**African Methodist Episcopal Church**

**Connectional Day of Prayer 2015**

**April 13, 2015**

**PRAYER CONFERENCE CALL**

INTRODUCTION OF THE PRAYER GATHERING Bishop McKinley Young

THE CALL TO PRAYER Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, President

 Council of Bishops

THE OPENING PRAYER AND THE PRAYER IN SUPPORT OF BLACK LIVES MATTER

 Bishop John R. Bryant, Senior Bishop

A READING The Rev. Anthony Vinson

 Director, Music and Christian Arts Ministry

 *John 20*

Risen Christ, Lord of life, breathe new life into us this day. Inspire us with confidence, and open our hearts anew, to receive your promise of resurrection. Speak to us once more, that we might hear your voice and recognize your presence in our midst. From the darkness of doubt, guide us into the glorious light of faith and love. In your holy name, we pray. Amen

A PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE AMEC The Rev. Dr. Jerome V. Harris

 Director, Department of Annuity Investment and Insurance

A READING Ms. Martinique Mix

 President, Richard Allen Young Adult Council

Lord of life, you know our tears and our sorrows; you know our doubts and our misgivings; you know our sins and our shortcomings. Heal us and strengthen us. Forgive us and call to us now, that we may leave the garden of despair with the confidence that you walk with us every step of the way. Amen

A PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie

 First Vice President, The General Board

A READING Attorney Patricia M. Mayberry

 President, The Judicial Council

 *Acts 10, Psalm 118, John 20*

Open the gates of your hope and truth, O God. Open our ears to hear your voice, when you call us by name. Open our minds to recognize your presence, as you walk beside us. Live in us, that we may be signs of life and love for a world shrouded in sorrow and fear.

A PRAYER FOR DRAUGHT STRICKEN CALIFORNIA AND OTHER GLOBAL DRAUGHT STRICKEN AREAS

 The Rev. Miriam J. Burnett, MD

 Medical Director, Health Commission

A PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION Bishop Richard Franklin Norris

 President, The General Board

A READING Supervisor Claytie Davis

 President, Supervisors’ Council

 *I John 1, John 20*

Behold, the resurrection claims us! We want to see with our eyes and touch with our hands the marks of God’s sacrificial love. Behold, the Spirit calls to us! We want to know the peace of those who believe where they have not seen. The ancestors sing to us: Christ is risen! God is light! Live in this light! Blessed are those who live the resurrection. May we join their everlasting song: Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed! Amen!

A PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE Dr. Shirley Cason Reed

 President, The Women’s Missionary Society

A READING The Rev. Earle H. Ifill

 President, The Presiding Elders’ Council

 *Acts 4, Psalm 133, I John 1, John 20*

Holy Lord, you are Light. Grant us eyes to see and ears to hear the resurrection joy so many cannot yet believe. Open our hearts to hear the word you proclaim to us this day. Open our minds to embrace the life you hold before us. Show us the way of unity, that we may live generously as people of light. Reign among us, resurrected one. Reign in us today. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR JUSTICE Bishop E. Earl McCloud, Jr.

 127th Elected Bishop

A READING Ms. Lula Shaw Cleckley

 President, Conn-MSWAWO+PKs

 *Acts 4, John 20*

Merciful God, we are humbled by the lives of the early disciples. We have forgotten how to face the cries of the needy, for there are so many. We have failed to place our trust in your sovereign love. We have forsaken your demand for justice, at the expense of those who fight against darkness each and every day. Forgive us, and all who claim to follow you. Fill us with your transforming Spirit, and free us with your grace, in the name of the risen one.

A PRAYER FOR JOBS Dr. Willie C. Glover

 President, The Lay Organization

A READING Chaplain Mark Cisco

 President, The Chaplains’ Association

 *John 20*

Even though we have not seen the Lord, we can still love him. Even though we cannot touch his hands, we can still believe. Gathered here as the body of Christ, and seeing Christ’s love in one another, we can say without doubt: We have seen the Lord! When we witness the hands that touch us, and behold the eyes that shine with Christ’s love and peace, we can proclaim with faith: My Lord and my God! Do not doubt but believe.

A PRAYER FOR THE WORK OF EVANGELISM Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry

 122nd Elected Bishop (retired)

A READING The Rev. Dorisalene Hughes

 Coordinator, Connectional Day of Prayer

 *Acts 3, Luke 24*

God of renewal, you are the Author of life. You are the One who came to meet us in flesh and bone and blood. You are the one who walked among us, proclaiming love, mercy, and repentance. You are the One who died, and rose, and lived again, that we might believe and truly live. Empower us to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. And help us accept your unconditional love, that we might share your love with others. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS Mr. Jon Ingraham

 President, The YPD

A PRAYER FOR CONTEMPORARY MARTYRS The Reverend Dr. James C. Wade

 Director, Department of Evangelism

A PRAYER FOR THE WORK, WITNESS AND MINISTRIES OF DISTRICTS 14 THROUGH 20

 Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr.

 President, Global Development Council (GDC)

A READING Mr. George Brown

 President, Sons of Allen

 *Acts 3, Luke 24*

God of grace, we have turned away from you in so many ways. Forgive us, Holy One: when we forget you; when we fail to recognize your works in this world; when we allow doubt to overcome our belief; when we allow fear to replace our trust and faith. Help us remember that we are yours, your beloved. As we turn to you, to receive your grace and mercy, bless us once more that we may live lives of faithfulness. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR HEALTH AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES The Rev. Natalie Mitchem

 Executive Director, The Health Commission

A READING The Rev. Kimberly L. Detherage, Esq.

 President, Women in Ministry

 *John 10, I John 3*

God of many pastures, we never tire of hearing the voice of our shepherd calling us to lay our burdens down, and to dwell in your house forever. Forgive us, loving shepherd, when we try to keep your care for ourselves alone—believing that we have a special place in your love; thinking that others wander alone, without your care and guidance. Open our eyes to the other sheep in your fold, wherever they might be, and whatever they might look like. Amen.

A PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE AND GOSPEL LABORS OF OUR SAINTED FOUNDER AND FIRST BISHOP RICHARD ALLEN The Rev. Dr. Gregory V. Eason

 President, Connectional Council

A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL AND ECUMENICAL COOPERATION

 Bishop Reginald T. Jackson

 Ecumenical Officer

A STATEMENT OF APPRECIATION Bishop Young

THE BENEDICTION Bishop Young

