

2021-2022 Commission on Women in Ministry



Report to the General Board of The African Methodist Episcopal Church

*Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Senior Bishop
Bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford, President of the Council of Bishops,
Bishop Paul J. Kawimbe, President of the General Board
Bishop Frederick A. Wright, Sr., Commission on Women in Ministry, Chairperson
Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, Connectional President, Women in Ministry*

Commission on Women In Ministry
Bishop Frederick A. Wright, Sr., Chairperson

Commission Members

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace | 11. Rev. Michael K. Bouie |
| 2. Rev. Dr. A. Qismat Alim | 12. Rev. Marcellus Fields |
| 3. Rev. Dr. James H. Harris | 13. Rev. Troy Thomas |
| 4. Ms. Angela Pettis | 14. Mr. Isaac Kelly Martins |
| 5. Ms. Florette Hampson | 15. Rev. Keith Links |
| 6. Rev. Michael Ephraim | 16. Rev. Florence Marie McElroy |
| 7. Rev. Rosalyn Coleman | 17. Mr. Shone Sipopa |
| 8. Ms. Sherry Peyton | 18. Mr. Qiniso Tsabedze |
| 9. Rev. Dr. Agnes Lover | 19. Ms. Ntsoaki Thula (YA) |
| 10. Rev. Dr. John McCormick | 20. Rev. Rosetta Swinton |

At-Large Members

Ms. Mickalia Becaroo-Reynolds (YA)

Rev. Dr. Betty Schroder

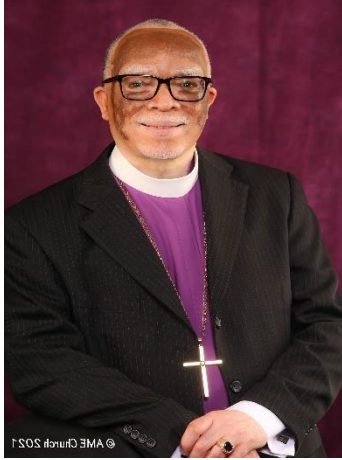
Connectional Women In Ministry Executive Board

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Rev. Ammie Davis, First Vice President
Rev. Joelynn T. Stokes, Second Vice President
Rev. Tyronda Howse Burgess, Third Vice President
Rev. Louise Jackson, General Secretary
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Rev. Lerato Pitson, Statistician

Connectional Consultants

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Rev. Teresa L. Fry Brown, Ph. D.
Rev. Jacquelyn Grant Collier, Ph.D.
Chaplain Benita Livingston
Rev. Brenda Payne, Presiding Elder

Greetings from The Chair of the Commission on Women in Ministry



Bishop Frederick A. Wright, Sr.
Chair of the Commission on Women in Ministry
Presiding Prelate, 20th Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

To our most effective and efficient AME Women-In-Ministry Connectional President, Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, the AME/WIM Executive Board Members, and the entire membership of AME/WIM, I am blessed to serve as your Commission Chairperson.

God has ordained our timing to meet and greet each other for the perfecting of our vision and plans for AME/WIM. In order to carry a positive action, we must develop a positive vision.

As we *continue* to implement our quadrennial theme "*Iron Sharpens Iron*," let us welcome God's stirring of our hearts and dare to believe He can raise us up to new levels of ministry.

May God continue to bless us with success as we keep striving for a better future. Always remember, we are valuable to the God who chose us, redeemed us, and loves us as His own.

We only have two options in life, results, and excuses. When we lose our excuses, we find our results. When it comes to loving and serving Christ, give it everything you have because it is the only way to go.

Challenges are what makes life interesting, overcoming them is what makes life important.

Blessings,

Bishop Frederick Alan Wright, Sr.

20th Episcopal Church AMEC
Commission Chair

Greetings from The Connectional President of AME/WIM



Great is the Lord and Greatly to be Praised!

I am thankful for the opportunity to make my first report as Connectional President of AME/WIM for the 2021-2024 Quadrennium. It is a joy to be counted among the extraordinarily gifted clergywomen serving God in a ministerial capacity through the African Methodist Episcopal Church. I am humbled by the privileged opportunity and responsibility to lead, encourage, and advocate for the more than 4500-woman servants of the Gospel.

This year, we navigated the pitfalls and perils of a lingering pandemic and we've come out victorious having forged ahead with faith and a single eye toward the work. We have steadfastly kept our hands to the plow and our heels on the ground as we marched to the sweet cadence of the Holy Spirit upward and onward for the cause of Christ through the floods of Central Africa, the earthquakes of the Caribbean and the seismic social challenges of the United States.

AME/WIM remains steadfastly and unswervingly committed to the work of Rev. Jaqueline Grant, PhD., and the 1977 delegation of clergywomen gathered before the Council of Bishops in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In closing, we thank our consultants for their support and wisdom, and we applaud our Commission Chair Bishop Frederick A. Wright, Sr. for his continued support and insight into ways for us to respectfully challenge the church to live out its proclamation of justice as we embrace our quadrennial theme, "Iron Sharpening Iron."

We thank you for the opportunity to share our good works.

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford
Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, President

Women in Ministry

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

AME/WIM is an international organization serving the 20 Episcopal Districts of the AME Church in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and the continents of Africa, Asia, South America, and Europe.

AME/WIM is led by an Executive Board elected by the active membership - women preachers from across the Connectional AME Church.

AME/WIM currently serves, supports, and provides encouragement to more than four thousand women serving in ministerial capacities at every level throughout the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

AME/WIM 2021-2024 Quadrennial Theme

This Quadrennium AME/WIM continues its intentional focus on the future of our church. With a forward and upward-looking faith, we are focused and committed to individually and collectively perfecting our gifts, fulfilling our purpose, and possessing the promises of God. Thus, our 2021-2024 Quadrennial Theme is based on the Proverbs 27:17 text which reads "*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another,*" establishing the theme:

Walking in Our Strengths: Iron Sharpening Iron.

We remain steadfast to the cause of equity and parity for women as integral members and contributors to the AME Church – a justice-founded work of Christ. We remain keenly aware that in addition to our call for justice in the church, beyond the walls, women of color continue to fight battles on every hand related to the pandemic, economic instability, food insecurity, racism, sexism, and a plethora of other social ills.

Our theme speaks to AME/WIM's unified focus on empowering and encouraging while preparing and positioning women at every level of ministry across the connection for the post-pandemic present age ministry.

As reflected in our Maximizing Ministry Mentoring Monday sessions, we are providing opportunities for many to hear and learn from leaders in the church and across Christendom. We have created opportunities to sit at the feet of persons, many would never have even had the opportunity to encounter: our current commission chair Bishop Wright, former chairs Bishops Vashti and Byfield, former Connectional AMEWIM

officer Bishop Brookins, retired Episcopal Supervisor Ingram, General Officer Henderson and the late Judge Patricia Mayberry to name a few.

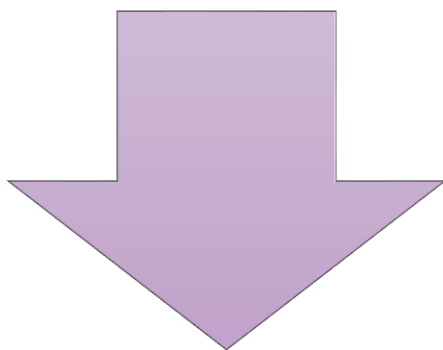
2021-2024 AME/WIM Quadrennial Goals

The 2021-2024 Connectional AMEWIM Executive Board met virtually on Thursday, September 30, and Friday, October 1, 2021, for a transitional meeting. During the meeting under the leadership of the Connectional President, the board undertook a Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, and Results (SOAR) analysis.

A summary of the results is as follows:

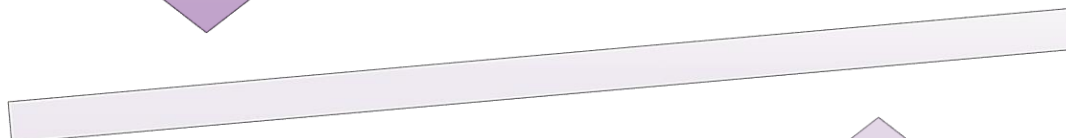
Strengths	Experience (personal and professional)
	Collective Power & Resources
	Global Presence
	Multiple Gifts
	Creativity and Resourcefulness
	Visionary change agents
	Unified
Opportunities	Communicate at every level
	Captitalize on our momentum
	Partner with Male Clergy-Colleagues
	Use organizational power
	Ecumenical Partnership
	Make education/training accessible
	Develop a succession plan
Aspirations	Mentor
	See women in key leadership positions at every level of the church
	Ensure Annual Conference Coordinators are the best the conference has to offer
	Work on a succession plan for leadership in AMEWIM
	Have an active AMEWIM in every Annual Conference of the AME Church
	Create mentoring opportunities
Results	Seek out emerging leaders
	Increased number of women in position of leadership at every level of the church
	Proportional increase of clergy women in the General Conference
	Strengthen Connectional, Commission, and Component relationships
	Effect use of Technology – creation of a membership management system
	Establishment of The Jarena Lee Continuing Education Institute under the Jarena Lee Foundation

