



Proposed Legislation

Table of Contents

CON-01 : THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL	1
MIN - 17 : SATISFACTION/TERMINATION OF UNPAID PASTORAL WAGES AND LOANS	3
MIN - 20 : PASTORAL AUTHORITY TO CREATE CHURCH INDEBTEDNESS	5
MIN - 19 : Withholding FICA Taxes	7
MIN - 18 : Employee or Independent Contractor?	9
GGB-12 : Officer Retirement Age	11
DB - 01 : Reverend	13
DB - 01 : Reverend	15
DB - 01 : Reverend	17
DB - 01 : Reverend	19
CP - 01 : Annual Reports from AME, Inc.	21
CP - 02 : Disposition of Church Property held by Missions and Small Congregations of less than Ten Persons	23
Duties	25
CM - 06 : REVISIONS TO THE BENEFITS INCLUDED IN A PASTOR'S SALARY & BENEFITS PACKAGE - #2	27
CM - 07 : REVISIONS TO THE BENEFITS INCLUDED IN A PASTOR'S SALARY & BENEFITS PACKAGE - #3	29
CM - 08 : REVISIONS TO THE BENEFITS INCLUDED IN A PASTOR'S SALARY & BENEFITS PACKAGE	31
Revisions to the Benefits Included in a Pastor's Salary & Benefits Package	33
Revisions to the Benefits Included in a Pastor's Salary & Benefits Package - #2	35
Revisions to the Benefits Included in a Pastor's Salary & Benefits Package - #3	37
CM - 01 : Uniform AME Pulpit and Altar Color Calendar	39
CM - 02 : Growing the Local Lay Organization	41
CM - 09 : The Local Church Organization	43
CM - 03 : Accountability in Reporting	45
CM - 04 : Accountability of Optional Commissions	47
CM - 10 : Planning for Pandemics & Natural Disasters	49
CM - 11 : Planning for Pandemics	51
MIN - 14 : CALL TO PREACH QUESTION	53
Call to Preach Question	55
MIN - 16 : Licentiate	57
MIN - 02 : Ministerial Training Board Composition	59
MIN - 03 : EVANGELISM	61
EVANGELISM	63
MIN - 01 : Course of Instruction for Preachers	65
EVANGELISM	67
MIN - 04 : Ministerial Training Board Course of Instruction	69
MIN - 15 : LOVE FEAST TICKET LANGUAGE CHANGE	71
Love Feast Ticket Language Change	73
MIN - 05 : Mileage Reimbursement for Ministers Church Travel	75
MIN - 13 : MINISTERS BILL OF RIGHTS COMPARABLE DEFINITION CLARIFICATION	77
MIN - 13 : Ministers Bill of Rights Comparable Definition Clarification	79
MIN - 06 : Transfer to Another Annual Conference	81
MIN - 08 : Timeframe for Request by Presiding Elders to Locate a Preacher	83
MIN - 07 : Timeframe for Notifying a Pastor to Request Location	85
MIN - 10 : MINISTERIAL LOCATION, RETIREMENT AND TERMINATION	87
MIN - 12 : INCLUSION OF AN EXISTING IMMIGRANT CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS INTO THE AFRICAN METHODIST	89
MIN - 11 : On Loan Policy Clarification	91

MIN - 09 : MINISTERIAL LOCATION, RETIREMENT AND TERMINATION	93
On Loan Policy Clarification	95
Inclusion of an Existing Immigrant Christian Congregations Into the African Methodist Episcopal Church Episcopal Church	97
GGB-01 : The Ecumenical Officer of the AME Church_1	99
GGB-02 : Filling Episcopal Vancancies in Episcopal Districts	101
GGB-03 : Extending the General Officers term of service between elections	103
GGB-04 : Global Development Council Record Keeping	105
GGB-05 : Global Development Council Financial Management Act	107
GGB-06 : Qualification for General Board Membership	109
Responsibilities of the Commission on Economic Development	111
GGB-07 : Mandated Meeting of Commission on Retirement Services in Interim of the General Board.	113
GGB-08 : Change in Frequency of Publication of The Christian Recorder	115
GGB-09 : Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)	117
GGB-10 : The General Conference and Social Action Commission	119
GGB-11 : Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)	121
CC-02 : General Conference Composition	123
CC-01 : General Conference Composition	125
Social Action Commission Membership in the General Conference	127
CC-14 : Qualifications of Delegates: Financial Compliance for Pastors and Lay Delegates to Electoral College	129
CC-13 : Council of Bishops Representation on Planning Sub-Commission and Video/Virtual Participation in the General	131
CC-03 : Annual Conference Audit	133
CC-04 : Letter of Good and Regular Standing	135
CC-05 : Ministerial Efficiency as a Standing Committee	137
CC-06 : Realignment of Presiding Elder Districts in Eighth Episcopal District	139
CC-07 : Realignment of Presiding Elder Districts in the Eighth Episcopal District	141
APP-01 : UPDATED DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS FOR QUARTERLY CONFERENCE	143
CC-08 : THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL	145
CC-09 : THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL	147
THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL/GLOBAL WITNESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA, THE NATIONS OF THE	149
CC-10 : Reverend	151
CC-11 : Reverend	153
CC-12 : Reverend	155
JA-01 : Child and Youth Protection and Background Checks	157
JA-05 : ELIMINATE SAME SEX MARRIAGE LANGUAGE	159
CO-01 : Mr.	161
CO-02 : Mr.	163
CO-03 : Mr.	165
CO-04 : Mr.	167
CO-05 : Mr.	169
CO-06 : Mr.	171
CO-07 : Mr.	173
CO-08 : Mr.	175
CO-09 : Mr.	177
CO-10 : Mr.	179
CO-11 : Mr.	181
CO-12 : Mr.	183

CO-12 : Mr.	185
CO-12 : Mr.	187
CO-13 : Mr.	189
CO-15 : Mr.	191
CO-17 : Mr.	193
CO-18 : Mr.	195
CO-19 : Mr.	197
CO-20 : Mr.	199
CO-21 : Revised Constitution and Bylaws for the Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)	201
CO-22 : Revised Constitution and Bylaws for the Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)	203
SONS OF ALLEN: THE CONNECTIONAL MENS MINISTRY	205
CO-23 : Music and Christian Arts Ministry Constitution and By-Laws, 2020-2024	207
CO-24 : AME/WIM Objectives	209
CO-25 : AME WIM Membership	211
CO-26 : AME/WIM Dues	213
CO-27 : AME WIM Executive Board Composition	215
CO-29 : AME WIM Executive Board Nominations	217
CO-28 : Connectional AME WIM Annual Meetings	219
CO-30 : AME/WIM Executive Board Responsibilities and Duties	221
CO-31 : AME WIM Standing Committees	223
CO-32 : AME WIM Episcopal District Statistician Powers and Duties	225
CO-33 : AME WIM Annual Conference Herstorlographer	227
CO-34 : Connectional AME WIM Eligibility Chart	229
Commission on Health: Ministry to those who are differently challenged.	231
CO-35 : AAMES Bylaws Revision (1 of 4): Adding Associate Director of Girl Scouts and Associate Director of Boy Scouts	233
CO-38 : AAMES Bylaws Revision (4 of 4): Duties of the Associate Director of Girl Scouts and Associate Director of Boy	235
CO-37 : AAMES Bylaws Revision (3 of 4): Adding Past Connectional Girl Scout Directors and Connectional Boy Scout	237
CO-36 : AAMES Bylaws Revision (2 of 4): a Quadrennial Camporee	239
CO-40 : Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators Revised Bylaws	241
CO-39 : Revised Constitution and Bylaws for the Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)	243
WL-02 : Removal of Male-Centric Language in the Lay Hymn	245
APP-05 : Commission on Health: Quarterly Conference Health Ministry reporting	247
APP-06 : Commission on Health: Annual Conference Health Ministry reporting	249
APP-03 : Detailed Glossary Admendments	251
APP-02 : Accessions	253
APP-04 : The Ecumenical Officer of the AME Church_2	255
WL-01 : Mandatory Inclusion of the Connectional Budget in the Printed Discipline	257
CO-41 : Reverend	259
CO-42 : Reverend	261
CO-43 : Reverend	263
CO-44 : Reverend	265
CO-45 : Reverend	267
CO-46 : Reverend	269
CO-47 : Reverend	271
CO-48 : Reverend	273
APP-07 : Transparency of the Connectional Budget for the African Methodist Episcopal Church	275

Officer Retirement Age	277
JA-02 : Time of Meetings	279
JA-03 : Voting Rights	281
JA-04 : General Conference Composition	283
Sultant de oral gnalogie	285
Constitution and Bylaws of the Womens Missionary Society	287
CM-05 : Local Church Organization	289
MIN-21 : Pastoral Support Part VIII, Ministerial Classifications; Section II Ministerial/Pastoral Support; C. Classification of	291
Proposed : Pastoral Support Part VIII, Ministerial Classifications; Section II Ministerial/Pastoral Support; D. Classifications of	293
CC-15 : Annual Conference Composition	295
CC-16 : The District Conference Composition	297
CC-17 : Connectional Institutions Archaic Reference(s)	299
CC-18 : Definition of Mission Church	301
CO-41 : Connectional Societies and Organizations	303
CP-3 : General Church Property	305
CLO-6 : Extension of Episcopal Committee Authority	307
UNSPECIFIED : Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society	309
CLO-2 : Adjusting Denominational per diem/mileage allocations	311

