

# AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## GENERAL BOARD MEETING

June 27-29, 2022

Atlanta Marriott Marquis  
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Chair, Commission on Global Witness &  
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Dr. John F. Green  
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6<sup>th</sup> Ms. Erin Cave (YA)

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT



To the General Board of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Commission on Global Witness and Ministry, I greet you in the wonderful name of our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ, who has sustained us through His grace and mercy.

This report is a summary of the administrative activities of the Department of Global Witness and Ministry and seeks to provide you with a snapshot of what we were able to accomplish together during the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Since last year, the Department has been faced with some of the same challenges brought on by COVID-19 in 2020. Notwithstanding these confronts to our operation, you will read in this report how the Department of Global Witness and Ministry was able to continue its’ outreach, both domestically and globally. As the Executive Director, I greatly appreciate the prayers and generous support of episcopal districts, churches, and numerous individuals across African Methodism.

The interest of The African Methodist Episcopal Church in foreign missions began in 1827 when the Baltimore Conference authorized the dispatch of the Reverend Scipio Beane to Haiti. In 1864 the Department of Home and Foreign Missions was organized and began functioning with the election of its first Secretary of Missions, the Reverend John M. Brown. Since 1864, the following persons have served as Secretary of Missions:

Name	Years of Service	Tenure
• Reverend John M. Brown	1864-1868	4
• Reverend James A. Handy	1868-1872	4
• Reverend George W. Brodie	1872-1876	4
• Reverend Richard H. Cain	1876-1880	4
• Reverend James M. Townsend	1880-1888	8
• Reverend William B. Derrick	1888-1896	8
• Reverend Henry B. Parks	1896-1908	12
• Reverend William W. Beckett	1908-1912	4
• Reverend J.W. Rankin	1912-1924	12
• Reverend E. H. Coit	1924-1933	9
• Reverend Lewellyn L. Berry	1933-1954	21
• Reverend Chester A. Clark	1955-1968	13
• Reverend Ford Gibson	1968-1969	1
• Dr. John W. P. Collier, Jr.	1969-1984	15
• Dr. Frederick C. Harrison	1984-1992	8
• Dr. James G. Blake	1992-1999	7
• Later elected to the episcopacy		



At the 2000 General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the name of the Department was changed to Global Witness and Ministry and Dr. George Francis Flowers was elected as its first Executive Director. In this report, the Department of Global Witness and Ministry commends Dr. George Flowers for his excellent service in missions for twenty-one years as its executive director. Today, I stand before you having been called to serve in that capacity but on the strong and exemplary foundation laid, established and evolved with excellence by my predecessor, Dr. George Flowers.

Since becoming the new Executive Director of Global Witness and Ministry, our strategic emphasis has focused upon:

- An administrative transfer of departmental responsibilities from the former Executive Director, Dr. George Flowers
- Establishment of a temporary administrative office in Atlanta, Georgia
- Development of a new Global Witness and Ministry website
- Raising funds to support disaster relief and mission services
- Establishment of a funds development plan with emphasis upon quarterly and annual contributions from individuals, churches, and districts to support mission services
- Maintaining and establishing new collaborative partners
- Producing and distributing a quarterly publication, *The Voice of Missions*
- Updating International Certificates of Vaccinations

Our resolute emphasis to maintain our support and engagement with international partners, particularly Church World Service and Bread for the World, resulted in our participation with the following initiatives:



- A long term recovery plan in Haiti
- A Council of Bishops denominational support letter in support of Afghan refugees
- A Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act and Global Nutrition resolution
- A Denominational representative to the Bread for the World Summit Pan African Consultation
- Partnership with UMCOR – United Methodist Committee on Relief of Global Ministries that garnered a \$10,000 grant to the 20<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District to assist with disaster relief for cyclone and emergency response in Southern Malawi

In addition to working with our global partners, we established a partnership with a domestic associate, the Faith, Activity, and Nutrition (FAN) Research Project at the University of South Carolina.



