



The Christian Recorder

ANNUAL REPORT

General Board and Council of Bishops Meeting

Marriott Marquis

Atlanta, Georgia

June 27-28, 2022

Bishop Ronnie E. Brailsford, Sr.
President of the Council of Bishops

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.
Senior Bishop

Bishop Paul J.M. Kawimbe
President of the General Board

Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr.
Chair of the Commission on Publications

The Reverend Doctor Roderick D. Belin
President/Publisher, AME Church Publishing House (Sunday School Union)

Mr. John Thomas III
Editor, *The Christian Recorder*

Dedication Page



Jamye Coleman Williams, Ph.D. (1918-2022)

Dr. Williams was the first elected female General Officer in the African Methodist Episcopal Church serving as Editor of *The AME Review* from 1984-1992. She had a distinguished career in higher education teaching at various schools including Morris Brown College, Wilberforce University and Tennessee State University where she served as Chair of the Communications Department. She and her late husband Dr. McDonald Williams (1917-2019) were active in both community organizations as well as the AME Church and served as role models and mentors to generations. Dr. Williams was the Editor's godmother playing an instrumental role in his life from childhood. Her love, care and support will be dearly missed.

Commission on Publications

Bishop David Rwynhica Daniels, Jr., Chair
Rev. Dr. Henry Allen Belin III, Vice Chair
Rev. Dr. Agnes Lover, Vice-Chair
Rev. Dr. Willie Barnes Jr., Secretary
Rev. Sheriolyn Curry, Chaplain

The Reverend Dr. Teresa Fry Brown, Historiographer/Director of Research & Scholarship; Editor of *The A.M.E. Church Review*

The Reverend Dr. Roderick D. Belin, President/Publisher, AME Church Publishing House (Sunday School Union)

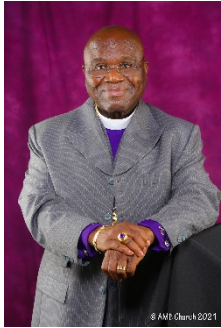
Mr. John Thomas III, Editor of *The Christian Recorder*

Episcopal District	Representative
First	Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace
Second	Ms. Amaris Maxwell (YA)
Third	Rev. Dr. Gerald A. Cooper
Fourth	Mr. Michael Cousin Jr. (YA)
Fifth	Rev. Sheriolyn Curry
Sixth	Mr. Michael Brown
Seventh	Mr. Keith Britton
Eighth	Rev. Michele Goodloe
Ninth	Rev. Dr. Agnes Lover
Tenth	Mr. Carl Davis
Eleventh	Rev. Dr. Willie Barnes Jr. (YA)
Twelfth	Rev. Marcellus Fields
Thirteenth	Ms. LaTanya Germany
Fourteenth	Mr. Isaac Kelly Martins
Fifteenth	Rev. Willington Bikwa
Sixteenth	Mrs. Mickalia Becaroo-Reynolds (YA)
Seventeenth	Rev. Nicholas Obare
Eighteenth	Rev. Bongumusa Qwabe
Nineteenth	Rev. Motseko Potse
Twentieth	Mr. Hannock Msokera

Members At-Large

Rev. Dr. J. Edgar Boydd
Ms. Jeannie Rivers
Ms. Erin Cave (YA)
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Rev. Dr. Henry A. Belin III
Rev. Dr. Alphonse Allen

Leadership and Staff of *The Christian Recorder*



Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr.
Chair, Commission on Publications



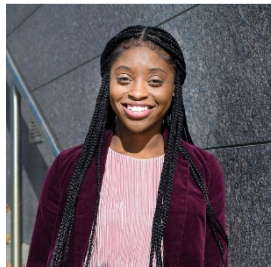
Rev. Dr. Roderick D. Belin
President/Publisher, AMEC
Publishing House
(Sunday School Union)



Mr. John Thomas III
Editor, *The Christian Recorder*



Rev. Lisa C. Hammonds
Assistant Editor



Rev. Jazmine Brooks
News Editor



Rev. Dr. Susan Buckson
Copy Editor



Ms. Regina V. Jackson
Social Media Manager



Mrs. Lanet Armstrong-Keesee
Office Manager



Ms. Kiratiana E. Freelon
Digital Producer



Mrs. Joi M. Terry-Hunter
Digital Producer

Graphics and Layout Staff of the AMEC Publishing House (Sunday School Union)