Bill Number: CON-01

Title: THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL



Submitted by: PAUL MUGALA

Contact: mugalapm@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

PART XV

PAGE ix TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE xxiii

Intent

TO CHANGE THE TABLE OF CONTENTS TO REFLECT THE APPROPRIATE NEW TITLE OF PART XV AS THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL INSTEAD OF GLOBAL WITNESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA, THE NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN, EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA AND INDIA

Rationale

TO REFLECT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CONNECTIONAL AMEC IN ITS INCLUSIVE COLLABORATION AND GOVERNANCE OF THE CHURCH IN AFRICA AND ITS SURROUNDING ISLANDS

Current Text

1. PART XV GLOBAL WITNESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN
2. AFRICA, THE NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN, EUROPE,
3. SOUTH AMERICA AND INDIA

4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL [AJC] AN
2. INDEPENDENT AUTONOMY FOR EFFECTIVE
3. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND CHURCH GROWTH OF
4. THE AMEC ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA AND ITS
5. SURROUNDING ISLANDS BY AFRICANS FROM AN
6. AFRICAN CONTEXT.

7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: MIN - 17

Title: SATISFACTION/TERMINATION OF UNPAID PASTORAL WAGES AND LOANS



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Part V, Section VII

Intent

To prohibit the practice of establishing pastoral salary packages and/or pastoral loans to the church that the church cannot afford to (re)pay during a pastors tenure at the church; then after reassignment or removal, attempt to collect/sue the church for unpaid wages or for repayment of the loan.

Rationale

If a pastor is unable to raise the funds necessary to cover his/her salary or repay loans given during his/her tenure, it is unreasonable to expect the successor pastor to raise enough funds to cover the prior pastors salary and/or loan repayments while endeavoring to raise his/her salary and meet church obligations.

Current Text

1. None

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. Any financial agreements between the local church and the
2. pastor, including but not limited to unpaid salary, salary
3. related expenses, benefits, or repayment of loans must be
4. reported as an agreed upon indebtedness on the adopted
5. Quarterly Conference Reports and the Annual Conference
6. Report. Any indebtedness owed to the pastor which is not
7. reported is void, terminated and deemed satisfied in full
8. upon the pastors reassignment, new appointment or
9. removal from the charge.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: MIN - 20

Title: PASTORAL AUTHORITY TO CREATE CHURCH INDEBTEDNESS



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

To establish a policy regarding a pastors authority to obligate the church without the approval of the local church.

Intent

Legislation currently exists regarding a pastors authority to mortgage church property; but there is no policy regarding a pastors ability to obligate the church on non-secured debt obligations.

Rationale

Legislation currently exists regarding a pastors authority to mortgage church property; but there is no policy regarding a pastors ability to obligate the church on non-secured debt obligations.

Current Text

1. None

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. The Official Board shall establish a maximum limit for which
2. the pastor may obligate the church without consent of the
3. local church. In the absence of an established policy, the
4. Board of Stewards or Board of Trustees may authorize an
5. amount up to \$1000 without the vote of the Official Board.
6. Any pastor that obligates the church by approving or signing
7. a contract which creates indebtedness in violation of the
8. maximum limit established by the Official Board or by
9. default, shall be deemed to have engaged in
10. maladministration.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: MIN - 19

Title: Withholding FICA Taxes



Submitted by: Submitted by the Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District

Contact: tripettis@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Publication 15-A
Employers Supplemental Tax Guide

Intent

To ensure employees know their job responsibilities and for churches to be in compliance with the federal government responsibility to withhold FICA taxes.

Rationale

All employees should know what is expected of them by their employer and the policies of the place where employed. According to the Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service, Income and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes must be withheld reported and paid for all employees. Under common-law rules, anyone who performs services for you is generally your employee if you have the right to control what will be done, when it will be done and how it will be done. This is so even when you give the employee freedom of action. What matters is that you have the right to control the details of how the services are performed.

Current Text

1. CURRENT TEXT: No current text.

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

- 1. AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to page 88, Local Church
- 2. Organization, 2. Boards
- 3. 3 b. Trustees, 5) Duties, new letter f.
- 4. 4 All employees of a church must have a job description
- 5. and an employment
- 6. 5 contract that outlines their duties and responsibilities.
- 7. Income and Federal
- 8. 6 Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes must be
- 9. withheld, reported and paid for
- 10. 7 all employees. Since this is a personnel issue, the Trustee
- 11. Board is responsible
- 12. 8 for executing this task.
- 13. 9
- 14. 10 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: MIN - 18

Title: Employee or Independent Contractor?



Submitted by: Submitted by the Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District

Contact: tripettis@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Publication 15-A Employers Supplemental Tax Guide

Intent

To clarify anyone all church laborers - to whom funds are paid are an employee of the church and not an independent contractor.

Rationale

Before you can know how to treat payments that you make to workers for services, you must first know the business relationship that exist between you and the person performing the services. The person performing the services may be an independent contractor or an employee. According to the Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service under common-law rules, anyone who performs services for you is generally your employee if you have the right to control what will be done, when it will be done and how it will be done. This is so even when you give the employee freedom of action. What matters is that you have the right to control the details of how the services are performed.

Current Text

1. CURRENT TEXT: No current text.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to page 86, Local Church
2. Organization, 2. Boards
3. 3 a. Stewards, 2) Duties, new letter e.
4. 4 When payment is made to an individual in their name for
5. services performed at
6. 5 or for the church when the church has the right to control
7. what will be done, when
8. 6 it will be done and how it will be done the person is an
9. employee of the church.
10. 7 This person is not an independent contractor, and thus
11. income and Federal
12. 8 Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes must be
13. withheld, reported and paid for
14. 9 the employee.
15. 10
16. 11 (Renumber letters e-k accordingly)
17. 12 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: GGB-12

Title: Officer Retirement Age



Submitted by: Lillie Hill

Contact: Lil.hill@verizon.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

None

Intent

The appointment or election of members as officers must not exceed seventy-five years of age by his or her Annual Conference. It shall be mandatory that all officers of the African Methodist Episcopal Church who will become 75 years of age, either prior to or within a year following the adjournment of a General Conference be ineligible for re-election or appointment to office. The aforementioned officers may assist in their local church and in other capacities throughout the Connection as requested by the bishop, presiding elders, pastors and presiding officers of ministries [i.e. advise, train and

Rationale

The basis for this recommendation is two-fold and will justify the need for such a change. The additional legislation will require a mandatory age cap for elected officials just as with clergy. It makes sense for clergy and non-clergy to be measured equally in terms of age eligibility as it relates to fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of the church. Secondly, and most importantly; the proposed legislation would provide an opportunity for young adults to move copiously into leadership positions. The proposed legislation may have an adverse effect on seniors currently holding office and approaching seventy-five years of age (or may have passed that age), in which a grandfather clause would bridge the gap for the year or two needed for transition to complete their term.

Current Text

1. None

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. An elected officer or employed laity must retire by seventy-
2. five (75) years of age. An elected officer or employed laity is
3. not to be appointed after age seventy-five (75). The
4. appointment or employment must be relieved by Annual
5. Conference Prior to attaining age seventy-six (76)

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: DB - 01

Title: Reverend



Submitted by: franklin membe

Contact: franklinmembe@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

PAGE 31

Intent

AMEND THE CLAUSE TO INCLUDE CHURCHES UNDER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS JURISDICTIONS

Rationale

TO REMOVE THE NOTION THAT AME CHURCHES ABROAD ARE SUBJECT TO THE REIGN OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Current Text

Amended Text

1. OF THE RULERS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

1. NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE REFERENCE TO THE
2. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ALL AME CHURCHES
3. OUTSIDE THE USA AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP SHALL
4. BE SUBJECT TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: DB - 01

Title: Reverend



Submitted by: franklin membe

Contact: franklinmembe@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

PAGE 31 ARTICLE 23

Intent

AMEND THE CLAUSE TO INCLUDE CHURCHES UNDER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS JURISDICTIONS

Rationale

TO REMOVE THE NOTION THAT AME CHURCHES ABROAD ARE SUBJECT TO THE REIGN OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Current Text

1. OF THE RULERS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE REFERENCE TO THE
2. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ALL AME CHURCHES
3. OUTSIDE THE USA AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP SHALL
4. BE SUBJECT TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: DB - 01

Title: Reverend



Submitted by: franklin membe

Contact: franklinmembe@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

PAGE 31 ARTICLE 23

Intent

AMEND THE CLAUSE TO INCLUDE CHURCHES UNDER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS JURISDICTIONS

Rationale

TO REMOVE THE NOTION THAT AME CHURCHES ABROAD ARE SUBJECT TO THE REIGN OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Current Text

1. OF THE RULERS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. AT END OF ARTICLE INCLUDE THE WORDS,
2. NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE REFERENCE TO THE
3. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ALL AME CHURCHES
4. OUTSIDE THE USA AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP SHALL
5. BE SUBJECT TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: DB - 01

Title: Reverend



Submitted by: franklin membe

Contact: franklinmembe@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

PAGE 31 ARTICLE 23

Intent

AMEND THE CLAUSE TO INCLUDE CHURCHES UNDER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS JURISDICTIONS

Rationale

TO REMOVE THE NOTION THAT AME CHURCHES ABROAD ARE SUBJECT TO THE REIGN OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Current Text

1. Lusaka
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. 23. OF THE RULERS OF THE UNITED STATES OF
2. AMERICA
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CP - 01

Title: Annual Reports from AME, Inc.