Upon review of the Analysis, the board adopted the following as priorities for the 2021-2024 Quadrennium:



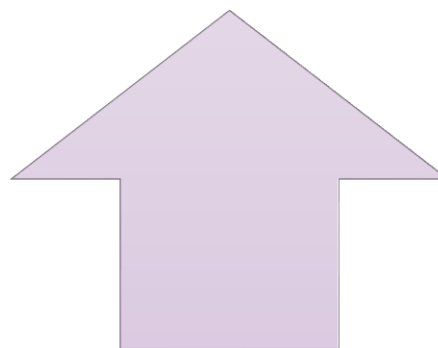
Leadership

- 1.To seek out leaders
- 2.To position leaders
- 3.To establish the Jarena Lee Women in Leadership Institute to mentor and train emerging leaders
- 4.To develop a succession plan for leadership in AMEWIM



Membership

- 1.Create a user-friendly Membership Management System
- 2.Develop an archivable statistical database
- 3.Produce a gifts/needs inventory database
- 4.Establish an active membership in every Annual Conference



AME/WIM 2021-2024 LOGO



Keeping with our Quadrennial Goal of collaborating with other components and embracing the gifts of others as “iron sharpening iron” we solicited the help of Sister Martinique Mix, a graphic designer, and the connectional RAYAC president. After sharing our vision, Sis. Mix designed several logo options to use for this quadrennium.

Meetings, Activities, Actions & Events

11th Quadrennial Conference

Connectional AME/WIM has begun to plan the 11th Quadrennial Conference scheduled for August 1-4, 2022, in Detroit, Michigan. Clergywomen of all calls (Ordained, Evangelist, Exhorter), clergymen, and lay persons are invited and welcome to attend.

The Jarena Lee Women’s Leadership Academy (JLWLA).

On February 11th, the Birthday of The Reverend Jarena Lee, Connectional AME Women in Ministry, in partnership with Turner Theological Seminary, is proud to announce the establishment of the Jarena Lee Women's Leadership Academy (JLWLA). The JLWLA will be a leadership enrichment program for the empowerment and advancement of women in ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The goal of the JLWLA is to enhance the skills, gifts, and talents of AME women in ministry preparing them to lead, develop, organize, and/or administer ministry programs in the connectional church, local church, parachurch, or mission environments.

On, February 8, 2022, at the investiture of President Dean Ammie L. Davis, Ph.D., the first woman and eighth President Dean of Turner Theological Seminary, Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, President of Connectional AMEWIM announced a gift of \$10,000 from Connectional AME/WIM for the establishment of the academy.

The JLWLA will offer two tracks: one focusing on women in ministry serving in rural and small congregations/communities, and a second focusing on emerging women in ministry leaders under the age of 40.

Participants of the program will be mentored by an accomplished group of instructors, coaches, and facilitators to help deepen their sense of calling and service. The range of subjects taught will reflect the myriad demands of modern ministry including strategic leadership, effective communication strategies, networking, and ministry-work-life balance.

Opportunities to support this great work are available to all. To contribute, make Checks payable to Turner Theological Seminary, 702 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr., Atlanta, GA 30314 or donate online at Givelify (Turner Theological Seminary) <https://www.givelify.com/donate/turner-theological-seminary-atlanta-guha-2j7wy5MzgyOTA=/donation/amount> Please put "Jarena Lee Women's Leadership Academy" in the memo/notes.

Redesigned Website and Online Store

This year we overhauled our Connectional website to be more user-friendly and capable of hosting an online store for WIM accessories and items. As a result, we were able to sell merchandise and receive dues electronically.

Maximizing Ministry

We were blessed to continue our mentoring opportunities through monthly maximizing sessions. The session schedule for 2021-2022 was as follows:

- June 2021 – Bishop John Bryant and Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry
- October 2021 – Ms. Robin Ware
- November 2021 – General Officer Marcus Henderson

- December 2021 – Rev. Dr. Melinda Contreas Byrd
- January 2022 – Supervisor Jessica Ingram
- February 2022 – Bishop Francine A. Brookins and Supervisor Miriam Burnette
- March 2022 – Supervisor Carolyn Brailsford, Presiding Elder Rosetta Swinton, Rev. Dr. Katurah York-Cooper
- April 2022 – Judge Patricia Mayberry
- May/June 2022 – Rev. Dr. Thema Bryant

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERSTORIOGRAPHER

We encouraged the work of the Herstorioographer at every level of Women in Ministry. One of the factors involved in our theme, “Iron Sharpens Iron,” is the acknowledgment, identification, and celebration of those women who have paved the way as well as those who are achieving in all aspects of ministry. The challenge presented for Women’s History Month offered each Episcopal District the opportunity to share two WIM to acknowledge and celebrate their work in the ministry. This effort labeled “Celebrating Herstory” posted profiles of WIM on the AME WIM Facebook page daily during March as a result of 15 Episcopal Districts submitting at least one or two profiles. The WIM profiles reflected exemplary accomplishments as pioneers in WIM; glass ceiling breakers; Bishops, Presiding Elders; Connectional Officers; Episcopal Presidents; Church Planters; Church Builders; Chaplains in Military, Hospital, and Community; Academia/Scholars/Professors; Published Authors; Journalists; Social Activism; Political Community Activity; Dean of Board of Examiners; Chair of Essential Committees. This activity motivated several Episcopal Districts to continue this effort by compiling further documentation of WIM in all the above-designated work of the ministry. We also developed the work of the Public Relations Standing Committee by teaming with the Connectional Statistician and WIM from each Episcopal District.

LITURGY AND WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The AMEWIM Liturgy and Worship Committee convened under our quadrennial theme on October 15, 2021. Armed with a mandate from our Executive Board to help sharpen Women in Ministry through finding ways to connect with and encourage ministers across the connectional, we began immediately.

Our first way of connecting provides monthly meditation videos or “resets” of five minutes or less. “Reset 5” offers an opportunity for Women in Ministry to be refreshed and rejuvenated. These short videos present different ways of encouraging ministers including but not limited to quotes, poetry, liturgical dance, music, and pieces of art. To date, we have produced five monthly resets that are distributed to our membership and are also available on the Connectional WIM’s YouTube channel.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKIg74aSNR0aN0c9e_pcl9Q/videos

We look forward to creating more ways to be of support to the connectional arm of WIM.

STATISTICIAN AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Herstorlographer and Statistician convened the Public Relations Committee for Connectional AMEWIM, consisting of Herstorlographers, Statisticians, and volunteers, from several Episcopal Districts.

The Committee celebrated AME Women in Ministry across the Connectional church in March and honored women who showed, shared, and demonstrated leadership in their various Districts and spheres.

The Connectional Statistician also gathered data on behalf of the AME/WIM Central Southern Coordinator to identify the skills and needs gap in the CSA region. This will help the CSA Coordinator and the Connectional Executive Board work with the CSA Presidents to equip and empower CSA WIM in their current roles.

The Connectional Statistician is updating the role of all women serving in the AME Church.

CENTRAL SOUTHERN AFRICA (CSA):

CSA District Presidents:

District	Name of President
14 th Episcopal District	Rev. Roseline S Barnes
15 th Episcopal District	Rev. Betty Schroeder (PE)
17 th Episcopal District	Rev. Margaret Nkana Mwanza (PE)
18 th Episcopal District	Rev. Nicolette Aedige - Botswana
19 th Episcopal District	Rev. N.A Matyumza (PE)
20 th Episcopal District	Rev. Fanny Madzeka (PE)

To embrace the quadrennial theme, we embarked on virtual sessions where women shared their stories on different topics and lessons such as:

- I. Domestic Abuse/Gender violence (Sis. Johanna Hlahasoane 19th ED)
- II. How to Manage your Finances (Rev. Nomgando Matyumza PE, 19th ED)
- III. Your Credentials Matter (*Rev. Audrey Ngamlana PE, 15th ED*)

Several of the Districts also embarked on programmes that raised the consciousness of the AME church on women's issues such as 16 days of activism against Women and Children abuse.

Various districts have hosted activities relating to gender-based violence and have provided sanitary towels to young underprivileged girls in AME and Non-AME schools near and around their churches as well as nearby communities.

With the work completed by the Connectional Statistician, a survey of the skills assessment needs for the region, we move forward to plan and strategize on training with and for the region. The priorities needed for the training include the following four areas:

1. Church Administration and Management,
2. Pastoral Care and Counselling,
3. Evangelism and Church growth,
4. AME Polity and Governance.

EPISCOPAL DISTRICT REPORTS

1st Episcopal District

Rev. Dr. Jacquita Wright-Henderson, President

The 2021 - 2022 year has been an exciting, yet challenging, journey amid a pandemic for the First Episcopal District Women in Ministry (WIM). In June 2021, WIM hosted a virtual Combined Worship Service honoring Rev. Dr. Elaine Flake and Rev. Mariama White-Hammond for their service to the community and commitment to Ministry. The District's General Conference Delegation included fourteen (14) female Delegates and twenty-two (22) female Alternates, who enthusiastically welcomed Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Sr., and Mother Joan M. McAllister to the First Episcopal District.

