before they are selected.
- *On-going research and discussions are being held regarding IT trends

Humbly Submitted,
Technology Committee

CULINARY, PUBLIC RELATIONS & ECUMENICAL COMMITTEE

Report from the Committee on Culinary, Public Relations, and Ecumenical June 15, 2022

Greetings to Bishop James Davis, General Conference Commission Chair
Bishops of the Church and members of the General Conference Commission
We are pleased to give the following status update:

- Contact has been made with Brother Marcus Henderson, CFO, and Sister Sharon Blaylock Meeting Planner who are staff persons for the Culinary Committee
- An Event Request Form has been created and will be sent out to Episcopal Districts and groups who would like to host a meal function during the General Conference
- Menus will be distributed closer to the General Conference to Districts/Groups who are requesting meal functions
 - There will be a dedicated staff person to handle such requests and will communicate with each group individually who submits a request
 - The designated person will be on-site to make sure the event is set to the group's specifications
- The Culinary Committee will also work with the Program Committee and Sister Blaylock to ensure the availability of space to host meal functions each day
- It's currently been recommended that most meal functions be held at the Duke Energy Convention Center to meet the food and beverage requirements in the contract

Public Relations:

- The Committee will Create content centered around the GC24 theme and logo. (2022)
- Social Media Buzz: Launching the buzz centered around the GC24 theme and logo. (2022)
 - Update Website and Social Media outlets with GC24 information
 - Local Cincinnati Media Outlets
- General Conference Promoters: Each district will designate a person responsible for promoting hard copies and digital templates for their district during annual conferences. (2022)

Ecumenical: Plans are in the process of being completed.

Respectfully Submitted by the following Committees:

1 Bishop Michael L. Mitchell - Chair, 12th Episcopal District

2 Rev. Dr. Kevin Moore - 6th District

3 Rev. Dwight E. Dillard - 9th District

4 Ms. Ava Knapp Parker - 10th District

5 Ms. Gwendolyn Dillihunt - 13th District

6 Rev. Waka Eisenhower Davis - 14th District

7 Mr. Elwin Gariseb - 15th District

8 Mr. Godfrey Musonda - 17th District

9 Mrs. Cheryl Hammond Hopewell (At-Large) - 1st District

No reports are available at this time for the following committees.
We thank the Committee Chair for their leadership
and continued work.

REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Bishop David R. Daniels Jr.

SOCIAL MEDIA AD-HOC COMMITTEE

Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie

SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE

Bishop Frank M. Reid III

AUDIO/VISUAL COMMITTEE

Bishop Stafford J. N. Wicker

SECURITY SUB-COMMITTEE

Bishop Marvin C. Zanders

FIRST AID SUB-COMMITTEE

Bishop Harry L. Seawright

ELECTION COMMITTEE

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath

NOTES