Submitted by: Jeffrey Leath

Contact: jeffreynleath@aol.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Part II, Section I, New Section #22. Page 67

Intent

Require AME, Inc. to file with church bodies both annual and quadrennial reports.

Rationale

While it is agreed that AME, Inc. is amenable only to the General Conference, it should not preclude annual and quadrennial reports on its activity. There is no clear mandate for annual reporting, and no reason the church should be without information on the work of AME, Inc. for up to four years. Moreover, this will require AME, Inc. to submit audited reports, like other major bodies within the denomination.

Current Text

1. None - Insert new section.

2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. 22. Reports
2. The Trustees of AME, Inc. shall make a quadrennial report
3. to the General Conference which shall include a summary,
4. without specific detail, of the numbers of matters addressed,
5. assets liquidated and other pertinent information to give the
6. Church a view of its activity. Where there are personnel, or
7. proprietary and other matters which warrant anonymity, the
8. report shall exclude identifying markers.
9. In addition, AME, Inc. shall submit to the Council of Bishops
10. and the Commission on Statistics and Finance of the
11. General Board an annual audit and an inventory of all real
12. and financial assets of the Church held directly, or
13. controlled, by AME, Inc. Such information shall be kept
14. confidential and used by those entities to observe the
15. activity of the corporation.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CP - 02

Title: Disposition of Church Property held by Missions and Small Congregations of less than Ten Persons



Submitted by: Jeffrey Leath

Contact: jeffreynleath@aol.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Part III, Section III, B. Page 71-72 (Kindle Locations 2497-2503)

Intent

To establish a procedure for the sale of church property held by mission congregations and congregations having fewer than ten full, active members.

Rationale

The current procedure found in the Discipline is not viable when congregational membership falls below ten (10) active, full members.

Current Text

1. B. Local Church Property Transfer of Property
2. The Board of Trustees, duly elected by the local church as
3. provided by The Doctrine and Discipline of he African
4. Methodist Episcopal Church, may take such steps to
5. purchase, mortgage, sell, transfer and convey real and
6. personal property, PROVIDED that such transfer has been
7. duly approved by the resolution in Quarterly Conference of
8. the said church, and also by the trustees of the Annual
9. Conference in which the property is located, and of which
10. the presiding bishop is president.
11. The Board of Trustees and members of the local church
12. hold property of whatever kind IN TRUST for the Annual
13. Conference of the General Church and not in their individual
14. capacities.

15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. INSERT NEW TEXT
2. B. Local Church Property Transfer of Property
3. The Board of Trustees, duly elected by the local church as
4. provided by The Doctrine and Discipline of he African
5. Methodist Episcopal Church, may take such steps to
6. purchase, mortgage, sell, transfer and convey real and
7. personal property, PROVIDED that such transfer has been
8. duly approved by the resolution in Quarterly Conference of
9. the said church, and also by the trustees of the Annual
10. Conference in which the property is located, and of which
11. the presiding bishop is president.
12. Insert:
13. In cases where there are no duly elected trustees of the
14. congregation; or the full membership is less than ten active
15. adult persons; or the church has been designated by the
16. annual conference as having mission status; the Annual
17. Conference Trustees shall have full authority to purchase,
18. mortgage, sell transfer and convey real and personal
19. property without the approval of a church conference or
20. quarterly conference.
21. The Board of Trustees and members of the local church
22. hold property of whatever kind IN TRUST for the Annual
23. Conference of the General Church and not in their individual
24. capacities.

25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number:

Title: Duties



Submitted by: Marvin Louis Harris

Contact: marvin538@aol.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

2016 TDDOAMEC Part V Local Church Organization (page 85-86) Boards A. Stewards

Intent

Add the Trustee to the negotiation of the pastor salary & compensation

Rationale

Steward along with the trustee are the ones who will insure that the pastor is paid, so they should have a say in the negotiation of the pastor salary & Package.

Current Text

1. 2016 TDDOAMEC page 86 Under Duties (B)The Salary of a
2. full time minister shall be negotiated by the pastor and the
3. steward board. The negotiated salary and benefit package
4. shall be commensurate with the cost of living in the given
5. geographical area and the ability of the local congregation.
6. etc.

7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. 2016 TDDOAMEC page 86 Duties (B)The Salary of a full
2. time minister shall be negotiated by the pastor and the
3. steward & trustee boards. The negotiated salary and benefit
4. package shall be commensurate with the cost of living in the
5. given geographical area and the ability of the local
6. congregation. etc.
7. 2016 TDDOAMEC (D). Page 89 (They shall secure by
8. purchase or hire, a house for the pastor's family and also
9. comfortably furnish it. In lieu of this arrangement, the pastor
10. may be given a housing allowance. If a housing allowance
11. is given, it is the Stewards & Trustees duty to negotiate a
12. reasonable housing allowance with the pastor

13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.



Submitted by: Cynthia Gordon-Floyd

Contact: cynthia@willingsteward.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church - 2016 Part V-Local Church Organization Section 1.A.2.a.2)b) (page 86)

Intent

The purpose of these requested revisions is to align the current guidance regarding pastoral salary and benefits more closely to stated IRS compensation guidelines. This submission will add the annual requirement to the Doctrine and Discipline for documentation to be provided to the Board of Stewards to support and justify the granting of a minister's housing allowance as a component of a pastor's salary and benefit package.

Rationale

Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) states "In the case of a minister of the gospel, gross income does not include - (1) the rental value of a home furnished to him as part of his compensation; or (2) the rental allowance paid to him as part of his compensation, to the extent used by him to rent or provide a home and to the extent such allowance does not exceed the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances such as a garage, plus the cost of utilities." Per the IRC, in order for the housing allowance to be excluded from federal income taxes it must be designated in advance of payment by official action of the employing church. In order for the employing church to determine the amount to designate, the pastor should complete a housing allowance worksheet and submit this form to the employing church requesting an amount to be designated that is reflective of the actual expenses incurred by the pastor in relation to the fair market value of housing in the applicable geographic area.

Current Text

1. If a housing allowance is given, it is the Stewards' duty to
2. negotiate a reasonable housing
3. allowance with the pastor.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. If a housing allowance is given, it is the Stewards' duty to
2. negotiate a reasonable housing
3. allowance with the pastor after the pastor documents
4. his/her applicable housing expenses
5. on a housing allowance worksheet. The Stewards will
6. document the fair market value of
7. housing in the geographic area and officially designate the
8. approved amount of the
9. pastor's housing allowance in advance of payment.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CM - 07

Title: REVISIONS TO THE BENEFITS INCLUDED IN A PASTOR'S SALARY & BENEFITS PACKAGE - #3



Submitted by: Cynthia Gordon-Floyd

Contact: cynthia@willingsteward.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church - 2016
Part V-Local Church Organization Section 1.A.2.a.2)b) (page 86)

Intent

The purpose of this requested revision is to eliminate from the Doctrine and Discipline the inclusion of key person life insurance as a suggested component of a pastor's salary and benefit package.

Rationale

Key Person Life Insurance is a policy that is customarily purchased by a business on its key executives. The premiums are paid by the business and the business is the beneficiary of the policy. If the employee suddenly dies, the company receives the insurance payoff. This payment serves as a means of offsetting the immediate negative effect on the company of the loss of that person. This type of insurance should not be listed in our Doctrine and Discipline as a component of a pastor's salary and benefit package.

Current Text

1. Part V-Local Church Organization Section 1.A.2a -
2. Stewards Paragraph 2)b) The benefits
3. include, but are not limited to: pension or retirement,
4. insurance(s); health, disability,
5. professional liability, key person life insurance*; self-
6. employment tax; parsonage or
7. housing allowance; continuing education; travel:
8. connectional, episcopal district,
9. conference, inner parish, and all other related to official
10. duties.

11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Part V-Local Church Organization Section 1.A.2a -
2. Stewards Paragraph 2)b) The benefits
3. include, but are not limited to: pension or retirement,
4. insurance(s); health, disability,
5. professional liability; parsonage or housing allowance;
6. continuing education; travel:
7. connectional, episcopal district, conference, inner parish,
8. and all other related to official
9. duties.

