

THE FIFTIETH QUADRENNIAL SESSION
OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
*Service of Consecration of Bishops
and Closing Worship*
SERVICE OF CONSECRATION OF BISHOPS
AND CLOSING WORSHIP



Bishop John Franklin White
President, Council of Bishops

Bishop John Richard Bryant
Senior Bishop

Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.
Chairman, General Conference Commission

Bishop McKinley Young
Program Chairman

Bishop Gregory Gerald McKinley Ingram
Host Bishop



*Service of Consecration of Bishops
and Closing Worship*

SERVICE OF CONSECRATION OF BISHOPS
AND CLOSING WORSHIP

IN CELEBRATION OF
THE FIFTIETH QUADRENNIAL SESSION
OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION CENTER
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA
WEDNESDAY, THE THIRTEENTH OF JULY
TWO THOUSAND SIXTEEN
NINE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

The Order of Service **THE ORDER OF SERVICE**

BISHOP JOHN FRANKLIN WHITE
WORSHIP LEADER

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

Twaun Doyle, Organist

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Maitland Tune

'Tis the Old Ship of Zion

Negro Spiritual

Total Praise

Richard Smallwood

THE INTROIT

First Episcopal District Bicentennial Liturgical Dancers

Grace

Composed by Tasha Cobbs

THE PROCESSIONAL

God of Our Fathers
AME HYMNAL NO. 568

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

THE DOXOLOGY

The Choir and Congregation

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

AME HYMNAL NO. 647

Praise God from whom all blessing flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE LITANY OF EMPOWERMENT

Bishop John Franklin White

Bishop: I am a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Ghost Power. The die has been cast; I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made: I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back up, or be still.

People: **My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I am finished and done with low-living, sight-walking, small-planning, colorless-dreaming, mundane-talking, cheap living, cloudy visions and dwarfed goals.**

Bishop: I no longer need preeminence, position, promotions, plaudits or popularity. I do not have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on the Lord, run with patience, lift by prayer, and labor by Holy Ghost power.

People: **My face is set. My focus is fixed. My goal is heaven. My road is narrow. My way is rough. My guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, lured, tempted, ignored, detoured, deluded or delayed.**

Bishop: I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

People: **I won't give up, shut up, or let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up and worked up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, teach till all know and work till the end. And when Jesus comes, He will have no problem recognizing me, because He will remember that I was the one He empowered to make a difference.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr.

O Thou, In Whose Presence

AME HYMNAL NO. 83

O Thou, in whose presence my soul takes delight,
On whom in affliction I call,
My comfort by day and my song in the night,
My hope, my salvation, my all!

Where dost Thou, dear Shepherd, resort with Thy sheep,
To feed them in pastures of love?
Say, why in the valley of death should I weep,
Or alone in this wilderness rove?

O why should I wander, an alien from Thee,
 Or cry in the desert for bread?
 Thy foes will rejoice when my sorrows they see,
 And smile at the tears I have shed.
 He looks! and ten thousands of angels rejoice,
 And myriads now wait for His word;
 He speaks! and eternity, filled with His voice;
 Re-echoes the praise of the Lord.
 Dear Shepherd, I hear, and will follow Thy call;
 I know the sweet sound of Thy voice.
 Restore and defend me, for Thou art my all,
 And in Thee I will ever rejoice.

THE INVOCATION

Bishop Theodore Larry Kirkland

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

The Choir and Congregation

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

The First Episcopal District Children and Youth Choir

O Lord, We Need Your Power

Composed by Deitrick Haddon

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS

OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 40: 28-31* *Bishop Paul Jones Mulenga Kawimbe*

NEW TESTAMENT *Romans 10: 14-17* *Bishop Henry Allen Belin, Jr.*

THE CHORAL PREFACE TO THE DECALOGUE

Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson

From All That Dwell Below The Skies

AME HYMNAL No. 69

From all that dwell below the skies
 Let thy creator's praise arise,
 Let thy redeemer's name be sung
 Through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.
 Eternal are thy mercies, Lord;
 Eternal truth attends thy word.
 Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,
 Till suns shall rise and set no more.