The FAN Program is designed to cause church members to consider their physical health a priority, in addition to their spiritual health. Several pastors and congregations have agreed to act on the challenge to participate in the FAN online training sessions and implement a Faith Activity and Nutrition Program in their local churches.

The Department of Global Witness and Ministry through the support of individual donors, episcopal districts, churches, and global partners has been able to provide \$58,450.00 to the following episcopal districts and agencies for disaster relief services and support:

- 16<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District
- 13<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District
- 20<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District
- 19<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District
- SADA (Service and Development Agency, Inc.)
- Church World Service



### Relief Efforts in the 19<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District







Funds received to support disaster relief in Haiti:

10 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District	\$5,000
New Birth Missionary Baptist Church	\$10,000
Rivers of Life AME Church	\$400
Pamela M. Dockins	\$75
Bishop Frederick James	\$100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,575</b>

Disaster Relief Contributions:

2 <sup>nd</sup> Episcopal District:	\$10,000
7 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District:	\$45,000
12 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District:	\$5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

**Total Funds Received \$80,575**

Disaster Relief Expenditures:

16 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District (Haiti Relief)	\$10,400
SADA (Haiti Relief)	\$9,170
13 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District (Disaster Relief)	\$5,000
20 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District (Cyclone Ana) (Tropical Ana was a deadly tropical cyclone that affected the African nations of Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique)	\$10,000
19 <sup>th</sup> Episcopal District (National Disaster Relief) (Assistance to support relief services to victims of the mudslides and flooding in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Region.)	\$5,000

Church World Service **\$1,000**  
**Total Funds Spent for Disaster Relief \$40,570**

**Disaster Relief Fund Balance \$40,005**





### **Relief Efforts in the 16<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District**

Our successful collaboration with Global Ministries in the United Methodist Church sanctioned the unique opportunity to assist the 20<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District with a \$10,000 Solidarity Grant to provide Cyclone Ana Emergency Response in Southern Malawi.

## **GLOBAL INITIATIVES**

### Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act H.R. 4693

The Department of Global Witness and Ministry joins Bread for the World Senior Associate for Pan African and Orthodox Church Engagement, the Reverend Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, Dr. Deborah Taylor King and the International WMS of the AME Church and AME leaders, Bishops, Presiding Elders, and Pastors in our co-sponsorship of the legislative bill for the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act H.R. 4693. Others throughout the denomination are encouraged to become an advocate for this history-making initiative by submitting letters of support to senators serving their districts to encourage their endorsement of the passage of the bill in the House. <https://ol.bread.org/>

### Legislative Education for Informing Advocacy for 2022-2023

Global Witness and Ministry is now an advocate for the passing of a Farm Bill that protects and strengthens SNAP and improves International Food Aid. More than 11.7 million African Americans rely on SNAP to put food on their tables. On an average, African American families receive SNAP benefits of \$261 a month, or 94 cents per person per meal. Support for this legislation moves us from a critique of patronizing minority communities to working together with them to encourage long term solutions that engender dignified living standards. If you want to get involved, **TELL CONGRESS:** To increase funding and accelerate progress on delivering nutrition to help end hunger and poverty around the world. Join Bread for the World's 2022-2023 offering of letters: Better Nutrition, Better Tomorrow.



**Faith – Activity – Nutrition (FAN)**



The Department of Global Witness and Ministry has established a collaborative a partnership with the University of South Carolina Research Center to make health a priority. Its primary concentration is to address chronic health conditions that disproportionately affect African American congregations and communities.

Dr. Sara Wilcox, Director of the University of South Carolina Prevention Research Center and Lead FAN researcher says: “Churches have a critical role to play in promoting health in their congregations and communities. These are vibrant institutions, located in nearly every city and town, with holistic views of wellness that include mind, body, and spirit.”

According to Presiding Elder Alan Parrott, the FAN Program is an amazing collaboration between the faith community and academia to address a critical human need, the health of people.” Pastors and congregations throughout the African Methodist Episcopal Church are encouraged to MAKE HEALTH A PRIORITY in 2022. To learn more about FAN and whether it may be right for your church, you can complete an interest form and find additional information on the FAN training website:

<http://prevention.sph.sc.edu/projects/fantraining.htm>. You may also go to the Global Witness and Ministry website: <http://AMEglobalministries.org>.





**EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS (14-20)  
MISSION STIPENDS  
(August 2021-March 2022)**

<b>14<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District</b>	<b>\$7,600.00</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District</b>	<b>\$6,400.00</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District</b>	<b>\$7,600.00</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District</b>	<b>\$7,600.00</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District</b>	<b>\$7,600.00</b>
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District</b>	<b>\$6,400.00</b>
<b><u>20<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District</u></b>	<b><u>\$7,600.00</u></b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$50,800.00</b>

**Stipends were sent monthly to each Episcopal District to support mission preachers.**



**Voice of Missions Magazine  
Subscriptions 2021-2022**

**EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS 1-13**

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>496</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>295</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>589</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>192</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>142</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>221</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>288</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>565</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>259</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>217</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>399</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>186</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>637</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,436</b>

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The Global Witness and Ministry Commission wishes to express special appreciation to all faithful *Voice of Mission* subscribers from each of the episcopal districts.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

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## Global Travel

Due to the COVID-19 International travel restrictions, I have made only one international trip abroad to the 16<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District toward engaging clergy and laypersons in missions and ministry training.

Through the use of technology and the Zoom Platform, I visited conferences in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Episcopal Districts, as well as, attended the Global Development Council Revisioning Zoom Meeting. During the gathering of the Global Development Council, along with Dr. David Wang, Director of the Templeton Grant Project, we presented a presentation on Clergy Spiritual Formation, examining what spiritual maturity in ministry looks like in Districts 14-20.

One of our departmental goals, as the COVID-19 pandemic is reportedly somewhat under control, is beginning this Fall to resume international travel to Districts 14, 15, 17, 18, 19 and 20 and assertively access opportunities for mission service projects and department initiatives.

## Future Goals and Objectives

Goal One: Organize the Duties and Responsibilities of the Department of Global Witness and Ministry into five strategic objectives:

- Objective One: Missions
- Objective Two: Humanitarian Services/Disaster Relief
- Objective Three: Education
- Objective Four: International/Domestic Concerns and Emerging Issues
- Objective Five: Fundraising

Goal Two: Propose to The Commission on Global Witness and Ministry the Establishment of Committees assigned and appointed to these five strategic objectives:

- Committee on Missions
- Committee on Humanitarian Services/Disaster Relief
- Committee on Education
- Committee on International/Domestic Concerns and Emerging Issues
- Committee on Fundraising

Goal Three: Seek individuals, churches, episcopal districts, and organizations to assist The Department of Global Witness and Ministry in accomplishing its overall mission and objectives.



## How Can You Help?

- Pray for the Department of Global Witness and Ministry and its Executive Director
- Make a commitment to become a missions partner with your individual or church financial gifts
- Make a commitment to become a global witness for missions. Recruit others in your circle to become a missions partner.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chair of the Commission on Global Witness and Ministry, Bishop Michael Leon Mitchell, for his leadership and support; and members of the Commission, Mr. Robert Nicholas, Dr. Deborah Taylor King and Mrs. Wanda Ringgold for their encouragement and support on my becoming the Executive Director for Global Witness and Ministry.

Special thanks are extended to my predecessor, Dr. George Flowers, and kudos to him for 21 years of stellar missions service as the first Executive Director for Global Witness and Ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. His assistance during my transition into the responsibilities and duties of the Department has been enormously helpful. Words are inadequate to express how grateful I am to him for sharing with me the effective nuances of his stellar leadership for more than two decades, exemplifying a significant witness of concern and activism for our global cohorts in Methodism and the broader community.

To African Methodism, let me again thank you for this wonderful privilege to serve our Zion as the Executive Director for the Department of Global Witness and Ministry. I shall continue each day to make full proof of my commitment and dedication to this ministry.

Yours in the Service of Missions and Ministry,

*John F. Green*

Dr. John F. Green  
Executive Director  
Global Witness & Ministry