

General Conference Boundaries Committee- Report #1

I. The General Conference Boundaries Committee was called to order on Thursday, July 6, 2016 at 6:55 pm by Bishop Clement Fugh. Bishop Fugh stated that traditionally the clergy leadership from the 1st Episcopal District was the preliminary chair of the Boundaries Committee in order to offer organization to the body. Bishop Fugh turned the meeting over to Rev. Dr. D. Albert Turk (1st) and wished the committee well in its important work.

II. Prayer was given by Presiding Elder George W. Tyler (8th). Motion was made and seconded to nominate Rev. Dr. D. Albert Turk (1st) and Sis. Starr L. Battle (2nd) as permanent Chair and Secretary of the Boundaries Committee. There was one unreadiness, asking for the introduction for the committee members assembled. The unreadiness was addressed and the motion was carried by common consent.

III. Each member's name should have been submitted by the Episcopal Districts however, a roster would be distributed to reflect those individuals who actually attended the committee meeting.

IV. Chair Turk stated that this committee would have to address the AME India concern, as well as, 2-3 other resolutions before the General Conference body. Some of the resolutions are conference number changes. Other resolutions would involve changes of the conference boundaries lines. The Chair would gather the resolutions and ensure that the body received a printed copy the documents. The documents would also be placed on the AME APP.

V. AME India- At the 49th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference, Bishop Kawimbe raised an issue regarding placing a conference, particularly AME India, in a district based on personality. He asked "what happens when Bishop Bryant retires?" AME India was placed in the 5th District and the 4th District because of the leadership of Bishop Bryant. The honest assessment was that we cannot have any of our members in flux, going from one place to another place with each new quadrennial. We are now at the point that Bishop Bryant is retiring and AME India needs to be addressed with sensitivity and love. The 4th District brought a resolution today to address AME India. In addition, Bishop Adams previously stated that the Church also needs to be aware of the language in our discipline. AME India has a caste system and we must be mindful that the language we use does not set AME India up to be abused.

Bishop Daniels was allowed to speak on the concern with AME India. Bishop Daniels stated that the Boundaries Committee is important because it deals with the growth and decline of African Methodism. He visited AME India to observe the conference for himself and was touched by the ministry. AME India is not a traditional AME conference, nevertheless the conference has a heart of ministry, with over 3000 people excited about

the new work and 151 churches that are in actual buildings. There are 1.2 Billion people in India. The problem as he saw it was “the AME Church specialized in white missionary mentality.” However, the conference is the fastest growing area in the Connection.

The committee would examine if AME India would be able to thrive in connection with the 19th District. The question at hand is, could the 19th District handle AME India financially? The Bishops’ Council should have worked on the AME India concern during the previous quadrennial. Monetary adjustment to the Connectional Budget would need to be reviewed during this General Conference. The concern is the Connectional Budget is voted upon before the Boundaries Committee presents its report. It was suggested that \$25,000 be given to the Ecumenical Office to assist with AME India overview to help codify how to handle AME India until permanency is made. The Chair would converse with Bishop Kawimbe, Daniels, and Bryant to obtain additional information regarding the best way to handle AME India.

Presiding Elder Tyler stated that the committee needs to ascertain from Bishop Bryant how much has been spent for AME India during his administration. The recommendation from the Boundaries Committee should include a financial request. Brother Lester Shaw (8th) suggested that we request that each member of the General Conference body give \$50.00 for the AME India initiative to compliment the work that has been done in the conference. Chair Turk stated that “the AME Church has a moral deficiency that we refuse to correct.”

VI. Meeting Times- Suggested that the Boundaries committee would meet during the lunch hour on Thursday, July 7, 2016 and the Chair would try to obtain a bigger meeting room.

VII. Additional Committee Officers- Motion was made and seconded to elect Roger D. Jackson (5th), Damon L. Blakeley (10th), and Joyce O’Neal as the Chaplain, Assistant Secretary, and Assistant Chaplain. Motion carried by common consent.

VIII. Chair Turk closed the meeting with a reminder about the meeting on July 7, 2016 and a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Starr L. Battle
Secretary

Rev. Dr. D. Albert Turk
Chair