Andy Stanfield, André Wright, Orlando Dotson, and Michael Russell

Columnists, Contributing Writers and Field Representatives

Columnists

Dr. Reginald Blount (Section Editor)
Ulysses Burley III, MD
Dr. Michael Carson
Rev. Jason Curry, PhD
Rev. Prof. Quadricos Driskell
Dr. James Ewers
Rev. Renita Green
Rev. William Lamar IV
Dr. D'Weston Haywood
Mr. Charles Hobbs, Esq.
Rev. Dr. Maxine L. Thomas
Rev. Jarrett Washington
Ms. Lauren Wilson
Rev. Shakira Sanchez Collins, MD
Rev. Dr. Maxine L. Thomas
Rev. Charles Watkins, D.Min. (Senior Columnist)
Mr. Byron Washington, MPA

Field Representatives/District Coordinators

15th Maggie Grootbroom
16th Mrs. Regina Prince
17th Rev. Royd Mwandu
18th Rev. Solomon Nxumalo
19th Rev. Gaborone Lesito

Contributing Writers

Rev. Dr. Betty Whitted Holley
Rev. Dr. Priscilla Boswell
Mrs. Mozella Burns
Rev. Dr. Melinda Contreras-Byrd
Mrs. Deborah Peaks Coleman
Mrs. Robbie-Colson Ramsey
Dr. Brandon A. A. J. Davis
Rev. Dr. James E. Deas, Sr.
Dr. James B. Ewers Jr
Cynthia Gordon-Floyd
Rev. Renita Green
Dr. Darryn Hewson
Rev. Conitras Houston
Rev. Monica Jones, Ph.D.
Rev. Thato Mere
Jioni Palmer
Stephanie Pierson
George Pratt
Dr. John Roberts
Rev. Barry Settle
Jennifer Sims, Ph.D.
Rev. Sheri Smith-Clayborn
Lic. Tricia Thomas
Rev. Melech Thomas
Avis Thomas-Lester
Dr. Aaron Treadwell
Mary Frances Walton
Rev. John F. White, II
Rev. Arionne Williams
Rev. Dr. Versey A. Williams
Rev. Samuel Williams, Jr.
Rev. Sidney Williams, Jr.
Rev. Alphonso Wyatt
Rev. TiShaura Void

From the Editor

To the Bishops of the Church, President of the Council of Bishops, Senior Bishop, President of the General Board, General Officers, Connectional Officers, General Board members, Siblings in Christ:

On July 10, 2021, I was elected to serve a second term as the Editor of *The Christian Recorder*. I am thankful to the African Methodist Episcopal Church for giving me the opportunity to edit the oldest continuously produced publication by persons of African descent. For 170 years, *The Christian Recorder* (TCR) has served the AME Church as its official organ!

This report is a summary of our stewardship from June 2021-May 2022. *The Christian Recorder* is “A Global Paper, with A Global Editor, for A Global Church.” The newspaper’s personnel have focused on three broad points: Coverage, Content and Capacity. The first part of this report measures the newspaper’s progress. The second part of the report shows the statistical data for the paper including circulation, social media metrics and financials. The third section outlines the Editor’s travel per the *Discipline*, Part VI, Section III, 5.c. and significant highlights. The final section outlines our short and long-term plans and ends with our formal recommendations.

I am appreciative of the Herculean efforts of *TCR* staff who continually demonstrate a commitment to excellence: The Reverend Lisa C. Hammonds, Assistant Editor; Rev. Jazmine L. Brooks, News Editor; Rev. Dr. Susan Buckson, Copy Editor; Ms. Regina V. Jackson, Social Media Manager; Mrs. Lanet Armstrong-Keesee, Office Manager; Ms. Kiratiana E. Freelon and Mrs. Joi M. Terry Hunter, Digital Producers. The backbone of a publication is solid writing and I am deeply grateful to the Columnists, Contributing Writers, and Field Representatives who share on a continued and consistent basis.

Publications Commission Chair Bishop David Daniels has provided wise counsel and advice and I am grateful for his energetic leadership. Our Publisher, the Reverend Doctor Roderick D. Belin and the staff of the AMEC Publishing House (Sunday School Union), have been wonderful partners in this ministry and I am thankful for their continued diligence and professionalism.

This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. Psalm 118:23 (NRSV).

Blessings,

John Thomas III

Editor, The Christian Recorder

Statistics

Subscriptions as of 2021: 5051

Due to supply chain issues caused by the pandemic, the Publishing House has suspend print production of *The Christian Recorder* since May 2021. All print subscriptions have been frozen until such time as the physical copies are again produced which should be by Fall Quarter 2022. All editions from of *The Chrisitan Recorder* to date are available at <https://issuu.com/johnthomasiii>.

Digital Statistics

Facebook

Total Page Likes

August 2016—970

May 2022—10,000

Email Statistics

Subscribed Contacts: 19,135

Average Open Rate: 23.5%

YouTube Subscribers: 1040

Website (since September 2017) Views: 1,069,952

Financial Statement 4/1/2021 – 3/31/2022

Expenditures	Current Year Actuals	Prior Year Actuals
Salary	\$53,067	\$53,067
FICA	4,060	4,060
Annuities	6,294	6,294
Housing	14,062	14,062
Travel	18,900	18,900
Office Operations	29,353	29,353
Rent	9,340	9,340
Total	\$135,076	\$135,076

*Information African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc. Finance Department Audit Report for year ended March 31, 2022.