After the General Conference, WIM quickly moved into the process of electing officers by appointing a nominating committee and holding our first-ever Candidate's Forum. In November 2021, the following WIM officers were elected: Reverend Dr. Jacquita Wright-Henderson, President; Reverend Myrel Bailey-Walton, Treasurer; Reverend Regina Gray, Esq., Herstorlographer; and Reverend Ivy Berry, Worship Leader. Soon after the announcement of the election results, a Call for Applications was released to secure candidates for the vacant positions. As a result, the full executive board was in place by the end of 2021 with the addition of Reverend Jacqueline Lynch, First Vice President; Reverend Stephanie Atkins, Second Vice President; Reverend Adunnola Waterman French, Secretary; Reverend Terrilisa Durham Bauknight, Financial Secretary; and Reverend Dr. Angela Battle, Statistician. On January 7, 2022, special thanks and commendations were extended to the outgoing officers during a virtual Celebration of Leadership and Service planned by Reverend Alicia Bailey, Reverend Terrilisa Durham Bauknight, and Evangelist LaGreta Brown.

One of the goals of the new administration was to address the critical self-care needs of the WIM in the First District. To address this concern, Self-Care Forums were hosted in November 2021 and March 2022 with Rev. Dr. Melinda Contreras-Byrd and Rev. Dr. Gloria White-Hammond as facilitators. During the virtual Installation of Officers Worship Service in February 2022, the WIM Connectional President, Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford served as Guest Preacher and installed the newly elected officers. Additionally, in February, a virtual Executive Board Retreat was conducted to:

- assist the Board with embracing the vision and mission of WIM,
- develop personal and spiritual working partnerships,
- establish norms for communication,
- strengthen leadership skills, and
- expand parliamentary knowledge to advance the work of WIM.

The 2022 Lenten Devotional Journal, "A New Horizon," had a distinctive feature this year with the authors and other WIM members reading the meditations and praying daily on the Bermuda radio station and a conference call in the United States. Every first Thursday, the Sisters United in Christ Prayer Calls are led by the Worship Leader and prayer warriors from the designated Annual Conference.

During the 2022 Annual Conference season, three new Conference Coordinators were elected: Reverend Dr. Deborah Blanks, New Jersey; Reverend Ruth Van Lowe Smith, Bermuda; and Rev. Shanika Perry, Delaware. These WIM Coordinators join Reverend Alicia Bailey, New York; Reverend Janine Dailey, New England; Reverend Shirley Whitlock, Western, NY; and Reverend Lois Wilkinson, Philadelphia is working diligently to support the WIM in their respective areas by offering innovative programs to empower, engage, and edify the WIM throughout the District. Furthermore, in 2022, at the district level, WIM Coordinators will work with the Executive Board to develop and implement the First District Strategic Plan and the First District website.

2nd Episcopal District

Rev. Anna E. Mosby, President

The Sisters in the Second in all 5 Conferences continued to faithfully respond to God's call and to service and leadership and there was a concerted effort to increase WIM visibility and involvement. We celebrate our Episcopal leadership, Bishop James L. Davis, and Mother Arelis B. Davis, and thank them for their love and support. We honor Bishop Davis as he continues to elevate the 2nd District, we are *The Real Church: Rising to the Challenge*, and as he intentionally includes clergywomen in all areas and levels of leadership throughout the District.

Accolades to the SEDWIM Executive Board and the Conference Coordinators, and their cabinets, for their dedicated and committed service. SEDWIM has been intentional in building strong, lasting relationships and empowering all as we respond to the call of God to serve with excellence and enthusiasm. Highlights for this year include:

- WE Speak (WIM Empowered to Speak) provided a monthly virtual platform for honest conversation, information sharing, and encouragement to all.
- Provided scholarship and ministerial support to Pastors of developing congregations.
- Sponsored WIM memberships for several sisters in the Board of Examiners.
- Held important, relevant, and empowering conversations and gatherings in all five Conferences. Meetings were held virtually, and attendance was strong. One example was a discussion of the book *Lead like a Woman*, led by author Deborah Smith Pegues.

- Led weekly early morning prayer calls.
- Presented a financial gift to the Women's Resource Center of Greensboro, NC.
- Provided support and encouragement for the sisters in the Conference Boards of Examiners.

3rd Episcopal District

Rev. Dr. Mila Cooper, President

The new administration of the Third Episcopal District Women in Ministry began their work in November 2021 with enthusiasm, ambition, and a #NextLevel mindset. The newly elected executive board, installed by Bishop Errenous E. McCloud at the November planning meeting, presented an electrifying video report that embraced the District's mantra - We are Better Together. After soliciting input from women in ministry present at the planning meeting, the Board participated in an all-day virtual planning retreat in December.

We launched a Virtual Prayer Revival in January with the Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram as our preacher. Prayer (zoom) rooms focused on deliverance, forgiveness, healing, holiness, humility, kingdom mindset, lament, love, revival, and unity. Over 200 people were in attendance. We hosted the Morning Glory Praise Breakfast in April during the Bishop's Midyear gathering in Charleston, West Virginia. Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie was our preacher for a sold-out event. Operating with the "We are Better Together" mindset, all components are supported in attendance, sponsorship, or service as hosts and hostesses. We were especially grateful to have the Sons of Allen Men's Ministry as our primary hosts for the event.

Bishop McCloud has entrusted 3DWIM to administer the new 3rd District College Assistance Fund. We coordinate monthly disbursements of \$100 to all college students during the academic year. 3DWIM has supported all connectional initiatives including attendance at each Maximizing Ministry gathering, Holy Saturday prayer revival, and monthly meetings for District Presidents.

Each Annual Conference WIM has been excellent in support of district initiatives while holding phenomenal ministry events in their conferences. Highlights include "Walking the Road of Healing, A Journey of Faith" which was a virtual event focusing on self-care in the Pittsburgh-West Virginia Conference; "Fresh Wind Fridays," held every week on Facebook by the North Ohio Conference and "Expressions of Worship" virtual revival by the Ohio-South Ohio Conference. We look forward to the Connectional Quadrennial Conference, our district retreat August 12-13, celebrating the previous District president and other outgoing officers, and the Fall series of annual conferences. We are prayerful as we strive to serve God with next-level faith, next-level ministry, and next-level praise!

4th Episcopal District

Rev. Janice Brazil Cummings, President

WIM Executive Board election and appointments occurred in mid-January 2022 and immediately thereafter the work of this administration began. In February we celebrated the birthday of Rev. Jarena Lee with a joyful worship service. Our theme was "Celebrating the Legacy in Times Like These". Our preacher was the Rev. Conitras Houston Dickens, a millennial new to the District and pastor of one of the leading churches here. In March, we honored Women's History Month. Both events were well attended and inspirational. The Executive Board had several business meetings and conducted a Midyear membership meeting (*The Gathering*) that included the installation of Executive Board officers. We created a newsletter to improve information sharing and networking particularly for members who infrequently use social media. With funding and administrative support from an area healthcare provider, a new self-care/wellness initiative, *The Shade Tree*, was created. The reopening of our 4th District beautiful Camp Baber is underway and WIM financially supported the WMS campaign to refurbish the camp facilities. Connectional support activities included participation in HERStory, the Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil, the Maximizing Ministry sessions, and the planning of the upcoming Quadrennial.

At the Conference level, Coordinators continued their efforts to grow the membership. They hosted various sisterhood activities for the membership and prospective members, including conducting a revival and a book review on "Red Lips Theology". Ongoing financial and other support is provided to a women's shelter; to families who have lost loved ones; and WIM continues to give of our time and talent in leading committees on the Presiding Elder, Conference, and Episcopal District levels.

5th Episcopal District

Rev Mercedes Tudy-Hamilton, President

The 5th District WIM Executive Board was elected in late October 2021, with a few offices that still needed to be filled. Once those offices were filled our E- Board was off and running for the cause of Christ. We coordinated our district goals of setting up quarterly Zoom prayer calls across the district led by our Worship Leader. Each of the conferences began contributing towards our Marjorie Casson Scholarship Fund, in which we award 3 scholarships yearly for seminary students pursuing graduate degrees seeking elder's ordination. This year, they will be awarded at the Bishop's Planning meeting in October 2022.

In March, at the seat of the Bishop's Mid-Year Convocation, we hosted a gala tribute to Rev. Carolyn Baskin-Bell, Herstorlographer Connectional WIM, and former 5th District WIM President, for her 9 years of stellar service in that office. We continue to highlight the accomplishments and current events of 5th District WIM on our Facebook page. We chose to replace our newsletter with this online platform so that communication could

be more fluid within the district and beyond the happenings of 5th District WIM. We have completed gathering the information for our BHAG “Big Hairy Audacious Goal” with the submission of the Pacific Northwest Conference herstory in June of this year. We are looking forward to the compilation of all six annual conference herstories into a full edition for the district.

Various “Iron Sharpening Iron” seminars have been hosted on the conference level among the topics were: Taking better care of ourselves, Myths about WIM, Mental health, and healing. We are looking forward to our attendance at the upcoming Connectional WIM Quadrennial in Detroit Michigan.