10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CM - 08

Title: REVISIONS TO THE BENEFITS INCLUDED IN A PASTOR'S SALARY & BENEFITS PACKAGE



Submitted by: Cynthia Gordon-Floyd

Contact: cynthia@willingsteward.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church - 2016 Part V-Local Church Organization Section 1.A.2.a.2)b) (page 86)

Intent

The purpose of this requested revision is to eliminate from the Doctrine and Discipline the inclusion of self-employment taxes as a suggested component of a pastor's salary and benefit package.

Rationale

Pastors are, by law, self-employed persons and therefore are responsible to payment of their personal tax liability. Pastors have "dual" tax status and are therefore employees of their assigned church as well as a self-employed person for federal and state tax purposes at the same time. The church is not responsible for withholding taxes from their pastor and therefore is not required to remit taxes for their pastors or contribute to their tax liability in any form which is consistent to tax treatment for all independent contractors/self-employed persons.

Current Text

1. The benefits include, but are not limited to: pension or
2. retirement, insurance(s); health,
3. disability, professional liability, key person life insurance*;
4. self-employment tax;
5. parsonage or housing allowance; continuing education;
6. travel: connectional, episcopal
7. district, conference, inner parish, and all other related to
8. official duties.

- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. The benefits include, but are not limited to pension or
2. retirement, insurance(s); health,
3. disability, professional liability, key person life insurance*;
4. parsonage or housing
5. allowance; continuing education; travel: connectional,
6. episcopal district, conference,
7. inner parish, and all other related to official duties.

- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number:

Title: Revisions to the Benefits Included in a Pastor's Salary & Benefits Package



Submitted by: Cynthia Gordon-Floyd

Contact: cynthia@willingsteward.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church - 2016 Part V-Local Church Organization Section
1.A.2.a.2)b) (page 86)

Intent

The purpose of this requested revision is to eliminate from the Doctrine and Discipline the inclusion of self-employment taxes as a suggested component of a pastor's salary and benefit package.

Rationale

Pastors are, by law, self-employed persons and therefore are responsible to payment of their personal tax liability. Pastors have "dual" tax status and are therefore employees of their assigned church as well as a self-employed person for federal and state tax purposes at the same time. The church is not responsible for withholding taxes from their pastor and therefore is not required to remit taxes for their pastors or contribute to their tax liability in any form which is consistent to tax treatment for all independent contractors/self-employed persons.

Current Text

1. The benefits include, but are not limited to: pension or
2. retirement, insurance(s); health, disability, professional
3. liability, key person life insurance*; self-employment tax;
4. parsonage or housing allowance; continuing education;
5. travel: connectional, episcopal district, conference, inner
6. parish, and all other related to official duties.

7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. The benefits include, but are not limited to pension or
2. retirement, insurance(s); health, disability, professional
3. liability, key person life insurance*; parsonage or housing
4. allowance; continuing education; travel: connectional,
5. episcopal district, conference, inner parish, and all other
6. related to official duties.

7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number:

Title: Revisions to the Benefits Included in a Pastor's Salary & Benefits Package - #2



Submitted by: Cynthia Gordon-Floyd

Contact: cynthia@willingsteward.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church - 2016 Part V-Local Church Organization Section 1.A.2.a.2)b) (page 86)

Intent

The purpose of these requested revisions is to align the current guidance regarding pastoral salary and benefits more closely to stated IRS compensation guidelines. This submission will add the annual requirement to the Doctrine and Discipline for documentation to be provided to the Board of Stewards to support and justify the granting of a minister's housing allowance as a component of a pastor's salary and benefit package.

Rationale

Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) states "In the case of a minister of the gospel, gross income does not include - (1) the rental value of a home furnished to him as part of his compensation; or (2) the rental allowance paid to him as part of his compensation, to the extent used by him to rent or provide a home and to the extent such allowance does not exceed the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances such as a garage, plus the cost of utilities." Per the IRC, in order for the housing allowance to be excluded from federal income taxes it must be designated in advance of payment by official action of the employing church. In order for the employing church to determine the amount to designate, the pastor should complete a housing allowance worksheet and submit this form to the employing church requesting an amount to be designated that is reflective of the actual expenses incurred by the pastor in relation to the fair market value of housing in the applicable geographic area.

Current Text

1. Part V-Local Church Organization Section 1.A.2a -
2. Stewards Paragraph 2)b) The benefits include, but are not
3. limited to: pension or retirement, insurance(s); health,
4. disability, professional liability, key person life insurance*;
5. self-employment tax; parsonage or housing allowance;
6. continuing education; travel: connectional, episcopal district,
7. conference, inner parish, and all other related to official
8. duties.

- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Part V-Local Church Organization Section 1.A.2a -
2. Stewards Paragraph 2)b) The benefits include, but are not
3. limited to: pension or retirement, insurance(s); health,
4. disability, professional liability; parsonage or housing
5. allowance; continuing education; travel: connectional,
6. episcopal district, conference, inner parish, and all other
7. related to official duties.

- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number:

Title: Revisions to the Benefits Included in a Pastor's Salary & Benefits Package - #3



Submitted by: Cynthia Gordon-Floyd

Contact: cynthia@willingsteward.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church - 2016 Part V-Local Church Organization Section
1.A.2.a.2)b) (page 86)

Intent

The purpose of this requested revision is to eliminate from the Doctrine and Discipline the inclusion of key person life insurance as a suggested component of a pastor's salary and benefit package.

Rationale

Key Person Life Insurance is a policy that is customarily purchased by a business on its key executives. The premiums are paid by the business and the business is the beneficiary of the policy. If the employee suddenly dies, the company receives the insurance payoff. This payment serves as a means of offsetting the immediate negative effect on the company of the loss of that person. This type of insurance should not be listed in our Doctrine and Discipline as a component of a pastor's salary and benefit package.

Current Text

1. If a housing allowance is given, it is the Stewards' duty to
2. negotiate a reasonable housing allowance with the pastor.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. If a housing allowance is given, it is the Stewards' duty to
2. negotiate a reasonable housing allowance with the pastor
3. after the pastor documents his/her applicable housing
4. expenses on a housing allowance worksheet. The Stewards
5. will document the fair market value of housing in the
6. geographic area and officially designate the approved
7. amount of the pastor's housing allowance in advance of
8. payment.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CM - 01

Title: Uniform AME Pulpit and Altar Color Calendar



Submitted by: Anthony Steele

Contact: assteele@msn.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 92; Section 2 - Duties; Subsection 4

Intent

To add language that creates a uniform liturgical color calendar specifically for the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rationale

The current language leaves ambiguity of which Christian calendar to follow. New language and calendar would give specificity to an AME Liturgical Color Calendar to follow for the entire connection. To date there are many conflicting color calendars from a number of Christian denominations, (i.e, Presbyterian, Lutheran, etc.) that are used by a number of local churches without any continuity. This change would allow for clarity in the AME church around the world to operate with the same liturgical color calendar.

Current Text

1. 4.) To dress the pulpit and altar with suitable, clean, colored
2. coverings for
3. the various seasons of the Christian year, for funerals, and
4. for memorials.

5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. 4.) To dress the pulpit and altar with suitable, clean, colored
2. coverings for the various seasons of the Christian year as
3. prescribed by the African Methodist Episcopal Church
4. seasonal calendar.
5. The pulpit and altar are to be dressed in the colors for the
6. AME Christian Season except on 1st Sunday or
7. Communion Services. Colors for funerals and memorials
8. are at the discretion of the minister in charge. They are to
9. be dressed in these colors until the following season.
10. AME Christian Seasons Color Calendar
11. 1st Sunday or Communion Services - White
12. Advent Season - Purple
13. Christmas Eve - White
14. After Epiphany (Ordinary Time) - Green
15. Lenten Season - Purple
16. Easter - White
17. Pentecost - Red
18. After Pentecost (Ordinary Time) - Green

19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CM - 02

Title: Growing the Local Lay Organization



Submitted by: Bill Dickens

Contact: dickensb@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Pages 94-95 of the 2016 Book of Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Intent

To incentivize more local members to become members of the local lay organization.

Rationale

The Lay Organization is the key educational and training component for members to understand how the AME Church works and functions. Currently too few members and local officers are lay participants. Much of the cause for low lay participation is attributed to a "monthly meeting schedule". The low lay participation rate could be addressed by requiring local lay organizations to adopt a more flexible meeting schedule similar to Church School. This bill would require the local lay to meet more frequently thereby maximizing interest and member participation.

Current Text

1. The current text (pp. 94-95) reads: "The Lay Organization is
2. usually composed of three (3) or more persons. formed for
3. the purpose of instilling in its membership a love and
4. appreciation for the history, tradition, and principles of
5. African Methodism; advocating respect and loyalty to
6. constituted authority; encouraging the support of the total
7. program of the local church; fostering systematic and
8. regular study which will provide greater knowledge. and
9. participation in the church; organizing and training lay
10. members concerning the goals and objectives of the
11. Connectional Lay Organization."