Financial information for subscription revenue is included in the audited report of the AMEC Publishing House (Sunday School Union).

2021-2022 Editor's Activities and Travels

Conferences/Meetings

2021

July 6-10	51 st Quadrennial Session of the General Conference	Orlando, Florida
December 7-8	General Board and Council of Bishops	Nashville, Tennessee

2022

February 9-10	Gift of Black Theology Collaborative Debt Conference	Washington, DC
February 19-26	Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference	Virtual
March 11-12	Pan-Methodist Commission	Virtual
April 24-26	Gift of Black Theology Collaborative Conference	Raleigh, North Carolina
May 10-13	Associated Church Press Convention (jointly with Religion Communicators Council)	Virtual

Speaking Engagements

2021

July 18	Mt. Vernon AME Church	Columbus, Ohio
September 19	Woodlawn AME Church	Chicago, Illinois
November 4	Texas Conference Lay Night	Virtual
November 21	St. John AME Church	Nashville, Tennessee

2022

February 13	St. Paul AME Church	Lexington, Kentucky
February 13	St. Stephen AME Church	Raleigh, North Carolina
February 13	St. Paul AME Church	St. Louis, Missouri
February 13	Missouri Annual Conference Founder's Day	Virtual
April 20	19 th Episcopal District Lay Organization Prayer Service	Virtual
April 28	Baltimore Annual Conference Lay Night	Virtual

TCR Ministry Highlights 2021-2022

The Christian Recorder hires new staff

After the 2021 General Conference, new personnel were contracted to expand coverage and assist in the production of the paper. We welcomed the following persons to our team:

- Rev. Jazmine Brooks as News Editor
- Rev. Dr. Susan Buckson as Copy Editor
- Mrs. Joi M. Terry-Hunter as Digital Producer

The Christian Recorder wins two awards at the 2021 ACP Best of Church Press Awards Ceremony

At the Associated Church Press Annual Meeting held virtually from May 10-13, The Christian Recorder received two awards at the Best of Church Press Awards Ceremony. Editor Thomas serves as Vice-President of the ACP.

We are thankful for the good work of our writers and congratulate them on these well-deserved honors:

Award of Excellence— James Solheim Award for Editorial Courage, the Rev. Dr. Jennifer L. Leath



Award of Excellence—Social Media Single Posting

Short and Long-Term Goals and Recommendations

Short-term Goals (2021-22)

- Restart Print Publication (Depending on the AMEC Publishing House)
- Distribute reader surveys by Spring 2023
- Update Masthead and TCR branding (pending overall SSU rebranding)

Long-term Goals

- Engage a consultant to conduct a feasibility study regarding circulation and advertisement
- Distribute paid hard copies for all Districts 14-20
- Provide a full electronic version of *The Christian Recorder* for purchase
- Create Episcopal District Reporting Networks in Districts 1-13
- Start an internship program for AME young adults interested in journalism
- Achieve and maintain 10,000 subscribers

Recommendations

- The funding for *The Christian Recorder* approved in the budget by the 2021 General Conference be retained.
- Episcopal Districts work with *The Christian Recorder* to establish designated reporters for news in their Districts.
- Episcopal District Offices and Presiding Elders who are responsible for turning in subscription data are encouraged to use the official forms from *The Christian Recorder* and submit the forms electronically and mailed with the payment.
- Churches are encouraged to purchase at least two (2) copies of *The Christian Recorder*. One copy should be mailed to the church address.
- Bishops of the Church are encouraged to apply the *Discipline* provision to Chaplains and Supernumeraries that “All traveling preachers in the Connection are required to subscribe to *The Christian Recorder*, and to the *Voice of Missions* or *The A.M.E. Church Review* or *The Journal of Christian Education*. Presiding elders, at their quarterly conferences, shall require all local preachers to subscribe to at least one of the church periodicals.”
- The laity of the church—especially Stewards, Trustees and Class Leaders—are encouraged to subscribe to *The Christian Recorder*. Pastors should display copies of *The Christian Recorder* in a public area and make an appeal for subscriptions the month before the Annual Conference.
- Clergy and laity are encouraged to share news stories about churches and AME ministries produced by other news outlets and obtain formal permission for reprinting in *The Christian Recorder*.

“We need not say that to keep such an organ in the field costs money, and we need the hearty co-operation of the whole church exerted in its favor by their cash subscriptions that the paper may not only be sustained but that it may be made more efficient than it now is.”

1882 Annual Report of *The Christian Recorder*