The commencement of our Annual Conference series will begin in August through late October 2022.

6th Episcopal District

Rev. Veronica C. Anderson-Lewis, President

The **Sixth Episcopal District** Women in Ministry has been Wild for Jesus since the election in October 2021. Led by our new President Veronica Anderson-Lewis, the Executive Board has worked as a cohesive group to plan and advocate for Women in Ministry throughout the Sixth District.

We held an Executive Board retreat on January 7, 2022, with elected and appointed officers, as well as conference coordinators. A plan for the year was established along with assigning contact persons for each task.

At Founders Day in February 2022, we held a WIM meeting and reviewed the calendar. We proudly wore leopard print to Friday’s activity to bodily proclaim our Women Wild for Jesus theme.

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson allowed WIM to have a worship service at each Annual Conference. President Veronica attended all of the dynamic WIM services. She encouraged each Conference to staff an information table, to recruit members for WIM. She also represented WIM at Turner Theological Seminary’s Founders Day.

We held Terrific Tuesdays to highlight self-care, strategy, and technology. These topics were included in a survey as areas for growth for district members. We desire to create learning opportunities for members and strengthen local churches, especially during the continuing pandemic.

An Unsung Shero Breakfast is being planned for our Planning Conference, on June 4th in Columbus, Georgia. We will recognize “Unsung Sheroes” across the state who have toiled in the vineyard for many years! We will also recognize our past President Rev. Dr. Jonetta Prater and others who have been pioneers in the formation of WIM.

The following conference events were held throughout the 6th District: Tent Revival (South Conference); Jarena Lee Program (Southwest Georgia Conference); weekly prayer call (Augusta Conference); Mocktails and Conversations & Lavender and White Affair honoring WIM that have served 25+ years (Atlanta North Georgia).

7th Episcopal District

Rev. Dr. Mary F. Rhodes, President

The 7th Episcopal District WIM consists of six Annual Conferences that include 16 Presiding Elder Districts. Seventh District WIM was intentional about partnering with other Components of the AME Church. Therefore, they attended and gave financial support to other Church Component's events to improve communication and build positive relationships to move forward together in ministry.

The 7th Episcopal District WIM created its first WIM Website and implemented online giving platforms. They hosted their first virtual WIM retreat, and Jarena Lee Awards Program, honoring Distinctive Women from each Annual Conference. WIM sponsored a virtual Parade of Districts program that showcased Associate Members in every Presiding Elder District. Each Annual Conference implemented prayer ministries within their respective Conference.

Seventh District WIM supported a child in Haiti and Dominican Republic through Compassion International Ministries and gave money to help students at Allen University. Seventh District WIM opportunities to serve in ministry positions are improving under the leadership of Bishop Samuel L. Green Sr., Presiding Prelate, and Supervisor Phyllis. Green, Episcopal Supervisor. We are truly blessed in the Seventh Episcopal District.

8th Episcopal District

Rev. Richelle Lewis Castine, President

The 8th Episcopal District WIM have utilized Zoom and teleconference platforms to traverse the pandemic to hold meetings, prayer services and workshops to enhance and unite AME/WIM. There are 4 Annual Conferences who have all done great jobs of staying informed and fellowshiping so that the Gospel is spread and our relationships are enhanced. We had the privilege of celebrating with our own, the Rev.(Dr.) Ammie L. Davis who was installed as the 8th President/Dean of Turner Theological Seminary. WIM had an awesome showing representing the 8th District of approximately 15 members. We also had representation at General Board in Nashville, Tennessee. Many of the highlights from the Annual Conference and Presiding Elder District levels include:

-Friday Night Fire which is a service held the Friday evening before Pentecost. Workshops on insurance and financial planning which coordinates with Bishop Wicker's 8 C's campaign for the District. In July we will begin a monthly series focused on "iron sharpening iron" AND the 8 C's of ministry. Recognized and celebrated Women's History month during March and the Rev. Jarena Lee's birthday in February with various programs. A revival sponsored by the Central North LA Conference which featured preachers from the other 3 Annual conferences. Assisted Rev. Nettie Ranel, Pastor of Mary Springhill AME in Shreveport, LA by blessing the WIM of Malawi that was assisting her during her missionary/evangelistic tour there.

Central North Louisiana and North Mississippi conferences both have books/meditations being published. Rev. Dr. Patricia Brown of the Louisiana Conference has written a book of sermon meditations based on preached during the pandemic. With Bishop Wicker's approval, a book club was started for the episcopal district first title used was "Increase! A Path to Abundance for the Local Church" by Rev. Dr. James Miller. (sponsored by the WIM)

We thank God for the opportunity to be in His service for the kingdom.

9th Episcopal District

Rev. Dr. Carmen Walker, President

To embrace the notion of Sisterhood, we must first believe a foundation of unity can exist between women. The 9th Episcopal District WIM found that the intensity of the Covid 19 pandemic allowed us to draw closer to each other to unify our congregations and Presiding Elder Districts by employing the "Sisterhood of Grace". "The Sisterhood of Grace" promotes the notion that we should apply grace toward each WIM Sister to build relationships, and sharpen our various skills in a God-honoring way. The result has been overall new confidence, kinship, and supportive nature across the State. We are proud of the following appointments in our District:

We are strengthened by the fact that we have WIM serving as Presiding Elders in 3 of the 5 Presiding Elder Districts. Rev. Gloria Hall in West Birmingham Ensley Greensboro, Rev. Dr. Letitia Watford in Tuskegee, and Rev. Jacquelyn Denson in Alabama River Region. We also have WIM representation on the General Board in the person of Rev. Dr. Agnes Lover.

This unity has given us opportunities to encourage, uplift, and sharpen each other through the following activities, events, and programs:

- We completed the "2200 Pledge" of the Turner Theological Seminary
- Purchased a brick for the 9th District Prayer Garden
- Provided mentorship and resources to BOE candidates to assist them in having the necessities for successful completion of the classes including Books of

- Worship, and Book of Discipline, in addition to in-person support.
- Created a Scholarship for those WIM who are pursuing higher education and a Gift program for those assigned to their first congregation
 - Hosted Unity Days of Service in April where WIM across the District did special community outreach.
 - Every Presiding Area WIM held Virtual Women's Conferences. A few of the concerns addressed were Self-Care, Mental Health, Depression, Technology, Service/Life balance, and Financial Literacy.
 - Promoting the collection of robes for an upcoming Robe Exchange
 - Highlighted those WIM among us who have published, books, articles, and papers in a Literary Zoom. This will be a yearly project.
 - Given in-person support to new WIM Pastors throughout the year
 - Have increased visibility on 9th District worship services with WIM being selected to preach Opening, Closing, and Ordination services throughout the State in addition to sharing in the WIM Hour of Power in our Annual Conference series.
 - Our WIM Sisters have enjoyed the Maximizing Ministry series and held small discussions to find ways to implement the information
 - We have an ongoing membership drive Statewide in hopes of increasing our membership percentage

11th Episcopal District

Rev. Dr. Marcia Allen Owens, President

With new Episcopal leadership, the 11th Episcopal District WIM vigorously pushed toward building infrastructure, training, uniting, and outreach to meet the needs of WIM and the larger ecclesial community. We celebrate our immediate past Episcopal District President, The Rev. Bettye Watson, on her election as Connectional Communications Secretary.

In support of themes of Connectional AMEWIM and our episcopal leadership, the 11th ED's Theme is "Memorable in Mission, Membership & Ministry. The pandemic helped us realize that we could reach a wider audience through more frequent virtual meetings and regular in-person meetings. We accomplished a thriving membership drive

through this hybrid process and presented WIM pins to each active member. We continued our legacy project at Edward Waters University and issued more than \$11,000 in gift cards to students. We began constructing our new WIM Episcopal website, initiated our yearly District Status of Women report, installed new Conference officers, and provided training on the Role of WIM Officers and Bylaws. 11th ED AMEWIM participated in the Episcopal District Mid-Year service for the first time. The 11th ED District Health Commission, led by the East Conference Coordinator Rev. Dr. Helen Jackson, enlisted our membership in providing health screenings at Episcopal

meetings. We also held a District-wide prayer meeting, participated in the Connectional prayer meetings, and supported Rev. Ratona Stokes Robinson in her plight for acceptance at her assigned church.

In addition, we engaged in conversation with the 19th Episcopal District WIM. We started a drive to support them in purchasing robes for their WIM and are currently seeking ways to assist the churches impacted by flooding in the area. In her historic installation, we celebrated our very own Connectional First Vice President, The Reverend Dr. Ammie L. Davis, as the first woman and 8th president and dean of Turner Theological Seminary with an ad in the Souvenir bulletin. During Women's History month, we highlighted our WIM achievers on Facebook. We operated within our budgetary perimeter and were able to meet all our obligations through sound fiscal practices, the generosity of our membership, and the support of our allies.

12th Episcopal District

Rev. Alison Howell, President

On behalf of the Women In Ministry of the 12th Episcopal District, I am excited to present to you this Summary Report, which reflects and details the work of this conference year. It brings such joy to serve the WIM of the 12th Episcopal District. We have developed workshops and programs at both the District and Conference level that has uplifted and strengthened our membership.

