

*Greetings from Bishop Harry L. Seawright  
Presiding Prelate of the Ninth Episcopal District  
of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*



June 2017

Dear Beloved,

I greet you in the miracle-working name of Jesus Christ, our Savior! I am truly humbled and tremendously blessed to submit my first Annual Report to the Council of Bishops. The Lord granted extraordinary favor to me in my election and consecration as the 133<sup>rd</sup> Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the 50<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Session of the General Conference, celebrating our Bicentennial in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 2016. The Lord granted magnificent mercy to me in saving my life in October of that same year. As the psalmist proclaims, “I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth!” Psalm 34:1

On behalf of Episcopal Supervisor, Reverend Sherita M. Seawright, and my entire family, I thank you for your prayers. The many acts of kindness from across the connection strengthened my spirit. Thank you for your love.

I am especially grateful for the people of the 9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District in the state of Alabama. Their faithful service never wavered during my illness or throughout my recent rehabilitation period. Their desire to serve the Lord with a glad heart, often at great personal sacrifice, gives me even more reason to praise God that I am assigned to a place full of loving people.

We are working together. We recognize that now, more than ever, we must proclaim the goodness and faithfulness of God. There is so much happening in our nation and in the world that might threaten to shake our faith. Nevertheless, as servants in the deep American south, we are committed to make a difference by walking in the social justice tradition of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Prayerfully, we are engaged in ministry that seeks to ***encourage, empower, and enable the people of God.*** Our goal is to unify AME clergy and lay, as well as community stakeholders and people of faith from other denominations to create a collective response to the many critical issues facing the people of Alabama. There is much work to do. We go forward with faith – in the name of Jesus.

My family and I ask for your continued prayers as we serve God in the 9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District. Please pray for our clergy, lay members, and churches as we all strive to spread the good news of Jesus Christ!

Because of Christ, I am,

Bishop Harry L. Seawright  
Presiding Prelate of the 9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District

**Ninth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church  
 Bishop Harry L. Seawright, Presiding Prelate  
 Reverend Sherita M. Seawright, WMS Episcopal Supervisor**



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**Annual Report to the Council of Bishops  
 June 7, 2017**

Submitted as prescribed by  
*The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2012*

Number of Annual Conferences

There are five (5) annual conferences in the 9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District.

Number of Members in Each Annual Conference

Annual Conference	Number of Members
Alabama River Region	2,494
Northwest Alabama	6,993
Southeast Alabama	2,739
Northeast Alabama	4,072
Southwest Alabama	4,138
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,436</b>

The Amount of General Budget Fund Apportioned

The Episcopal District:  
\$595,496.00

Each of the Annual Conferences:

Annual Conference	Amount of General Fund Apportioned
Alabama River Region	\$72,114.70
Northwest Alabama	\$231,105.70
Southeast Alabama	\$96,275.10
Northeast Alabama	\$93,115.72
Southwest Alabama	\$102,884.78

The amount of the General Fund collected and sent to the office of the Chief Financial Officer of the AME Church, from each of the annual conferences.

Annual Conference	Amount of General Fund Collected and Sent to Chief Financial Officer of the AME Church
Alabama River Region	\$72,114.70
Northwest Alabama	\$231,105.70
Southeast Alabama	\$96,275.10
Northeast Alabama	\$93,115.72
Southwest Alabama	\$102,884.78

If this represents an increase, the same amount, or a decrease as compared with last year's report, list the following, and give details:

This represents the same amount.

- 1) Ministers who have been expelled during the year.

Northwest Alabama Annual Conference

James Eddie, Sr.  
Roosevelt Harden

Northeast Alabama Annual Conference

Kenneth Jordan  
Charles Stafford

- 2) Ministers who have withdrawn from the connection during the year.

There were not any ministers who withdrew from the connection during the year.

- 3) Congregations that have split or withdrawn from the connection during the year.

There were not any congregations that split or withdrew from the connection during the year.

Give details of new churches organized or established during the year.

There were not any new churches organized or established during the year.

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Additional Information for the 9<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District

Total Conversions: 1,625

Total Accessions: 1,068

**END OF REPORT**