Amended Text

1. After the last sentence in the above text insert: "The local
2. lay will conduct at least two meetings per month by in-
3. person or thru virtual meeting technologies like Zoom,
4. Facebook Live or GoTo Meeting to accommodate the
5. scheduling conflicts created by a monthly local lay meeting."

Bill Number: CM - 09

Title: The Local Church Organization



Submitted by: Submitted by Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District

Contact: tripettis@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016,
Section I, B, 4 (page 98) and Section II, C, 3c (pages 103-104)

Intent

To clarify the African Methodist Episcopal Church has one system of operating business.

Rationale

There is one system of operating the business of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The text in the Discipline suggests there are two systems the local church and an optional system of operating. The Central Budget Fund needs to be removed from the Optional Local Church Organization Commissions in the Local Church section because the Central Budget Fund is not a Commission, and would thus erase the idea that it is optional.

Current Text

1. 1 CURRENT TEXT: page 103, Section 3 Commission on
2. Stewardship and Finance, c.
3. 2 c. Central Budget Fund The work of the local church
4. requires the support of each member.
5. 3 Participation through services and gifts is a Christian duty
6. and a means of grace. In order that all
7. 4 members of the AME Church on the local level may share
8. in its manifold ministries at home and
9. 5 abroad, and that work committed to us may prosper, the
10. following financial plan is hereby duly
11. 6 approved and adopted. [(See Part II, Section VII:
12. Stewardship: Tithes and Offerings (Rules for
13. 7 Giving)]
14. 8 1) There may be established a central fund in the local
15. church known as the Central Budget
16. 9 Fund.
17. 10 2) The various causes and services included in this local
18. fund shall be:
19. 11 a) Ministers Support
20. 12 b) Benevolences
21. 13 c) Christian Education
22. 14 d) Public Relations
23. 15 e) Connectional Budget
24. 16 f) Conference Budget (District, Annual)
25. 17 g) Community Projects
26. 18 h) Current Trustee Expenses
27. 19 i) Purchase and Repair
28. 20 j) Church Expansion (Local)
29. 21 k) Travel (Minister and Lay)
30. 22 l) Extra Budget Projects
31. 23 m) Insurance
32. 24 n) Contingency

33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. 1 AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to page 99, Section 4
2. Business, new number e
3. 2 e. Central Budget Fund The work of the local church
4. requires the support of each member.
5. 3 Participation through services and gifts is a Christian duty
6. and a means of grace. In order that all
7. 4 members of the AME Church on the local level may share
8. in its manifold ministries at home and
9. 5 abroad, and that work committed to us may prosper, the
10. following financial plan is hereby duly
11. 6 approved and adopted. [See Part II, Section VII:
12. Stewardship: Tithes and Offerings (Rules for
13. 7 Giving)]
14. 8 1) There may be established a central fund in the local
15. church known as the Central Budget
16. 9 Fund.
17. 10 2) The various causes and services included in and not
18. limited to this local fund shall be:
19. 11 a) Ministers Support
20. 12 b) Benevolences
21. 13 c) Christian Education
22. 14 d) Public Relations
23. 15 e) Connectional Budget
24. 16 f) Conference Budget (District, Annual)
25. 17 g) Community Projects
26. 18 h) Current Trustee Expenses
27. 19 i) Purchase and Repair
28. 20 j) Church Expansion (Local)
29. 21 k) Travel (Minister and Lay)
30. 22 l) Extra Budget Projects
31. 23 m) Insurance
32. 24 n) Contingency

33. 25
34. 26
35. 27 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CM - 03

Title: Accountability in Reporting



Submitted by: Submitted by the Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District

Contact: tripettis@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016,
page 98

Intent

To ensure official reports submitted by the pastor and/or The Official Board
of a local church are accurate.

Rationale

There is a need to ensure accuracy in data shared in reports to the Quarterly
Conference, Annual Conference and other official reports of the local church. These documents are used to verify the
essential points of information in legal proceedings, personnel decisions, disciplinary actions and other processes. Thus,
accuracy, validation and honesty are essential in church reports. A signature is recognized as a sign of affirmation of
accuracy of the report.

Current Text

1. CURRENT TEXT: No current text.

2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to Part V Local Church
2. Organization, Section 1. Local
3. 3 Church Organization Required, Subsection B. The
4. Official Board, 4. Business
5. 4 4. Business
6. 5 a. The secretary shall keep a strict record of the
7. proceedings. All official reports
8. 6 called for in The Doctrine and Discipline of the African
9. Methodist Episcopal Church
10. 7 from the local church must include a signed affidavit as a
11. part of each report
12. 8 including the financial report, which is included in the
13. report from the Steward
14. 9 Board. The signature page of each report now serves as
15. the affidavit attesting to the
16. 10 accuracy of the report and must be signed by pastor and
17. the chairperson of the
18. 11 Organization. Copies of these reports must be
19. maintained in the official files of the
20. 12 church and when necessary copies should be given to
21. the Presiding Elder.
22. 13
23. 14 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CM - 04

Title: Accountability of Optional Commissions



Submitted by: Submitted by the Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District

Contact: tripettis@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, Section II Local Church Organization Optional Commissions A. Guidelines for Establishing Commissions, 1. Types, page 99

Intent

To clarify the African Methodist Episcopal Church's optional commission system of operating is accountable to the Official Board and Quarterly Conference.

Rationale

The use of optional commissions, is at times, misrepresented as operating outside the authority of the Official Board and Quarterly Conference. This legislation clarifies that optional commissions are accountable to the Official Board and Quarterly Conference.

Current Text

1. CURRENT TEXT: Section II, A. Guidelines for Establishing
2. Commissions, page 99
3. 2 1. Types
4. 3 There may be constituted in each local church the
5. following commissions, whose respective
6. 4 duties are hereinafter defined: a) The Commission on
7. Membership, Evangelism and
8. 5 Discipleship b) The Commission on Christian Education,
9. c) The Commission on Missions
10. 6 and Welfare, d) The Commission on Stewardship and
11. Finance, e) The Commission on Public
12. 7 Relations, f) The Commission on Christian Social Action
13. and g) The Commission on Health.

14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. 8 AMENDED/NEW TEXT: page 99, Section II LOCAL
2. CHURCH ORGANIZATION
3. 9 OPTIONAL COMMISSIONS A. Guidelines for
4. Establishing Commissions
5. 10 1. Types: There may be constituted in each local church
6. the following commissions, that are
7. 11 accountable to the Official Board and
8. QuarterlyConference, whose respective duties are
9. 12 hereinafter defined: a) The Commission on Membership,
10. Evangelism and Discipleship
11. 13 b) The Commission on Christian Education c) The
12. Commission on Missions and Welfare
13. 14 d) The Commission on Public Relations e) The
14. Commission on Christian Social Action and
15. 15 f) The Commission on Health.
16. 16
17. 17 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CM - 10

Title: Planning for Pandemics & Natural Disasters



Submitted by: Bill Dickens

Contact: ameeconomist@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, Page 105, Paragraph 6c.

Intent

To increase budgeted resources by \$200,000 per year for the AME Church to adequately respond to unexpected public health crises.

Rationale

The Coronavirus pandemic has radically changed our normal way of life. In order to be properly prepared in the likelihood of a future pandemic, the AME Church must have a sound contingency plan that can be rapidly deployed to serve our church communities. The current budget for the Commission on Health is woefully underfunded to adequately meet a future public health challenge.

This legislation will create additional funding to meet the challenges of pandemics and natural disasters like earthquakes, hurricanes and tornadoes.

Current Text

1. Page 106, Paragraph 6c reads: It (Commission on Health)
2. will submit an annual budget to the Commission on
3. Statistics and Finance.

4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. After the sentence above insert the following: The
2. Commission on Health will include in its budget request a
3. line item for \$200,000 per year in the next Quadrennial
4. Budget for the acquisition of skilled public health personnel
5. for rapid response to pandemics and/or natural disasters.

6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CM - 11

Title: Planning for Pandemics



Submitted by: Bill Dickens

Contact: dickensb@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 105, Paragraph 6c of the 2016 Book of Doctrine and Discipline

Intent

To increase budgeted resources by \$100,000 per year for the AME Church to adequately respond to unexpected public health crises.

Rationale

The Coronavirus has radically altered our normal way of life. In order to be better prepared in the likelihood of a future pandemic, the AME Church must have a sound contingency plan in place that can be rapidly deployed to serve our church communities. The current budget for the Commission on Health is woefully underfunded to adequately meet a future public health challenge. This legislation will create additional funding to meet the challenge.

Current Text

1. Page 105, paragraph 6c reads: "It (Commission on Health)
2. shall submit an annual budget to the Commission on
3. Stewardship and Finance."

4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. "The Commission on Health will include in its budget
2. request a line item specifically for public health pandemic
3. planning in the amount of no less \$100,000 each for the
4. Quadrennial Budget."

5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: MIN - 14

Title: CALL TO PREACH QUESTION



Submitted by: Rev. Dr. A. Qismat Alim

Contact: Qismat2002@aol.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Part VII Procedures for Ministerial Service, Section I. The Call to Preach A. Questions for Persons Seeking a License to Preach (p. 113)

Intent

This legislation will provide clear guidance to assist those with a desire to serve the church and will make a distinction between those who are called to teach, become a missionary or a call to preach.