On November 30th, 2021 we held our first elective board meeting of the WIM of the 12th Episcopal District via Zoom Conference call. We celebrated and mourned the loss of our beloved President, Presiding Elder Barbara A. Butler. WIM sent flowers and love to the Butler family. We had our Episcopal Secretary of WIM and our four Coordinators send resolutions from their perspective districts. We the WIM of the 12th Episcopal District were in attendance at the celebration of our beloved President, Presiding Elder Barbara Butler in our Colors of Black and lavender. We also celebrated the life of Presiding Elder Lanell F. Ross. We are in the process of establishing a book scholarship in their memory.

Technological Upgrades

We the 12th District WIM believed it was essential to upgrade in technology to be relevant in this present age. We established a Facebook page email and other social media platforms. Our methods of giving, are Givelify, Cash app, and \$12thWIM and by mail. All our meetings and programs are via zoom conference call and Facebook live.

The Celebration of Ministry

We have sponsored and embraced the following programs: Health and Wellness Seminar, Mind, Body, and Soul. The total being. We had a Celebration honoring the years of Service of Presiding Elder Angela Brewster, our former President of WIM. The

installations of officers, we were blessed with our Connectional President of WIM Rev. Dr. Erika Crawford. Our up-and-coming events will be on May 29th, 2022, our guest speaker will be Jessica Yarbrough an attorney and author of a book entitled Stronger every Single Day; How to defeat Heartbreak and Have fulfillment while living single in the ministry. We are also looking forward to our Fashion show coming up on June 4th, 2022 at Shorter College.

13th Episcopal District

Rev. Stephanie Raglin, President

Greetings on behalf of the 13th Episcopal District Women in Ministry. We give thanks and praise to God almighty for the privilege to serve under the leadership of our esteemed Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield. The 13th Episcopal District Women in Ministry has truly been blessed and busy this Conference year. We maintain the goals and objectives of the Connectional Women in Ministry and strive tenaciously to support our Episcopal Leadership.

In our Kentucky Conference, a Prayer and Testimony Service was held in February for the spiritual renewal and empowerment of our clergy sisterhood. We have also been allowed to celebrate with Rev. Veda Stewart as she has received her doctoral degree in Educational Policy and Leadership. In addition, we are elated to announce that the former Rev. Nachia Woods (now Tellis) was joined in matrimony to Christopher George Tellis on April 25, 2022, at Ralph Avenue AME Church in Louisville, Kentucky.

From our Tennessee Conference, we celebrate the graduation of Rev. Angela Green and Rev. Tanya Mason from Payne Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity.

In our West Tennessee Conference, a Slow to Embrace Virtual Spa Event was enjoyed by our sisterhood for personal and ministry self. We want to thank everyone who participated and a special thanks go to Rev. Joy Yancy and her committee for such a well-planned event! Congratulations to Rev Dr. Terri Strong (Pastor Mt Sinai AMEC Arlington TN), Rev Marilynn Sasportas Robinson, and Rev Almela Starks Umoja for being recognized in the 12 Most Outstanding Women of 2022 by Memphis Inter-Denominational Fellowship Incorporated Honoring Women in Ministry. We also celebrate the graduation of Rev Felicia Ingram from Payne Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity. Rev. Felicia Ingram was also appointed through common consent to the Secretary position of the 13th District WIM.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Kentucky Conference will be hosting 2 events in May: Supporting our Sister Worship and a Level Up Workshop.

West TN Conference will be hosting a June WIM Revival with Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield as the evangelist.

14th Episcopal District

Rev. Roseline Barnes

The 14th Episcopal District which consists of Liberia (Central Liberia Annual Conference and Liberia Annual Conference), Cote D'Ivoire, Togo-Benin, Nigeria, Ghana, and Sierra Leone annual conference has a total of forty (40) Women in Ministry.

Liberia being the seat of the 14th episcopacy has taken the lead in pursuit of parity, justice, and equity not only for clergywomen but for those suffering domestic violence and injustices.

The Voice of Women in Ministry is an advocacy movement of the 14th Episcopal District Women in Ministry.

Our Presiding Prelate Bishop Paul J. M. Kawimbe of the 14th Episcopal District, at the seat of the General Conference held in the Nashville, USA, had to opportunity to hear the very passionate Mrs. Bridget Gibson of "Tell the Truth" shared her vision of a movement to end domestic violence. A seed was planted in the heart of our Bishop. He called his administrative assistant the Reverend Roseline Barnes and shared with her his desire to see a replica of this movement here in our district. A meeting between Mrs. Gibson, Rev. Barnes, and Rev. Dr. Alice Crenshaw, pastor of Turner Chapel AME Church Greenwood, USA was set up and the fireworks sparked.

On November 6, 2021, in a gathering of eight members of the Women in Ministry of both Annual Conferences of Liberia, a vision was birthed.

A vision dedicated to working strategically with women and girls on Domestic Violence. A movement dedicated to assisting with the legal, advocacy, Trauma healing, and Counseling of those who are hurting as a result of domestic violence. A vision bearing the name Voice of Women in Ministry (VOWIM).

A vision dedicated to providing support, advocacy training, and collaborative initiatives aimed at promoting Women Empowerment and leadership.

Today, VOWIM is a newly established Non-Profit NGO whose aim is to work strategically with women and girls on Domestic Violence.

We exist to:

- Help reunite children with parents

- Counseling women and girls who have been abused or violated.
- Strengthening marriage and-or supporting marriage reunion as well as providing counseling for struggling married couples.
- Holding seminars and relevant programs/training to build reinforce, and or strengthen women's self-esteem/confidence.
- Initiate and or support programs/ activities to create a platform/forum to Study God's word and provide biblical teachings aimed at strengthening faith in God as well as God's will and purpose for mankind.
- Support advocacy training and collaborative initiative aimed at promoting Women Empowerment and leadership

We Stand for:

- Honesty · Integrity · Independence · Teamwork · Respect for Diversity and Confidentiality
- Scope of Operation:
- Legal,
- Advocacy,
- Trauma healing & Counseling

Key Highlights

Under the leadership of Rev. Roseline Barnes as president, VOWIM is a proud partner to "Tell the Truth" and the Turner Chapel AME Church, USA. This partnership has opened several doors. One of which is the platform to share experiences.

The president of VOWIM, Rev. Barnes has the awesome opportunity to share her experience with Domestic Violence in Liberia with the world on a Podcast hosted by Mrs. Bridget Gibson.

Another opportunity out of this great partnership was the opportunity for Liberia to participate in the global awareness centered on teen dating violence. February of every year is used to direct attention on TEEN DATING VIOLENCE. And as such, Liberia was opportune to join the United States along with major stakeholders globally in observing Teen Dating Violence Awareness.

The leadership of VOWIM excitedly informed the Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection, Liberia. This information about hosting an awareness on Teen Dating Violence for the very first time in Liberia was endorsed by the Minister of Gender.

On Saturday, February 12, 2022, the program in commemoration of Teen Dating Violence Awareness month was held under the THEME: "RESPECT"

This great endeavor was sponsored by our very own Presiding Prelate, Bishop Paul J. M. Kawimbe, Rev. Dr. Alice Crenshaw, and Mrs. Bridget Gibson.

The program was attended by members of the board of VOWIM, the Liberian Council of Churches, the Interfaith Religious Council, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, the Women Missionary Societies of both Liberian Annual Conferences, the Leadership of the Ministers' Spouses and the Laity amongst other major stakeholders in Liberia. A cross-section of 85 teenagers from sister churches, schools, as well as communities, had the wonderful experience of being exposed to a learning opportunity for the first time on Teen dating violence.

This all-important awareness campaign began with a parade in the principal streets of Monrovia and an indoor program. The Vice President of VOWIM, Rev. S. Odell Swen presented the first topic Teen Dating Violence. The participants were taught what teen domestic violence is and or threats of violence towards a romantic partner or a household member who is a teenager. They were made aware that threats can involve physical abuse, sexual assault, or the threat of either one. The second presentation, Personal Hygiene was presented by our able secretary, Rev. Grace Martin Nyanway. Her presentation was centered on educating girls on how to take care of their bodies, and this presentation was buttressed by one of our board members Mrs. Oretha G. Wilson speaking on health issues. After all of the presentations, the opportunity was given to the participants to ask questions.

A Special message was given by our Episcopal Supervisor Moth. Lister Kawimbe spoke on the theme RESPECT, using a sub Theme "Know your Worth" mentioning the song "I KNOW WHO GOD SAYS I AM". She encouraged the girls to value themselves.

Following Supervisor Kawimbe's message, a special message was read by Rev. Roseline S. Barnes, president of VOWIM from the Presiding prelate of the 14th Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Church Bishop Paul Kawimbe.

At the close of the program, all 85 of the participants received a certificate of participation and a gift bag containing effects of personal hygiene.

At the close of the program, remarks were made by the following guest.

