

Commission on Women in Ministry

Date: 20 June 2017

Chairperson: Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield (Presiding Prelate, 16th Episcopal District)

Connectional Officer Reporting: Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford (1st District), Connectional WIM President

Secretary: Betty J. Tuggle (4th District)

Actions Taken:

Roll Call was conducted by the Chair with assistance by the Connectional WIM President.

Betty J. Tuggle (4th District) was nominated and elected by unanimous vote to act as the Secretary for the WIM Commission.

Connectional AME/WIM reminded the commission that during the December of 2016, General Board meeting, the board unanimously adopted a resolution committing the church to an intentional pursuit of Gender Justice and Equality.

Because of that commitment, AME/WIM surveyed its membership, both male and female. Data from 17 of the 20 Episcopal Districts revealed the following:

- 65% of Episcopal District Finance Committees have no female clergy members
- 97% of Annual Conference Finance Committees are chaired by male clergy
- 88% of Annual Conference Trustee Boards are chaired by male clergy
- 71% of Annual Conference Trustee Boards have no female clergy members
- 87% of Annual Conference Board of Examiners are chaired by male clergy
- 78% of Annual Conference Ministerial Efficiency Committees are chaired by male clergy
- 69% of Deans of the Annual Conference Ministerial Institute are male clergy
- 69% of Annual Conferences have all male Presiding Elders
- 76% of “#1 churches” in Presiding Elder Districts have male clergy
- 83% of Chairs of the Committee on Ministerial orders are chaired by male clergy

The Commission on Women in Ministry, re-affirmed their commitment to justice and equality, standing on the shoulders of pioneering women like the Daughters of

Rev. Dr. Erika D. Crawford, President * Rev. Ammie L. Davis, First Vice President
Rev. Joelynn T. Stokes, Esq., Second Vice President * Rev. Dr. Monica L. Spencer, Third Vice President
Rev. Louise V. Jackson, General Secretary * Rev. Tyronda Howse Burgess, Financial Secretary
Rev. Garland D. Higgins, Communication Secretary * Rev. Angelique J. Mason, Treasurer
Rev. Dr. Janie Dowdy-Dandridge, Herstorlographer * Rev. Pamela R. Rivera, Director of Liturgy&Worship
Rev. Nomalungelo Pamella Vena, Central South Africa Coordinator

Zelophehad (Numbers 27:6-7), Rev. Jarena Lee, Rev. Carrie Hooper, Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry, Bishop Sarah Frances Davis, Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield, Rev. Teresa Fry Brown, Ph.D., Rev. Jacqueline Grant Collier, Ph.D., Rev. Lillian Frier Webb and Mother Charlotte Maxeke. As well as, spiritual brothers and fathers who mentored, prepared and positioned their spiritual sisters and daughters for ministry, like Bishop Frederick Hillborn Talbot who appointed Reverend Dorothy Millicent Stephens Morris, the first female Presiding Elder in the AME Church and Bishop Vinton Anderson who appointed Rev. Cornelia Wright as the first female Presiding Elder in the Continental United States.

A motion was made by to adopt the recommendation seconded. Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

The chair encouraged WIM to have discussion with their Episcopal leadership around the equitable appointment of women.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Bishop Henning Byfield.

The Commission makes the following recommendations:

1. That the General Board empower each WIM Commission Member to complete an introspective analysis of its Episcopal District's key leadership and pastoral positions regarding female clergy and report its findings to the commission within 90 days.
2. That the General Board empower its members to encourage Presiding Elders to work with WIM leadership to prepare and provide workshops and training at a Presiding Elder District meeting to assist pastors and congregations in fulfilling the churches intentional commitment to Gender Justice and Equality by the June 2018 General Board meeting.

Chairperson: Bishop Anne Henning Byfield (Present)

Commission Members:

1st District: Rev. Jocelyn Hart (Present)

2nd District: Presiding Elder Ernest Montague (Absent)

3rd District: Ms. Kimberly Brooks (Absent)

4th District: Ms. Betty Tuggle (Present)

5th District: Rev. Fran Cary (Absent)

6th District: Rev. Jonetta Prater (Present)

7th District: Ms. Vergie Tennison (Present)

8th District: Ms. Darlene Gordon (Present)

9th District: Rev. Albert Hyche (Present)

10th District: Miss Kendra Hill-Daughton (excused)

11th District: Bro. Charlie Nichols (Present)

12th District: Rev. Marcelle Fields (xxxxxx)

13th District: Rev. Troy Thomas (xxxxx)

14th District: Rev. Margaret Fadehan (Present)

15th District: Bro. Theodore Messiah (xxxxxxx)

16th District: Rev. Carlene Sobers (xxxx)

17th District: Rev. Moses Achola (xxxx)

18th District: Ms. Beatrice Mutokoa (xxxx)

19th District: Sis. Thumekile (xxxx)

20th District: Presiding Elder Rosetta Swinton (Present)

Special Guests: Rev. Dr. Jessica Kendall Ingram (1st District Supervisors)

Humbly Submitted,

Betty J. Tuggle

Acting Secretary, Women in Ministry Commission