Rationale

Adding the question Have they acknowledged and confessed that God has called them to Preach the Gospel? will help the Board of Examiners to provide the necessary guidance to assist individuals with fulfilling this commission.

The current questions regarding the call to preach do not address the commissioning of God to specifically preach. The current questions could apply to all persons who become Christians without a distinction to the call to preach.

Current Text

1. A. Questions for Persons Seeking a License to Preach
2. As to religious experience:
3. a. Do they know God as a pardoning God?
4. b. Do they have the love of God abiding in them?
5. c. Do they desire and seek nothing but God?
6. d. Are they holy in all manner of conversation?
7. As to gifts:
8. Do they have a clear, sound understanding; a right
9. judgment in the things of God, and
10. just conception of salvation by faith?
11. As to fruits:
12. Are they truly convinced of sin and converted to God by
13. their preaching?
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. ADD 4. As to commissioning:
2. Have they acknowledged and confessed that God has
3. called them to Preach the Gospel?
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number:

Title: Call to Preach Question



Submitted by: Rev. Dr. A. Qismat Alim

Contact: Qismat2002@aol.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Part VII Procedures for Ministerial Service, Section I. The Call to Preach A. Questions for Persons Seeking a License to Preach (p. 113)

Intent

This legislation will provide clear guidance to assist those with a desire to serve the church and will make a distinction between those who are called to teach, become a missionary or a call to preach.

Rationale

Adding the question Have they acknowledged and confessed that God has called them to Preach the Gospel? will help the Board of Examiners to provide the necessary guidance to assist individuals with fulfilling this commission. The current questions regarding the call to preach do not address the commissioning of God to specifically preach. The current questions could apply to all persons who become Christians without a distinction to the call to preach.

Current Text

1. A. Questions for Persons Seeking a License to Preach As
2. to religious experience: a. Do they know God as a
3. pardoning God? b. Do they have the love of God abiding in
4. them? c. Do they desire and seek nothing but God? d. Are
5. they holy in all manner of conversation? As to gifts: Do they
6. have a clear, sound understanding; a right judgment in the
7. things of God, and just conception of salvation by faith? As
8. to fruits: Are they truly convinced of sin and converted to
9. God by their preaching?

10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. ADD As to commissioning: Have they acknowledged and
2. confessed that God has called them to Preach the Gospel?

3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: MIN - 16

Title: Licentiate



Submitted by: Veronica Finney

Contact: vmfinney@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 119

Intent

To add language that will allow for virtual attendance of candidates for orders to the Annual Conference and/or other conferences as outlined in part VII Procedures for Ministerial Service for Board of Examiners examination.

Rationale

There are AME members who are called to the ministry but are not able to physically attend the Annual Conference and/or other conferences as outlined in part VII Procedures for Ministerial Service for examinations by the Board of Examiners (BOE) due to military, DOD (Department of Defense), other job commitments, and/or living OCONUS (outside the continental United States). The current language does not call for a physical presence. It merely states that the candidates are to be examined at the annual conference. This proposal will provide an avenue for candidates to meet the board of examiners requirements and continue to fulfill their job commitment. This proposal will also implement a strategy that supports the mission, vision, purpose, and objectives of the AMEC, supports Bishops vision for 21st century technology integration in the AMEC, relieve AMEC members of undue emotional and financial hardship (possible job lose and excessive travel expenses), and further the spread of the gospel of Christ and the mission of the AMEC around the globe.

Current Text

1. Candidates for orders shall be examined twice a year by the
2. Annual Conference Board of Examiners. These
3. examinations shall take place at the Annual Conference and
4. before the expiration of a period not exceeding six (6)
5. months after the close of the Annual Conference. The
6. candidates shall be notified by mail thirty (30) days before
7. the scheduled examinations.

8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Candidates for orders shall be examined twice a year by the
2. Annual Conference Board of Examiners. These
3. examinations shall take place at the Annual Conference and
4. before the expiration of a period not exceeding six (6)
5. months after the close of the Annual Conference. The
6. candidates who plan to physically attend the Annual
7. Conference shall be notified by mail thirty (30) days before
8. the scheduled examinations.
9. When physical attendance to the Annual Conference and/or
10. other conferences as outlined in part VII Procedures for
11. Ministerial Service is not possible due to extenuating
12. circumstances, i.e. living outside of the continental United
13. States in an area where there are no AMEC, military, DoD,
14. or other justifiable obligations or circumstances, candidates
15. can meet the examination requirements virtually via Zoom,
16. Go2Meeting, Skype, Google Hangout, Conference Calls, or
17. some other appropriate virtual venue established by the
18. BOE. Candidates are responsible to inform and provide
19. evidence of extenuating circumstances to their pastor and
20. the BOE sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Conference.
21. The candidates shall be notified at least thirty (30) days
22. prior to the scheduled examinations and/or Annual
23. Conference of their decision, by email and/or telephone, to
24. allow for virtual attendance. Regular mail when applicable. If
25. the BOE approves of virtual attendance, the BOE will
26. provide all necessary connectivity information (links, phone
27. numbers, instruction for connecting, etc.). The Candidate
28. has five (5) days after receiving the BOE decision to accept
29. or repeal. The acceptance or repeal must be in writing via
30. email, fax, and/or scan. Regular mail when applicable.

31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: MIN - 02

Title: Ministerial Training Board Composition



Submitted by: Sandra Nelson on behalf of 5th District Lay Organization

Contact: sen50@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, Part VII, Section III, Subsection C -Ministerial Training Board (Committee on Instruction); Pages 120 and 121.

Intent

To amend the composition of the Ministerial Training Board to include lay instructors.

Rationale

Under the current composition listed in the Doctrine and Discipline, there is no requirement that the members of the Training Board be only ordained persons as is the case with the Board of Examiners. The Course of Instruction includes classes that credentialed members of laity are highly qualified to teach. The AME church should take full advantage of its resources in an effort to get the best results in all its endeavors, for the benefit of our Zion. Therefore, lay persons who are certified and qualified to teach classes in the Course of Instruction should be retained for the purpose, thus promoting clergy and laity collaborating in the training of our ordained servants.

Current Text

1. Part VII, Sec. III. B.; Page 120 (1st paragraph)
2. The presiding bishop shall appoint the Dean of Ministerial
3. Training of the conference. The dean, in turn, shall
4. nominate the staff (committees) which shall be confirmed by
5. the Annual Conference.

6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Part VII, Sec. III. B.; Page 120 (1st para.)
2. The presiding Bishop shall appoint the Dean of Ministerial
3. Training of the conference. The dean, in turn, shall
4. nominate the staff (committees) which will consist of highly
5. qualified and/or certified clergy and laity which shall be
6. confirmed by the Annual Conference.
7. Financial Implications: Should be neutral as the composition
8. is changing and not necessarily the number of instructors.

9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.



Submitted by: JACQUELYN DUPONT-WALKER

Contact: JDUPONTW@AOL.COM

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

page 121- course of instruction for preachers

page 122 - continued

page 144 - Evangelist

Intent

The 2016 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church provides some guidance, but does not clearly delineate the standards, skills, and education required to become an effective Evangelist. The current legislation does not define this ministry, nor outline the scope of ministry, license requirements, training needed and restrictions of this office. This legislation proposes to do just that.

Rationale

The Church, from its founding, has recognized the diversity of gifts and callings that made up the body of Christ. In fact, in Methodism, we refer to "the priesthood of all believers". In Ephesians, Paul not only elaborates on the diversity of callings, but he also lists several. He writes:

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and father of all, who is above all and through all, and in you all.... Paul in his letter to the church of Ephesus identifies Evangelist as a distinct ministry and call. Furthermore Christ changed the church to: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with always even to the end of the age. Amen" "Matthew 28:18-20 (NKLX)

While it is a responsibility for all members to participate in the evangelism programs of the local church there are those who are gifted and called to this ministry. At a time when we lament the dwindling number of "members" and visitors attending worship services, the need for Evangelist is of utmost importance. Those called to Evangelism have the awesome responsibility as well as gifts necessary to ministry to the souls of people who are wondering, hurting, confused, intolerant angry and despondent. Evangelists have the opportunity to reach out beyond the walls of the church to spread the good news that God loves unconditionally. It is the purpose of this legislation to further define the role of an Evangelist as well as the necessary training and preparation.

Current Text

1. page 144
2. E. Evangelist
3. 1. Each Evangelist licensed b our bishop and Annual
4. Conferences shall be required to be of good moral
5. character
6. 2. An Evangelist must hold, at least a licence to preach
7. 3. An Evangelist must be a member of the local church,
8. assist with class meetings and and cooperating with the
9. pastor for the good of the work.
10. 4. Evangelists are amenable to the Quarterly District and
11. Annual Conferences and are required to report to all. All
12. evangelists shall be subject to the authority of minister-in-
13. charge.

