

**General Board of the African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
**COMMISSION ON SEMINARIES, UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES & SCHOOLS**

Bishop Marvin C. Zanders, II, Commission Chair

June 28, 2022

Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, Georgia

**ATTENDANCE:**

Bishop Marvin C. Zanders, Chairperson - Present

**District Representatives:**

**Present:**

- Bro. Keith Coston (1st)
- Ms. Angela T. Pettis (4th)
- Mrs. Rosemary Street-Nixon (6th)
- Rev. Dr. Novell Goff (7th)
- Dr. Rodrick Moore (10th)
- Rev. Willie N. Barnes, Jr. (YA -11th)
- Rev. Florence Marie McElroy (16th) – Zoom
- Rev. Beatrice Motorola (18th) – Zoom
- Ms. Ntsoaki Thule (19th) – Zoom
- Rev. Rosetta Swinton (20th) – Zoom
- Ms. Ra'Veon Ward (At-Large)

**Absent:**

- Mrs. Edna Watson (2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Rev. Dr. James H. Harris (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Ms. Florette Hampton (5<sup>th</sup>)
- Rev. Michele Goodloe (8<sup>th</sup>)
- Rev. Maurice Wright (9<sup>th</sup>)
- Rev. Tyrone Broomfield (12<sup>th</sup>)
- Dr. Jeffery Norfleet (13<sup>th</sup>)
- Bro. Melvin D. Nyanway (14<sup>th</sup>)
- Rev. Dr. Betty K. Schroder (15<sup>th</sup>)
- Rev. Nicolas Obarenic (17<sup>th</sup>)
- Rev. Tyronda Burgess (At-Large)
- Ms. Jeannie Rivers (At-Large)

**Seminaries, Colleges & Schools—Presidents, Deans, & Administrators:**

**Present:**

- Dr. Challis Bradford - Dean, Paul Quinn College
- Dr. Ammie L. Davis - President/Dean, Turner Theological Seminary
- Rev. Cecil Williams - President, Jackson Theological Seminary
- Dr. Ernest McNealey - President, Allen University
- Dr. Michael J. Brown - President, Payne Theological Seminary
- Dr. O. Jerome Green - President, Shorter College
- Rev. Dr. C. Dennis Williams - Dean, Richard Allen Chapel - Dallas, TX
- Mr. Mark Wilson – Wilberforce University
- Rev. C. Dennis Williams, Dean, Paul Quinn College
- Dr. Daniel Hembree, Associate Dean, Dickerson-Green Theological Seminary

**Absent:**

- Dr. Alfred A. Pinkard - President, Wilberforce University
- Dr. A. Zachary Faison Jr. - President, Edward Waters College
- Dr. Michael Sorrell - President, Paul Quinn College
- Rev. Dr. Robert Turner - Dean, Jackson Theological Seminary
- The Honorable Josephine George-Francis
- Presiding Elder L.S. Moobi - Dean, R. R. Wright Theological Seminary
- Rev. George Johnson, Jr. - Dean, Abington School of Religion
- Dr. Kevin James - President, Morris Brown College
- Dr. Jamal-Dominique Hopkins - Dean, Dickerson-Green Theological Seminary
- Rev. Debra Manyoba - President, Sizane School, Zimbabwe
- Dr. Michelle Goodloe - Administrator, Bonnor-Campbell School of Religion
- Dr. Muriel Nelson - Dean, Bryant Theological Seminary
- Dr. Alvin Attah - President, AME University - Monrovia, Liberia
- Rev. Fred Jenkins - Dean, Camp Primm-Simons - Nashville, TN

**Guests:**

- Bishop Errenous E. McCloud (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Bishop John Franklin White (4<sup>th</sup>)
- Bishop Frank Madison Reid, III (11<sup>th</sup>)
- Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell (12<sup>th</sup>)
- Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield (13<sup>th</sup>)
- Bishop Frederick Wright (20<sup>th</sup>)
- Supervisor Penny Hartsfield White (4<sup>th</sup>)
- Supervisor Winifred Zanders (16<sup>th</sup>)

Meeting called to order by Bishop Zanders. Devotion led by Rev. Willie Barnes, Jr., Ph.D. (11<sup>th</sup>)  
Roll Call by Secretary, Angela T. Pettis (4<sup>th</sup>).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** - moved by Presiding Elder Goff (7<sup>th</sup>) to accept the agenda; seconded by Mrs. Rosemary Street-Nixon (6<sup>th</sup>); all in favor and motion passed.

**GREETINGS** and welcome from the Chair, Bishop Marvin C. Zanders, II and acknowledgment of guests present. He stated education is key. Education without service does not lead to empowerment. The schools don't have to compete – they can honor each other. The presence and participation from all are needed. The expectation is that those who should be present are here.

**INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS**

1. Wilberforce University – Mr. Mark Wilson, Chair of Board
  - Accreditation fully restored November 2021; Higher Learning Connection is the accreditor; April 2023 is next evaluation
  - Was on probation previous 4 years
  - Foundation is at work
  - Reduced their debt by more than 50%
  - Position of president is in transition; search committee has been established
  - Trying new & innovative things
  - Figuring out how to collaborate with other schools; currently collaborating with Central State, which is across the street
  - Using technology more with online courses