- Moth. Alfreda Parker-14th Episcopal Dist. President Minister Spouse Widow & Widower Association.
- Moth. Felecia Konneh; Area Chair LAC
- Moth. Oretha G. Wilson: Board Member VOWIM
- Moth. Rebecca Major: Secretary Interfaith religious council
- Moth. Betty Harris: President WMS, Central Liberia Annual Conference

The entire program was covered by major media houses in Liberia, namely; Fortune TV, CTV, JOY FM and Let's Talk Bible discussion

This program is a door opener. The President Rev. Roseline Barnes was invited to the Free Gospel mission school in Gardnersville where she spoke on Domestic Violence at

home to the girls as it was very interactive and rewarding for the students. While leaving the Free Gospel Mission School, she was asked by the boys "Can we also learn about Domestic Violence?" with the eagerness to learn the President Rev. Barnes scheduled a revisit at the Free Gospel Mission School and this time had an interactive discussion on Domestic Violence with the boys.

14TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT WOMEN IN MINISTRY OFFICERS

1. Rev. Roseline S. Barnes – President (Liberia Annual Conference)
2. Rev. S. Odell Swen– 1st Vice President (Central Liberia Conference)
3. Rev. Agnes Peterson – 2nd Vice President (Sierra Leone Conference)
4. Rev. Grace M. Nyanway – Secretary (Liberia Annual Conference)
5. Rev. Alice Z. Solomon – Financial Secretary (Central annual Conference)
6. Rev. Leemu K. Ricks – Treasurer (Central Liberia Conference)
7. Rev. Eliza Showers – Worship Director (Sierra Leone Conference)
8. Rev. Lois Gaye-Harding – (Sierra Leone Conference Coordinator)
9. Rev. Mary Doe Asare – (Ghana Conference Coordinator)

Women in Ministry present at the Sierra Leone Annual Conference, after the conference the President of Women In Ministry Rev. Roseline S. Barnes held a meeting with WIM of Sierra Leone Conference on the way forward for WIM, she entertained suggestions and the meeting was fruitful, and rewarding as there is a pending visit to Sierra Leone.

Women in Ministry of both Liberia and Central Annual Conference at the funeral service of our fallen sister Rev. Julia Cumbay.

During the Liberia Annual Conference, Three Members of WIM were ordained as Elders, Rev. FUp Famatta Dougba-yassah, Rev. Mercy Nutah, and Rev. Grace Martin-Nyanway.

- Upcoming activities: WIM members in each conference, and the district as a whole should come together to develop a work-plan, and organize rotational crusades & outreaches to support the work and ministry of members in their communities.
- Women In Ministry Conference
- Domestic Violence Workshop/Teachings
- That training sessions for WIM members every conference to enhance ministry work and church growth efforts in the district.
- In-house Training on Counseling and Trauma Healing

Acknowledgment:

We Want to take this time to appreciate our Episcopal family Presiding Prelate Bishop Paul J. M. Kawimbe and Supervisor Lister Kawimbe for all the support, prayers, and love

in reaching this organization to what it is today, Bishop, VOWIM says thank you.

Special thanks go to our partners in the United States of America, Mrs. Bridget Gibson Host and founder of "Tell the Truth" and Rev. Dr. Alice Crenshaw, Pastor of Turner Chapel AME Church Greenwood United States of America. Officers and members of Voice of Women in Ministry (VOWIM)

15th Episcopal District

Rev. Betty Kauna Schroder, President

Thank you to everyone, in particular our newly assigned Episcopal Leadership of the 15th Episcopal District, the Bishop, Right Rev. Silvester Scott Beaman, and Supervisor, Mother Renee Palmore Beaman, for faithfully joining us to minister to women in 2021 where challenges of the pandemic and preparations post-pandemic was and remain the "new norm". As we reflect on the unprecedented times and challenges we face in 2021, we are reminded of two things. First, God is God all by Himself and still keeps His PROMISES! Second, even though the uncertainty of reopening our church buildings piled up spiritual, mental, emotional, economic, and socio-economic challenges for some time, this did not stop *the 15th District WIM* from worshipping, serving, and finding creative ways to minister to ourselves and those in our lives. We also recognize the outstanding and visionary leadership of our Episcopal WIM President, Rev. Dr. Erika Crawford, and her Executive, particularly our Statistician, Rev. Lerato Pitso, Rev. Beatrice Motokoa, Central/Southern Africa Coordinator, and Dr Monica Spencer, former 3rd vice President for her time and dedication to the Central/Southern African regions and of course my sisters in the 15th.

The 15th Episcopal District comprises seven (7) Annual Conferences and thirty-five (35) Presiding Elder Districts, of which at least eleven (11) are headed by female Presiding Elders, with female representatives in each Annual Conference. The highest ever recorded in the history of the entire AME Connection. To God be the glory!

Our Episcopal leadership continues to encourage, without discrimination, fear, or favor, the role of women in administration through intentional awareness, recognizing that diversity is essential in being able to respond to a changing world and use the gifts of all the people God had called; thus, the proportion of women in leadership positions has improved during these years.

The 15th District continued to build on the theme; of "Standing United, Moving Forward, Stronger Together as a foundation of our efforts for unity in the Body of Christ. However, the 2021-2024 Quadrennial Theme, based on Proverbs 27:17 text, reads, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another," **Walking in Our Strengths: Iron Sharpening Iron** further cemented our need for engagement and ministry. As a District,

collectively and individually, we intentionally embarked upon promoting this theme and embedded it into discussions of the WIM meetings and sessions. The intent to incorporate the quadrennial theme and subsequently link it to the objectives of the WIM is ongoing.

We moved from the 2021 Convention theme, "Bruised, Broken & Bleeding- God is Still Using Us", with endless prayers to further deliberate and empower our sisters through our 2022 hybrid Annual WIM Convention under the theme; " Praying and Positioning." ***"After All is Done and Said! You Have To Come To Your Royal Position for a Time Such as This"***

The topics under discussion were presented by sisters from the 15th and across the Connection. These topics focused on;

1. Addressing the fears of silence, Rev. Betty Schroder,
2. Prophetic Perspective of Prayer, Power and Justice in the Exegesis of Esther, Rev. Dr. Erika Crawford
3. Sharing Herstory – The Path that Leads me To the Cross, newly ordained itinerant deacons,
4. Violence against Women- Recognize it, Seek Help and Position Yourself, Rev. Nozi Geco and a GBV Survivor, and
5. The Prophetic Alignment, Prayer and Positioning as a Women in Ministry, Dr. Betty Holley
6. Rev. Ursula van Stafel, Mdiv, and Dr. Katurah York Cooper blessed us with the Opening and Closing sermons.

One of the outcomes of this Convention was specifically focused on the discussions and recommendations/proposals to explicitly enhance existing legislation in the Book of Discipline and Doctrine of the AME Church to address issues of sexual and emotional abuse in the church, particularly of children and women and sexism. This was encouraged heavily by stories shared by different lay and clergy women and youth confirming that in the pews of every church are women and children who are victims of varying levels of abuse, in and outside the church.

On March 26-27th, 2022, the WIM joined the 15th Young People's and Children's Division under the Women's Missionary Society in their fight against Gender-Based Violence, focusing on the spiritual effects of Gender-Based Violence presented by the WIM. These events also addressed the issue of sexism in the AME Church.

We conducted regular virtual Prayer sessions for COVID-19 affected members and their families.

On other matters;

Sisters Need Sisters- March 2021, birthed the 7:15 Partnership Project. It was launched between the 7th and the 15th Episcopal Districts WIM, who agreed to forge partnerships

and focus on supporting one another in issues related to challenges faced by WIM. Particularly, but not limited to challenges for women in patriarchal societies or institutions, Ministry in the Church, customs and norms, women empowerment, and capacity building projects. One joint Executive meeting and one Sister -to-Sister talk meeting was held while we continued to support one another through attending Episcopal events and prayers.

As a District, we continue to raise the consciousness of the A.M.E. Church on women's issues through ecumenical initiatives, street marches, Women in Action support, and Environmental and Social Justice activities.

As a challenge, we recognize that the role of lay women (those on trial for the itinerant ministry, evangelists, and lay preachers) needs more support and induction IN THEIR ROLE AS WIM. We need to strengthen further or up-scale their participation in some Annual Conferences.

Some Annual Conferences hold their elections, while others will elect new executive members during the upcoming Annual Conferences. The current Episcopal WIM Executives term is ending this year, and thus, the Episcopal District elections will be held during March 2023 at the seat of the next Mid-Year session. All honor to the Highest God. Many got sick with the coronavirus COVID-19 SARS pandemic, but no deaths were recorded during this reporting year.

Finally, issues of opportunities were addressed through the Central and Southern African Coordinator and Connectional WIM platforms. As part of our encouragement, we provide and receive assistance and outreach to/from women in ministry in the "Global Districts." We praise God for our challenges; we kneel when life gets too hard to stand.

16th Episcopal District

Rev. Lucinda Burgess, President

The 16th District WIM celebrates the diversity of our district. Our membership is comprised of WIM from the Caribbean, Central America, England, Europe, and South America. Despite the geographical distances, the continuous effects of the COVID Pandemic, and our many time zones, technology has also allowed us to reach across the North Sea, the English Channel, the Caribbean Sea, and the Atlantic Ocean to worship and meet within the 16th Episcopal District and with the Connectional Church.