THE DECALOGUE

Bishop: And God spoke all these words saying: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:1-3

People: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Bishop: You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. Exodus 20:4-6

People: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Bishop: You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Exodus 20:7

People: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Bishop: Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your town. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and consecrated it. Exodus 20:8-11

People: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law My soul, be on your guard, Ten thousand foes arise; And hosts of sin are pressing hard, To draw you from the skies.**

Bishop: Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. Exodus 20:12

You shall not murder. Exodus 20:13

You shall not commit adultery. Exodus 20:14

You shall not steal. Exodus 20:15

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. Exodus 20:16

You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. Exodus 20:17

People: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and write these laws upon our hearts.**

Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee! E'en though it be a cross That raiseth me; Still all my song shall be, Nearer, my God, to Thee: Nearer, my God, to Thee. Nearer to Thee!

Bishop: He said to him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Matthew 22:37-40

THE GLORIA PATRI

The Choir and Congregation

AME HYMNAL NO. 626

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF DANCE

The First Episcopal District Liturgical Dancers

THE OFFERING FOR MISSIONS

Bishop David Rubynica Daniels, Jr.

THE OFFERTORY

All Things Come Of Thee
AME HYMNAL NO. 644

All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

The First Episcopal District Bicentennial Choir

THE PRESENTATION OF THE PREACHER

Bishop Clement Willie Fugh

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

The First Episcopal District Bicentennial Choir

THE SERMON

Bishop John Richard Bryant

THE INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

Bishop James Levert Davis

THE RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BISHOPS

THE PRESENTATION AND PASSING OF THE MEDALLION OF THE SENIOR BISHOP

President of the Council of Bishops: The long and storied history of the African Methodist Episcopal Church has produced a strong and continuing tradition of the Senior Bishop. This noble tradition became a ceremony at the 2004 General Conference when the medallion given by the family of Claude Stephens was presented to the African Methodist Episcopal Church to serve as the Medallion of the Senior Bishop.

The Retiring Senior Bishop: The Office of Senior Bishop has always had special significance in polity and practice with the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It represents experience; a consultative style; mature leadership; liberation struggle for all peoples; no fault reconciliation and a priestly role in denominational ceremony, celebration and praise. It is expected to provide theological reflection, thoughtfulness; ethical clarity and an Episcopal role model. Therefore, I, the retiring Senior Bishop John Richard Bryant, place this medallion in the hands of the President of the Council of Bishops, John Franklin White, to be passed on to the Incoming Senior Bishop.

President of the Council of Bishops: I, John Franklin White, President of the Council of Bishops, present this medallion to you, Bishop McKinley Young, the Incoming Senior Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Incoming Senior Bishop: I receive the Senior Bishop's medallion in great humility and gratitude with the goodness of God and the kindness of the people of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. I pledge that by consultation, listening, hard work, theological reflection, and much prayer to seek to fulfill the awesome expectation of this position. My colleagues and the good people of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, let us walk together in faithfulness to spread the good news of the Christ event and to enrich Allen's legacy.

The Bishops and the People: In prayer with love, hope, and great faith we will do so. And the people of God say, Amen.

THE OFFERING

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie

THE OFFERTORY

All Things Come of Thee

THE SERVICE OF CONSECRATION

The presentation of persons elected to the office of Bishop by two elders to the bishop, saying:

Reverend Father/Mother in God we present to you _____ the
133rd person to be consecrated as a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Reverend Father/Mother in God we present to you _____ the
134th person to be consecrated as a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Reverend Father/Mother in God we present to you _____ the
135th person to be consecrated as a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Reverend Father/Mother in God we present to you _____ the
136th person to be consecrated as a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Reverend Father/Mother in God we present to you _____ the
137th person to be consecrated as a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Reverend Father/Mother in God we present to you _____ the
138th person to be consecrated as a bishop in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

THE PREFACE TO PRAYER

Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.:

Beloved, it is written in the Gospel of St. Luke that our Savior Christ continued the whole night in prayer before he chose and sent forth his twelve apostles. It is written also in the Acts of the Apostles that the disciples who were at Antioch did fast and pray before they laid hands on Paul and Barnabas and sent them forth. Let us therefore, following the example of our Savior Christ and his Apostles, first fall to prayer before we admit and send forth these persons presented to us to the work whereupon we trust the Holy Spirit hath called them.