Amended Text

1. Evangelism
2. Evangelist Definition
3. A person who is zealous in teaching, proclaiming and spreading the Gospel in
4. order to lead the unsaved, unchurched, and unconcerned to active participation in
5. the work of the Lord and the Church. A person who seeks to tell the story of a
6. liberating faith and win souls for Christ through conversations and expanding the
7. body of Christ through accessions.
8. Scope of Ministry
9. An Evangelist must
10. 1. Be able to communicate a clear understanding of the Bible's message of
11. forgiveness and salvation through Christ and to convey the message in his/her
12. own style.
13. 2. Be able to effectively share and establish relation ship with the unsaved,
14. unchurched, and unconcerned.
15. 3. Be able to use his/her talents to fulfill the Calling through programs, witnessing,
16. teaching and other activities that spread the Gospel beyond the walls of the
17. church.
18. License
19. 1) An evangelist must be amenable to the Quarterly, District, and Annual
20. Conferences and is required to report to all. All Evangelists shall be subject to the
21. authority of the minister-in-charge of their local congregations.
22. 2) An Evangelist may hold a license to preach from the Quarterly Conference
23. prior to licensing by the Annual Conference.
24. 3) An Evangelist must successfully complete the Class on Evangelism prior to
25. licensing by the Annual Conference
26. 4) Evangelists shall be licensed by the bishop and annual conference. Each shall
27. be required to be of good and moral character.
28. 5) An Evangelist must be a member of a local church, assisting with class
29. meetings and cooperating with the pastor for the good of the work.
30. Training and Recommended Course of Study
31. The Board of Examiners Class on Evangelism shall ensure that each applicant for
32. license has completed a course of study to include readings, papers,
33. presentations, and project. The shall should prepare each student for a. teaching,
34. b, witnessing, c. program development, d. preaching, e. social justice intervention,
35. f. other activities that spread the Gospel and bring people to Christ. The
36. Evangelism class would include, but not be limited to:
37. A. Evangelism
38. 1. Bible
39. 2. Christian Apologetics
40. 3. Program Development
41. 4. Marketing/Advertising
42. 5. Civic Engagement, Equity and Advocacy
43. Readings
44. The course should identify the best resources,, and update the reading list as
45. needed. Core readings would include, such as:
46. 1)The Heart of Evangelism - Jerram Barrs
47. 2) Evangelism in the Early Church - Michael Green
48. 3) The Unchurched Next Door - Understanding Faith Stages as Keys to Sharing
49. Your Faith- Thom S Rainer
50. 4) Lost in America - How You and Your Church Can Impact the World Next Door
51. - Tom Clegg
52. 5) Moving In the Right Direction - Earl R. Jefferson
53. 6) The Laity in Ministry - Gregory Peck, John Hoffman
54. 7) Freedom's Prophet - Richard S Newman
55. 8) A Black Theology of Liberation - James Cone
56. 9) The Bible - any translation but NRSV preferred
57. Restrictions
58. Evangelists may conduct devotional exercises, participate in services of worship,
59. preach the gospel and conduct acts of ministry from the lectern, except that
60. Evangelists shall not perform those function of ministry generally regarded as
61. priestly responsibility such as solemnizing weddings, unless authorized by
62. government authorities, as a notary public; marriage officer or recorder of deeds,
63. consecrating the elements of the Holy Communion, performing baptisms,
64. unveiling tombstones, and perform rituals associated with burying the dead
65. except when authorized by the Presiding Bishop of the Annual Conference.
66. NOTE: This legislation has no financial impact.
67. Submitted by the 5th District Legislative Task Force

Bill Number:

Title: EVANGELISM



Submitted by: JACQUELYN DUPONT-WALKER

Contact: JDUPONTW@AOL.COM

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

page 121- course of instruction for preachers

page 122 - continued

page 144 - Evangelist

Intent

The 2016 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church provides some guidance, but does not clearly delineate the standards, skills, and education required to become an effective Evangelist. The current legislation does not define this ministry, nor outline the scope of ministry, license requirements, training needed and restrictions of this office. This legislation proposes to do just that.

Rationale

The Church, from its founding, has recognized the diversity of gifts and callings that made up the body of Christ. In fact, in Methodism, we refer to "the priesthood of all believers". In Ephesians, Paul not only elaborates on the diversity of callings, but he also lists several. He writes:

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and father of all, who is above all and through all, and in you all.... Paul in his letter to the church of Ephesus identifies Evangelist as a distinct ministry and call. Furthermore Christ changed the church to: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with always even to the end of the age. Amen" "Matthew 28:18-20 (NKLX)

While it is a responsibility for all members to participate in the evangelism programs of the local church there are those who are gifted and called to this ministry. At a time when we lament the dwindling number of "members" and visitors attending worship services, the need for Evangelist is of utmost importance. Those called to Evangelism have the awesome responsibility as well as gifts necessary to ministry to the souls of people who are wondering, hurting, confused, intolerant angry and despondent. Evangelists have the opportunity to reach out beyond the walls of the church to spread the good news that God loves unconditionally. It is the purpose of this legislation to further define the role of an Evangelist as well as the necessary training and preparation.

Current Text

1. page 144
2. E. Evangelist
3. 1. Each Evangelist licensed b our bishop and Annual
4. Conferences shall be required to be of good moral
5. character
6. 2. An Evangelist must hold, at least a licence to preach
7. 3. An Evangelist must be a member of the local church,
8. assist with class meetings and and cooperating with the
9. pastor for the good of the work.
10. 4. Evangelists are amenable to the Quarterly District and
11. Annual Conferences and are required to report to all. All
12. evangelists shall be subject to the authority of minister-in-
13. charge.

Amended Text

1. Evangelism
2. Evangelist Definition
3. A person who is zealous in teaching, proclaiming and spreading the Gospel in
4. order to lead the unsaved, unchurched, and unconcerned to active participation in
5. the work of the Lord and the Church. A person who seeks to tell the story of a
6. liberating faith and win souls for Christ through conversations and expanding the
7. body of Christ through accessions.
8. Scope of Ministry
9. An Evangelist must
10. 1. Be able to communicate a clear understanding of the Bible's message of
11. forgiveness and salvation through Christ and to convey the message in his/her
12. own style.
13. 2. Be able to effectively share and establish relation ship with the unsaved,
14. unchurched, and unconcerned.
15. 3. Be able to use his/her talents to fulfill the Calling through programs, witnessing,
16. teaching and other activities that spread the Gospel beyond the walls of the
17. church.
18. License
19. 1) An evangelist must be amenable to the Quarterly, District, and Annual
20. Conferences and is required to report to all. All Evangelists shall be subject to the
21. authority of the minister-in-charge of their local congregations.
22. 2) An Evangelist may hold a license to preach from the Quarterly Conference
23. prior to licensing by the Annual Conference.
24. 3) An Evangelist must successfully complete the Class on Evangelism prior to
25. licensing by the Annual Conference
26. 4) Evangelists shall be licensed by the bishop and annual conference. Each shall
27. be required to be of good and moral character.
28. 5) An Evangelist must be a member of a local church, assisting with class
29. meetings and cooperating with the pastor for the good of the work.
30. Training and Recommended Course of Study
31. The Board of Examiners Class on Evangelism shall ensure that each applicant for
32. license has completed a course of study to include readings, papers,
33. presentations, and project. The shall should prepare each student for a. teaching,
34. b, witnessing, c. program development, d. preaching, e. social justice intervention,
35. f. other activities that spread the Gospel and bring people to Christ. The
36. Evangelism class would include, but not be limited to:
37. A. Evangelism
38. 1. Bible
39. 2. Christian Apologetics
40. 3. Program Development
41. 4. Marketing/Advertising
42. 5. Civic Engagement, Equity and Advocacy
43. Readings
44. The course should identify the best resources,, and update the reading list as
45. needed. Core readings would include, such as:
46. 1)The Heart of Evangelism - Jerram Barrs
47. 2) Evangelism in the Early Church - Michael Green
48. 3) The Unchurched Next Door - Understanding Faith Stages as Keys to Sharing
49. Your Faith- Thom S Rainer
50. 4) Lost in America - How You and Your Church Can Impact the World Next Door
51. - Tom Clegg
52. 5) Moving In the Right Direction - Earl R. Jefferson
53. 6) The Laity in Ministry - Gregory Peck, John Hoffman
54. 7) Freedom's Prophet - Richard S Newman
55. 8) A Black Theology of Liberation - James Cone
56. 9) The Bible - any translation but NRSV preferred
57. Restrictions
58. Evangelists may conduct devotional exercises, participate in services of worship,
59. preach the gospel and conduct acts of ministry from the lectern, except that
60. Evangelists shall not perform those function of ministry generally regarded as
61. priestly responsibility such as solemnizing weddings, unless authorized by
62. government authorities, as a notary public; marriage officer or recorder of deeds,
63. consecrating the elements of the Holy Communion, performing baptisms,
64. unveiling tombstones, and perform rituals associated with burying the dead
65. except when authorized by the Presiding Bishop of the Annual Conference.
66. NOTE: This legislation has no financial impact.
67. Submitted by the 5th District Legislative Task Force

Bill Number: MIN - 01

Title: Course of Instruction for Preachers



Submitted by: Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District

Contact: tripettis@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine & Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, C. Ministerial Training Board (Committees on Instruction) page 121

Intent

To ensure all candidates entering the ministry are trained in the history, polity, administration and doctrine of the AME Church.