This year, through our collective efforts, we were able to create an online Advent Devotional and host an Advent Worship Experience. During the 2021 Connectional WIM elections our past President, Rev. Dr. Emily Pardue (Jamaica) was elected as the Connectional Director of Worship and Liturgy and the Rev. Lucinda Burgess (Europe) became the president of the 16th District WIM. During our annual conference series, the

Presiding Prelate of the 16th Episcopal District, Bishop Marvin Zanders II, appointed the Rev. Lucinda V. Burgess as the Presiding Elder of the European Conference, joining the Rev. Carlene Sobers (Windward Is) and the Rev. Caudria Pearson-Newell (Jamaica).

WIM was also appointed to the following Conference Office positions:

BOE: Rev. Florence McElroy – District Chair (Jamaica), Rev. Lucinda Burgess - Chair (Europe), Rev. Marguerite A. Hoyte - Dean (Guyana-Suriname), Rev. Dr. Emily Pardue (Jamaica)

Board of Trustees: Rev. Lucinda Burgess – Chair (Europe), Rev. Florence McElroy – Chair (Jamaica) Rev. Marguerite A. Hoyte (Guyana-Suriname), Rev. Eureka Solomon (Europe),

Finance Committee: Rev. Florence McElroy – Chair (Jamaica) Rev. Lucinda Burgess (Europe), Rev. Opal Morrison Dunkley (Jamaica), Rev. Elaine Wilson Edwards (Jamaica), Evangelist Maureen Oliver – Treasurer (Europe)

Ministerial Efficiency Committee: Rev. Marguerite A. Hoyte – Chair (Guyana-Suriname), Rev. Dr. Emily Pardue – Chair (Jamaica), Rev. Heather W. Edwards (Guyana-Suriname), Rev. Tricia Mc Pherson (Guyana-Suriname).

Committee on Trials and Appeals: Rev. Tricia Mc Pherson (Guyana-Suriname)

Judiciary Committee: Rev. Heather W. Edwards (Guyana-Suriname), Rev. Tricia Mc. Pherson (Guyana-Suriname)

Conference Prayer Coordinator: Sis. Vanessa Cameron (Guyana-Suriname), Rev. Elaine Wilson Edwards (Jamaica), Rev. Victoria Smalling (Europe)

18th Episcopal District

Rev. Nicole Aedige, President

The executive committee was elected in May of 2022 and we are well on our way to building a strong Episcopal District AMEWIM. We'd like to thank our Bishop, The Right Reverend Francine A. Brookins for her support and our CSA Coordinator for her encouragement as we continue to move forward with the work of WIM.

19th Episcopal District

Rev. Gando Matyumza, President

If you could allow us to borrow the words of Paul to express in unison how we feel at this stage, we would adapt ourselves to 1 Corinthians 15:57 "But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory [making us conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ". If it

was not for the Lord awarding us His favor we would not be standing here to give our report. The 19th District Women in Ministry has traveled quite a journey to get to this point and we, therefore, stand in praise as we give an account of this term's activity.

This quadrennium started slowly for all of us, with the breakout of Covid strains and the world's lockdown rules affecting how we worship and hold meetings and thus delaying the election of a new Executive Committee. With the assignment of Bishop Brailsford and having adjusted to the new way of doing things, we were able to elect our Executive Board during Bishop's 2021/22 Planning Meeting.

We are also proud to have the following Elders serving in the Connectional WIM Executive Board and Standing Committees:

Statistician	The Rev Lerato R Pitso
Worship Committee	The Rev Mmalorato M Kgositlou
Public Relations Committee	The Rev Mmakgabo G Sepoloane

MEETINGS

We've had to adjust our meetings in consideration of the Bishop's Directive and observation of Covid Protocols and Regulations. Herewith below, are our scheduled meetings and attendance:

Feb 25-27, 2022 - Executive Leadership Retreat and Pre-planning Meeting [1], Otters Den in Midlands, Kwa-Zulu Natal Province By God's grace we were able to come together through both physical and virtual attendance as an Executive Board for our first meeting post elections and installation. It is our first we had it be our Leadership Retreat and Pre-Planning Meeting, where we laid down our plans for the term and we are now able to report on our progress.

May 22, 2022 – Executive Meeting, Virtual, We discussed urgent matters and reported on achieved and outstanding objectives.

ACTIVITIES

1. Regular attendance of the Central Southern Africa (CSA) Meetings. Our President, the Rev Matyumza presented the Financial Wellbeing Seminar on the 29th of January 2022 where she emphasized that the focus of financial wellbeing begins with knowing the source of our finances and total giving of oneself, one's worth, and one's spiritual gifts.
2. We participated in celebrating our Women from different Episcopal Districts who paved the way for us. Our Herstoryographer compiled and submitted our own 'HerStory on the Rev Felicity L Montsitsi as the first Female Conference Level Board of Christian Education Director.
3. Participation in the Monthly Connectional Worship Experience. The Rev

- Mmalorato M Kgositlou offered a Word on Resurrection Sunday titled: "The Tomb is Empty, Now What".
4. The President was invited to attend the WIM meeting of the 11th District to discuss our partnership, and agree on how each partnership will work to ensure mutual benefit to both districts.
 5. All our Conference WIM was able to hold a meeting and participated in Worship Experience Services during the sitting of the 2021 Annual Conference Series.

TERM HIGHLIGHTS

1. Our bank account has been opened and the ExBo members have already started to deposit their membership fees.
2. Our President lead the National Worship that honored the life of Mother Charlotte Manny Maxeke that was jointly organized with the country's ruling party, The African National Congress.
3. Our Conferences have started to organize themselves and are looking forward to more involved participation of more women.
4. Our Herstorlographer made the front page of The Christian Recorder with her article on Modulasitulo (The Chairman), Living with a Disability, looking at the life of the Rev Jacob Sebau.
5. The Rev Lerato Pitso, our Connectional Statistician was awarded a prize for her achievement of the best academic record in her first year of Masters's Studies.
6. Out of the 37 ordinations that took place at our Mid-Year Convocation, two (2) were Deaconesses, six (6) were Itinerant Deacons and six (6) were Itinerant Elders. We praise the Lord.

CHALLENGES

1. Strict adherence to Covid protocols affected our attendance at the Mid Year Convocation, we had to reschedule our meetings that were to sit at the Mid-Year Convocation as most people did not attend, all those attending the Mid Year were to be fully vaccinated with proof thereof.
2. We still see several young women perceiving WIM to be an "older women organization", and much work to be done to promote WIM in the District.

CONCLUSION - We bless the Lord for a chance to re-organize ourselves and work towards having a functional WIM. We're grateful to all members who have kept the light shining in their corners and all who ensured that we have successful elections and a start of a great term. To the parents of the 19th District, Bishop and Mother Brailsford, thank you for the platform. To our Connectional and CSA sisters, we are

grateful for the courage and support.

20th Episcopal District

Rev. Fanny Damarles Mdzeka, President

20th Episcopal District has 14 Itinerant Elders, 1 Itinerant Deacon, 1 Local Elder, 3 Licentiate, 1 retired, and 64 evangelists and exhorters. We have 5 female Presiding Elders and 16 pastors that are pastoring churches. Their level of education is from high school to Masters's Level in other fields and Bachelors of Divinity. Others are enrolled by different seminaries for Masters of Divinity (MDiv). We thank God for grace upon the members

Achievements

1. WIM Members have been able to conduct the Hour of Power during the Annual Conferences. It was online conferences due to Covid 19 pandemic.
2. The conference members were able to meet and discuss some issues that they are facing.
3. The members participated in Gender-Based Violence in Malawi under the Malawi Council of Churches.
4. We have been participating in Southern Africa WIM Meetings through Preaching, sharing stories, etc, and attending the GDC.
5. Develop connections and friendships with WIM Members of other Districts

Challenges

1. Covid 19: due to Covid 19 we were not able to meet in person only online which is very challenging because other WIM Members don't have an android phones.
2. Due to financial challenges WIM Members are not able to work effectively. Most of the time they work on farms for them to sustain their families. Due to economic challenges (raising of prices of things) and the Climate change (floods) they were not able to harvest food. This year there is a shortage of food
3. Education; WIM Members are not able to pay their school fees locally and internationally.

Future Plans

1. Having WIM Cruised in some of the Conferences
2. Teaching WIM Members about Gender-based Violence because some cultures still discriminate against women.
3. Encourage WIM Members to continue training in theology if we want to work effectively. Empowering women in their ministry through allowed everyone to participate in the conference, district, and local churches.