THE INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, Sr.:

Almighty God, giver of all good things, who by your Holy Spirit has appointed diverse orders of ministers in your church, mercifully behold this your servant, now called to the work and ministry of a bishop, and replenish them so with the truth of your doctrine, and adorn them so with innocence of life that, both by words and deeds, they may faithfully serve you in this office to the glory of your name, and the edifying and the well governing of your church, through the merits of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE SOLEMN CHARGE AND EXAMINATION

Bishop John Richard Bryant:

Brothers and sisters, since the Holy Scriptures command that we should not be hasty in laying on hands and admitting any person to government in the Church of Christ, which He has purchased with no less price than the effusion of His own blood, before we admit you to this administration, we will examine you in certain articles to the end that the congregation present may have a fair trial, and bear witness how you are minded to behave yourself in the Church of God.

Are you persuaded that you are truly called to this ministration according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Bishops-Elect: I am so persuaded.

Bishop McKinley Young:

Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently in all doctrines required of necessity of eternal salvation, through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined, out of the same Holy Scripture, to instruct the people committed to your charge, and teach and maintain nothing as required of necessity to eternal salvation but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the same?

Bishops-Elect: I am persuaded and so determined by God's grace.

Bishop John Hurst Adams:

Are you ready with faithful diligence to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrine contrary to God's word, and both privately and openly, to call upon and encourage others to do the same?

Bishops-Elect: I am ready, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop Frank Curtis Cummings:

Will you maintain and set forward, as much as shall lie in you, quietness, love, and peace among all people; and such as shall be unquiet, disobedient, and criminal, correct and punish according to such authority as you have by God's word and as shall be committed unto you?

Bishops-Elect: I will do so, by the help of God.

Bishop Philip Robert Cousin, Sr.:

Will you be faithful in ordaining or laying hands upon others?

Bishops-Elect: I will do so, by the help of God.

Bishop Frederick Hilborn Talbot:

Will you show yourself gentle and merciful for Christ's sake to the poor and needy people, and to all strangers destitute of help?

Bishops-Elect: I will so show myself, by God's help.

Bishop John Richard Bryant:

Almighty God our Heavenly Father, who has given you a good will to do all things, grant also to you strength and power to perform the same; that God may accomplish in you the good work which God has begun; that you may be found perfect and irreprehensible in the last day through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

THE VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS

Bishop Bryant: Come, Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire

Committee: And lighten with celestial fire;

Bishop Bryant: Thou the anointing Spirit art

Committee: Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Bishop Bryant: Thy blessed unction from above

Committee: Is comfort, light, and fire of love.

Bishop Bryant: Enable with perpetual light

Committee: The dullness of our blinded sight.

Bishop Bryant: Anoint and cheer our soiled face

Committee: With the abundance of thy grace.

Bishop Bryant: Keep far our foes, give peace at home,

Committee: Where thou art guide, no ill can come.

Bishop Bryant: Teach us to know the Father, Son,

Committee: And Thee of both to be but one;

Bishop Bryant: That through the ages all along

Committee: This may be our endless song:

Bishop Bryant: Praise to thy eternal merit,

Committee: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath:

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bishops-Elect: And let our cry come unto thee.

Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath:

Let Us Pray:

Almighty God, your most merciful Father, who of your infinite goodness has given your only and dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ to be our Redeemer and the author of everlasting life; who, after he had made perfect our redemption by his death and was ascended into heaven, poured down his gifts abundantly upon people, making some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers to the edifying and making perfect his church, grant, we beseech you, to this your servant such grace that he may be evermore ready to spread abroad your gospel, the glad tidings of reconciliation with you, and use the authority given him not to destruction but to salvation, not to hurt but to help; so that as a wise and faithful servant giving to your family their portion in due season, he may at last be received into everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, world without end. Amen.

THE ACT OF CONSECRATION (Laying on of Hands)

Bishop John Richard Bryant:

The Lord pour upon you the Holy Spirit for the office and work of bishop in the Church of God, now committed to you by the imposition of our hands, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. And remember that you stir up the grace of God which is given by the imposition of our hands; for God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and love, and soberness.