- Working with the Alumni Association to restore energy & confidence from them to get them more engaged
  - Enrollment: Fall 389 students; their goal is 514 students for their budget
  - Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield was recently elected as Chancellor
2. Edward Waters College -
- Growth has been tremendous
  - Current enrollment is 1100 students
  - Building new dorms & restoring others
3. Paul Quinn College – Rev. Dr. C. Dennis Williams, Dean & Political Science Teacher
- Current enrollment is 650 students; goal is 700 students in the fall
  - 94 students graduated in May, which was one of the largest graduating classes
  - 3 new buildings on campus were recently constructed – a new dorm, a new gym, which is one of the finest in the country, and a new learning center
  - There is a high school and a charter school on the campus
  - TRACS (Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools) does their accreditation, and it is current
4. Turner Theological Seminary – Rev. Ammie L. Davis, President – Dean
- Rev. Davis’ first report as Dean
  - Part of ITC
  - Placed on academic warning
  - Embraced the theme “ELEV8” and she is asking family/friends to support them
  - 4 Strategic Thrusts:
    - Seminary Branding
    - Student Recruitment
    - Capital Campaign Fund Development
    - Alumni Retention/Support & Trustees Recruitment
5. Jackson Theological Seminary – Rev. Cecil Williams, Jr., President
- Acknowledged Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell, Chair
  - 5 Strategies and include
    - Achieve/maintain student enrollment
    - Link up with a reputable, accrediting agency – TRACS
    - Secure & sustain funding resources
  - Full accreditation opinion coming in August
  - Grateful to be included in Church budget at General Conference 2021
  - 10 to 50 students are enrollment goal
6. Allen University – Dr. Ernest McNealy, President
- Chaired by Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.
  - Things are well – receiving a 3 rating from the federal government
  - Received a perfect audit rating
  - Presently grappling with the issue of broadband; experimenting with becoming an internet provider – with no profit motive
  - 675 students were enrolled in the fall; anticipating 800 students in the fall
  - In good standing with the State of South Carolina & SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges)
  - Private school; they receive funds indirectly from the state of South Carolina – funding from the lottery goes to the school
  - Development of buildings:

- invested \$6.5 million dollars to restore Higgins Hall & Reed Hall, both are residence halls and both buildings should be occupied in the fall
- the hospital they own is being converted to a residence hall and is nearing completion; cost approximately \$13 million dollars
- Thanks for the checks that come from the church; most reliable source of funding
- Expressed his gratitude to serve

7. Monrovia College - no report

- Bishop McCloud shared this is not a college; it is a high school (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades) located in the 14<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District

8. R. R. Wright Theological Seminary - no report

9. Abington School of Religion - no report

10. Morris Brown College – no report

- Bishop Zanders commented on the reemergence of Morris Brown asking other schools to assist. He also asked us to be pray for the work it will take to restore Morris Brown.

11. Payne Theological Seminary – Dr. Michael J. Brown, President

- Rev. Dr. Betty Holley named Chair of Board of the Commission on Accrediting at the Association of Theological Schools (ATS)
- Accreditation is in good standing
- Several students in the 15<sup>th</sup> District are receiving a Master of Divinity degree; President Brown going there in September to hood them
- Their program is expanding into the 17<sup>th</sup> District
- The Master of Arts in Religious Leadership program will target lay persons as a result of the Lay Leadership Institute
- Awarded \$260,000 in scholarships and grants to their students

12. Shorter College – Dr. O. Jerome Green, President

- Expressed his gratitude for the \$25,000 check that comes every month
- 500 students are enrolled
- Selected by U.S. Department of Education for second chance *pell* program
- Operate 8 off-site teaching units around Arkansas serving 300 students
- Enrollment declined by about 100 students during the pandemic; most of these students were primarily students in prison, and the school had no access to them
- Projected enrollment is 600-700 students
- Most proud of the broadband program and funds that were applied
- School has no debt

13. Dickerson-Green Theological Seminary – Dr. Daniel Hembree, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, Care and Counseling

- Reported that Dr. Jamal-Dominique Hopkins, Dean, is in Israel
- Enrollment has been steady; currently there are 55 students enrolled in two academic programs
- Presenting to SACS
- Accepted into associate status recently
- Opened in fall 2018 and graduated three classes to date
- All their students received mac books

14. Sizane School – Bishop Fred Wright

- Located in 20<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District
- Only funding they get is from the Church

- There are 1300 students enrolled and 24 staff members

15. Bonner-Campbell School of Religion – no report

16. Richard Allen Chapel - no report

17. Bryant Theological Seminary - no report

18. AME University - no report

- Bishop Errenous E. McCloud shared details about AME University, which is the largest school in the church. Bishop Daniels is responsible for its' growth, and it was birthed under Bishop C. Garnett Henning. He suggested our Commission ask the General Board to encourage Statistics & Finance Commission to review the funding for schools in Districts 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> and consider increasing their funding as schools in these Districts receive less funding than schools in the United States.

19. Camp Primm Simons – no report

- Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield reported Camp Primm Simon is not a school. It is a camp.

Moved by Angela T. Pettis (4<sup>th</sup>) to accept all the reports as information; seconded by Rosemary Street-Nixon (6<sup>th</sup>); all in favor; motion passed.

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION STANDING COMMITTEES**

Rev. Willie Barnes, Jr., Ph.D. (11<sup>th</sup>) discussed the reasoning for establishing Standing Committees and presented the recommendations:

1. Statistics - ask for standardized info from each school
2. Creating an Education AME Think Tank - to think through ways to fundraise, to be helpful to our schools by sharing info, etc.
3. Legislative - write legislation to be presented at 2024 General Conference for delegates to take action

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Ask the General Board to encourage Statistics & Finance to review the funding for schools in Districts 14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> and consider increasing their funding as schools in these Districts receive less funding than schools in the United States.

## **No ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Bishop Zanders acknowledged Supervisor Winifred Zanders, who joined the meeting while in session. He ended the meeting by saying “our schools need our prayers, resources and support”.

**ADJOURNMENT** & closing prayer.