4. Encourage other women to join ministry by living as role model to them.

2021-2022 AME/WIM Demographics

Detailed Demographics	2018/2019	2021/2022										
		TOTAL	ED 1	ED 2	ED 3	ED 4	ED 5	ED 6	ED 7	ED 8	ED 9	ED 10
Number of female ITINERANT Elders reported in your Episcopal District	2548	1876	277	449	63	92	79	224	133		77	
Number of female ITINERANT Deacons reported in your Episcopal District		430	12	111	15	44	24	24	43		10	
Number of female LOCAL Elders reported in your Episcopal District	1008	753	156	229	42	36	25	78	115		16	
Number of female LOCAL Deacons reported in your Episcopal District		225	15	58	9	8	18	12	38		6	
Number of female Evangelist and Exhorters reported in your Episcopal District	298	506	154	32	10	0	16	13	19		5	
Number of female licentiate reported in your Episcopal District	270	204	13	42	6	0	12	18	24		12	
Number of female licentiate admitted to the Annual Conference in your Episcopal District	110	74	1	24	0	0	5	8	16		0	
Number of female superannuates (retired preachers) reported in your Episcopal District	270	327	36	86	16	24	21	23	39		10	
Total Number of women in ministry reported who have died in your Episcopal District	39	62	3	15	2	3	2	3	9		1	
Total Number of Women serving in an active Pastoral capacity reported in your Episcopal District	1210	1425	101	352	57	84	53	111	157		108	
Total Number of Women serving in an Institutional Ministerial capacity reported in your Episcopal District	114	63	8	14	1	0	0	6	8		6	
Total number of Associate Members (male dues paying members) reported in your Episcopal District	122	240	55	63	4	0	36	25	38		6	
Total Number of Female Bishops in your Episcopal District	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
Total Number of Female (Ordained) General Officers in your Episcopal District	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0		0	
Total Number of Female (Ordained) Connectional Officers reported in your Episcopal District	16	21	4	3	4	0	1	1	2		1	
Total Number of Female Presiding Elders reported in your Episcopal District	51	70	6	9	4	3	3	3	3		3	
Total number of women receiving a Doctoral Degree as reported to your Episcopal District	33	150	2	56	2	3	25	38	15		0	
Total number of women receiving a Master of Divinity Degree as reported to your Episcopal District	38	489	4	190	5	1	85	179	10		0	

	ED 11	ED 12	ED 13	ED 14	ED 15	ED 16	ED 17	ED 18	ED 19	ED 20
	187	44		42	46	40	13	49	37	24
	97	2		1	7	17	2	9	10	2
	32	0		0	1	8	0	11	0	4
	50	3		0	0	4	0	3	0	1
	55	6		0	18	3	0	2	49	124
	33	9		2	6	4	5	3	11	4
	3	3		2	3	0	5	0	4	0
	40	21		0	0	0	1	7	2	1
	14	4		2	0	0	1	1	2	0
	131	33		18	54	25	15	71	31	24
	5	0		3	5	0	0	1	3	3
	6	1		0	2	0	0	4	0	0
				0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	0		0	0	3	0	1	0	0
	3	2		7	8	3	2	2	4	5
	2	2		1	1	1	0	0	2	0
	6	2		1	4	0	0	0	2	0

Adopted Commission on Women In Ministry Recommendations to The General Board

Year	Request/Recommendation	Status
2019	<p>We ask the General Board to accept the following recommendations, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Annual Conferences that have not already elected 2020 General Conference delegates, be purposeful in assuring that clergywomen are represented. II. All Episcopal Districts, commit to assuring that women clergy, as distinguished from lay women, are included in major committee appointments for the 2020 General Conference, like: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Episcopal Committee, in which 95% of the ministerial seats were male clergy in 2016; and b. The Revisions Committee, in which 75% of the ministerial seats were male clergy in 2016. c. The General Board, in which 84% of the ministerial seats, are male clergy 2016-2020. III. All Episcopal Districts commit to assuring that male clergy is included in appointments to the Women in Ministry Committee in 2020, which was 1% male clergy in 2016. IV. On the 5th Sunday in September, (September 29, 2019) that local churches lift up the work and witness of the now, Reverend Jarena Lee in celebration of her being the first woman to be licensed to preach in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1819, 200 years ago this year. 	To Be Reported
2018	<p>We believe that the time has come for us to collectively and intentionally fulfill the commitments already made to the daughters of the church by re-visiting the wanting, unfinished, pending, and incomplete recommendations before the church.</p> <p>Therefore, the single recommendation of the Executive Board of AME/WIM is that the Commission and subsequently the General Board recommit itself to the incomplete recommendations of 2012-2017</p>	Pending
2017	That the General Board empower each WIM Commission Member to complete an introspective analysis of its Episcopal District's key leadership positions regarding female clergy and report same to the commission within 90 days.	Ongoing We continue to be challenged in receiving information from Episcopal Districts and Annual Conferences
2017	That the General Board empower the Commission Members to encourage WIM leadership at the Presiding Elder District and Conference Coordinators level to work in collaboration with their respective Presiding Elders to prepare and provide workshops and training to assist congregations in fulfilling the church's intentional commitment to gender justice and equality.	Pending AME/WIM is preparing to meet with the Presiding Elders Council to discuss this project

<p>2016</p>	<p>The adoption of this policy/statement regarding the equality and the value of women: <i>We, The African Methodist Episcopal Church, affirm that all men and women are created equal by God and therefore, entitled to value of personhood, parity in employment, equal distribution of responsibility and promotion in ministry.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>We, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 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.</i></p>	<p>Completed This statement was adopted by the General Board December 2016</p>
<p>2016</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Ongoing We are unable to determine if General Board members followed through on this request. However, to date, there has been no public statement from the church regarding such an effort</p>
<p>2016</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Ongoing The recommendation was adopted by the General Board in December 2016. AME/WIM continues to work and push for every local church to celebrate the theological, social, historical, and cultural significance of women.</p>
<p>2015</p>	<p>That the General Board recommends to the 50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference a resolution offered by AME / WIM to posthumously elect and ordain Jarena Lee, an itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.</p>	<p>Completed A resolution was read conferring the honorary title of Rev on Jarena Lee</p>
<p>2015</p>	<p>That for the remainder of the Annual Conferences [in the 2012-2016 quadrennial], the Annual Conferences be intentional with respect to parity and equity in the election of women as ministerial delegates.</p>	<p>Not Accomplished Clergywomen represented less than 20% of the 2016-2020 Ministerial Delegation</p>
<p>2015</p>	<p>Local Elders comprise approximately 60% of all women in ministry. We recommend that: (1) women who meet the age requirement be encouraged to pursue the itinerant track (2) local ministers and persons who serve as supply pastors, who are pastoring a congregation a year or more, should receive full benefits.</p>	<p>(1) Ongoing We continue to be challenged with access to information, thus are unable measure the number local clergywomen vs itinerant clergywomen</p> <p>(2) Not Accomplished</p>
<p>2015</p>	<p>AME Women in Ministry recommends and wholeheartedly support the election of women to the Episcopacy in 2016. As we head toward the 50th session of the General Conference to be held in</p>	<p>Completed One clergy was elected to the Episcopacy in 2016 – The Right</p>

	Philadelphia, PA we support the letter of Dr. Jayme Coleman Williams, dated May 15, 2015, for the need of more women on the Bench of Bishops. The bench of Bishops should never be devoid of women. It is estimated that women in ministry throughout the Connection comprise 46% of all ministers and women comprise over 80-85% of the congregations of our Zion. We have five women running and six positions that are open for the election of Bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Parity and justice demand that women be given their rightful position and place on the Bench. It would truly be a tragedy if the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 2016, the 200 th anniversary of the establishment of the church, failed to elect women to the Episcopacy. God created us all male and female to do God’s work.	Reverend E. Anne Henning Byfield
2014	That the AME Church be intentional about electing women for Episcopal Service in 2016 and appointing women to positions of leadership (in the delegation of the General Conference; on the General Board; and on District and Annual Conference Committees such as Board of Examiners, Board of Trustees, Ministerial Efficiency & Judiciary and Finance Committees).	<p>Completed One clergy was elected to the Episcopacy in 2016 – The Right Reverend E. Anne Henning Byfield</p> <p>Ongoing We continue to be challenged with access to information, thus are unable measure the number local clergywomen vs itinerant clergywomen</p>
2014	That AME WIM be included in the agenda of the Annual Conference and make a report to the Annual Conference on the activities of AME/WIM, inclusive of the Report Card and Census Data at the seat of the Annual Conference.	<p>Ongoing Some Episcopal Districts have adjusted Annual Conference schedules to include AMEWIM along with the other component annual days</p> <p>Most Annual Conference still do not call for the report on Women In Ministry</p>
2012	That the AME Church, through its Bishops and Presiding Elders, be intentional in considering the educational background and experience of all clergy, in particular women, as they make Pastoral assignments and recommendations for persons to serve: in the delegation to the General Conference; on the General Board; and on District and Annual Conference Committees such as Board of Examiners, Board of Trustees, Ministerial Efficiency & Judiciary & Finance committees. (Presently, women clergy are underrepresented in leadership.)	<p>Ongoing Clergywomen continue to be underrepresented in every ministerial office in the AME Church</p>
2012	That the AME Church, through its Bishops and Presiding Elders, be intentional about including women in ministry as worship participants, workshop presenters, teachers and trainers at Episcopal District, Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District conferences and events.	<p>Ongoing Clergywomen continue to be underrepresented</p>