Give heed to reading, exhortation, and doctrine. Think upon the things contained in this book. Be diligent in them, that the increase coming thereby may be manifested to all people. Take heed to yourself, and to your doctrine; for by so doing you shall both save yourself and them that hear you. Be to the flock of Christ a shepherd, not a wolf; feed them, devour them not. Hold up the weak, heal the sick, bind up the broken, bring again the outcasts, seek the lost; be so merciful that you may not be too remiss; so minister discipline that you forget not mercy, that when the Chief Shepherd shall appear you may receive the never fading crown of glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bishop Wilfred Jacobus Messiah:

The bible is the ancient book of the Church and serves as the heart of a Christian's private devotion in life. Among the symbolic treasures presented to you on this day of your consecration is the Holy Bible. Receive the Holy Scriptures; from them feed the flock committed to your care. Amen

Bishop William Phillips DeVaux:

The cross serves as a constant reminder to faithfully and joyfully proclaim Christ crucified by word and sacrament, prayer and praise, deed and silence, in season and out. Receive the cross as a sign of our Savior's suffering, death, and resurrection, and as a symbol of your Servant Life. Amen.

The people chant aloud:

Amen. Amen. Amen.

THE COMMUNION HYMN

Bishop John Richard Bryant

There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood

AME HYMNAL NO. 255

There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins:
And sinners plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains,
Lose all their guilty stains;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.

The dying thief rejoiced to see
That fountain in his day;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Wash all my sins away,
Wash all my sins away,
Washed all my sins away;
And there may I, though vile as he,
Washed all my sins away.

Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood
Shall never lose its power,
Till all the ransomed Church of God
Be saved, to sin no more,
Be saved, to sin no more,
Be saved, to sin no more;
Till all the ransomed church of God
Be saved, to sin no more.

THE GENERAL CONFESSION

Bishop Erenous Earl McCloud

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed by thought, word and deed against Your divine Majesty, provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us.

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father for Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

THE PRAYER OF HUMILIATION

Bishop Gregory Gerald McKinley Ingram

We do not presume to come to this Your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather crumbs under Your table. But You are the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink His blood that our sinful souls and bodies may be made clean by His death and washed through His blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND CHIEF CELEBRANT

Bishop John Richard Bryant

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of Your tender mercy did give Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, who made there by His oblation of Himself, once offered, a full perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute in His holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that His precious death until His coming again; hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech You, and grant that we receiving these Your creatures of bread and wine, according to Your son, our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of His death and passion may be partakers of His most blessed body and blood; Who in the same night that He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples saying, Take, eat, this is My body which is broken for you. this do in remembrance of Me. Likewise after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them saying, Drink all of it, for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen.

THE SINGING OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bishop Richard Franklin Norris

Let us pray.

Bishop and People:

God of grace, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption, and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ or Lord. Amen.

THE CLOSING PRAYER

Bishop Reginald Thomas Jackson

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

The First Episcopal District Bicentennial Choir

CLOSING BUSINESS SESSION

Bishop John Franklin White

PRESIDING

THE FINAL REPORT OF THE EPISCOPAL COMMITTEE

THE CLOSING HYMN

Bishop Zedekiah Lazett Grady

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

AME HYMNAL NO. 45

God be with you till we meet again;
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain

Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet;
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
'Neath his wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put His arms unfailing round you:
God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threat'ning ways before you:
God be with you till we meet again.

THE BENEDICTION

Bishop Frederick Calhoun James

THE POSTLUDE

THE RECESSIONAL

EPISCOPAL ASSIGNMENTS

2016-2020

EPISCOPAL DISTRICT	BISHOP	RETIREMENT DATE
FIRST	_____	_____
SECOND	_____	_____
THIRD	_____	_____
FOURTH	_____	_____
FIFTH	_____	_____
SIXTH	_____	_____
SEVENTH	_____	_____
EIGHTH	_____	_____
NINTH	_____	_____
TENTH	_____	_____
ELEVENTH	_____	_____
TWELFTH	_____	_____
THIRTEENTH	_____	_____
FOURTEENTH	_____	_____
FIFTEENTH	_____	_____
SIXTEENTH	_____	_____
SEVENTEENTH	_____	_____
EIGHTEENTH	_____	_____
NINETEENTH	_____	_____
TWENTIETH	_____	_____
ECUMENICAL OFFICER	_____	_____