Rationale

Given there are several optional educational institutions that candidates for ministry may attend, the educational programs may not offer instruction in the AME Church history, polity, administration and doctrine. It is important all candidates entering the ministry in the AME Church receive training in the history, polity, administration and doctrine of the AME Church.

Current Text

1. 1 CURRENT TEXT: C. Ministerial Training Board
2. (Committee on Instruction),
3. 2 D. Course of Instruction for Preachers, page 121
4. 3 D. Course of Instruction for Preachers
5. 4 The following course of study constitutes the minimum
6. requirement for each of
7. 5 the four (4) years of study, after the candidate has been
8. admitted to the Annual
9. 6 Conference. A candidate who is regularly enrolled in an
10. approved theological
11. 7 seminary may be exempted from the general course of
12. study, but must be
13. 8 required to study and pass an examination in the history,
14. polity, doctrine and
15. 9 current program of the AME Church. The Board of
16. Examiners should determine
17. 10 whether a candidate is fully registered and presently
18. attending an accredited
19. 11 seminary.

20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. 1 AMENDED/NEW TEXT: D. Course of Instruction for
2. Preachers, page 121
3. 2 D. Course of Instruction for Preachers
4. 3 The following course of study constitutes the minimum
5. requirement for each of
6. 4 the four (4) years of study, after the candidate has been
7. admitted to the Annual
8. 5 Conference. A candidate who is regularly enrolled in an
9. approved theological
10. 6 seminary may be exempted from the general course of
11. study. The Board of
12. 7 Examiners must provide instruction in the history, polity,
13. doctrine,
14. 8 administration and current program of the AME Church to
15. all candidates.
16. 9 Candidates should be directed to experience AME
17. Churches to assist in their
18. 10 understanding of the function of the local church.
19. Candidates will also be tested
20. 11 on their ability to conduct the Official Board, Church
21. Conference and Quarterly
22. 12 Conference. In addition, the candidate must pass an
23. exam on the history, polity,
24. 13 administration doctrine and current program of the AME
25. Church. The Board of
26. 14 Examiners should determine whether a candidate is fully
27. registered and
28. 15 presently attending an accredited seminary.
29. 16
30. 17
31. 18 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number:

Title: EVANGELISM



Submitted by: Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker & Roger Richardson

Contact: jdupontw@aol.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

page 121 - course of instruction for preachers

page 122 - continued

page 144 - Evangelist

Intent

The 2016 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church provides some guidance, but does not clearly delineate the standards, skills, and education required to become an effective Evangelist.

the current legislation does not define this ministry. nor outline the scope of ministry, license requirements, training needed and restrictions of this office. This legislation proposes to do just that.

Rationale

The Church, from its founding, has recognized the diversity of gifts and callings that make up the body of Christ. In fact, in Methodism, we refer to the priesthood of all believers. In Ephesians Paul not only elaborates on the diversity of callings but he also lists several. He writes:

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." (Now this, "He ascended"--what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, Ephesians 4:4-12 (NKJV)

Paul in his letter to the church at Ephesus identifies Evangelist as a distinct ministry and calling. Furthermore, Christ charged the church to:

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)

While it is a responsibility for all members to participate in the evangelism programs of the local church there are those who are gifted and called to this ministry. At a time when we lament the dwindling numbers of members, and visitors attending worship services, the need for Evangelist is of utmost importance. Those called to Evangelism have the awesome responsibility as well as gifts necessary to minister to the souls of people who are wondering, hurting, confused, intolerant, angry and despondent. Evangelists have the opportunity to reach out beyond the walls of the church to spread the good news that God loves unconditionally. It is the purpose of this legislation to further define the role of an Evangelist as well as the

Current Text

1. page 122; Our team always insures
2. The Course of Instruction
3. a. Admissions;
4. 1) Bible
5. 2) Church Tradition
6. b. First Year Studies;
7. c. Second Year Studies;
8. d. Third Year Studies;
9. e. Fourth Year Studies;
10. page 144
11. E Evangelist
12. 1. Each Evangelist licensed by our bishop and Annual
13. Conferences shall be required to be of good moral
14. character.
15. 2. An evangelist must hold, at least, a local preacher's
16. license.
17. 3. An evangelist must be a member of the local church,
18. assisting with class meetings, and cooperating with the
19. pastor for the good of the work.
20. 4. Evangelists are amenable to the Quarterly, District and
21. Annual Conferences and are required to report to all. All
22. evangelists shall be subject to the authority of the minister-
23. in-charge.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Recommended Course of Study
2. A. Evangelism
3. 1. Bible
4. 2. Christian Apologetics
5. 3. Program Development
6. 4. Marketing/Advertising
7. Page 144
8. Evangelist
9. Definition
10. A person who is zealous in preaching, teaching and spreading the Gospel in
11. order to lead the unsaved, unchurched and unconcerned to active
12. participation in the work of the Lord and the Church. A person who seeks to
13. win souls for Christ through conversions and expanding the body of Christ
14. through accessions.
15. Scope of Ministry
16. 1) Must be able to communicate a clear understanding of the Bible's message
17. of forgiveness and salvation through Christ and to convey the message in
18. his/her own style.
19. 2) Must be able to effectively share and establish relationships with the
20. unsaved, unchurched and unconcerned.
21. 3) Must be able to use her/his talents to fulfill this Calling through preaching,
22. programs, witnessing, teaching and other activities that spread the Gospel
23. beyond the walls of the church.
24. License
25. 1) An Evangelist must be amenable to the Quarterly, District and Annual
26. Conferences, and is required to report to all. All Evangelists shall be subject
27. to the authority of the minister-in-charge of their local congregations.
28. 2) An Evangelist may hold, a license to preach from the quarterly conference
29. prior to licensing by the Annual Conference.
30. 3) An Evangelist must successfully complete the Class on Evangelism prior to
31. licensing by the Annual Conference.
32. 4) Evangelist shall be licensed by our bishops and Annual Conferences. Each
33. shall be required to be of good and moral character.
34. 5) Must be a member of the local church, assisting with class meetings and
35. cooperating with the pastor for the good of the work.
36. Training
37. 1. The Board of Examiners Class on Evangelism shall ensure that each
38. applicant for license has completed a course of study that includes: readings,
39. papers, presentations, and projects. The class should prepare each student
40. for: a. preaching, b. program development, c. witnessing, d. marketing, e.
41. teaching and f. other activities that spread the Gospel and bring people to
42. Christ.
43. Readings
44. 1) The Heart of Evangelism - Jerram Barrs
45. 2) Evangelism in the Early Church - Michael Green
46. 3) The Unchurched Next Door: Understanding Faith Stages as Keys to
47. Sharing Your Faith - Thom S. Rainer
48. 4) Lost in America: How You and Your Church Can Impact the World Next
49. Door - Tom Clegg
50. Restrictions
51. 1) They may; conduct devotional exercises, participate in services of worship,
52. preach the gospel and conduct acts of ministry from the lectern, except that;
53. 2) Evangelists shall not perform those functions of ministry generally regarded
54. as priestly responsibility such as solemnizing weddings, unless authorized by
55. government authorities, as a notary public, marriage officer or recorder of
56. deeds, consecrating the elements of the Holy Communion, performing
57. baptisms, unveiling tombstones, and performing rituals associated with
58. burying the dead except when authorized by the Presiding Bishop of the
59. Annual Conference.
60. NOTE: This legislation has no financial impact.
- 61.
- 62.
- 63.
- 64.

Bill Number: MIN - 04

Title: Ministerial Training Board Course of Instruction



Submitted by: Sandra Nelson on behalf of 5th District Lay Organization

Contact: sen50@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, Part VII, Section III, Subsection C -Ministerial Training Board (Committee on Instruction); Pages 122

Intent

To amend the Doctrine and Discipline to augment the Course of Instruction by including study of the Doctrine and Discipline of the A. M. E. Church, and training in Fiscal and Personnel Management.

Rationale

The Course of Instruction should provide comprehensive training, addressing all areas for effective ministerial service that will enhance the local churches. Study of the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and training in fiscal and personnel management are essential areas of ministerial preparation for effectual leadership at every level of our Zion. These classes need to be specifically listed.

Current Text

1. Part VII, Sec. III. C.; Page 122
2. The Course of Instruction
3. A. Admissions: 1) Church Tradition 2) Bible
4. B. First Year Studies: 1) Bible 2) Church Administration 3)
5. Church Tradition 4) Preaching
6. 5) Theology
7. D. Third Year Studies: 1) Bible 2) Christian Education 3)
8. Church History
9. 4) Church Leadership 5) Preaching 6) Theology 7)Worship
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Part VII, Sec. III. C.; Page 122
2. The Course of Instruction
3. A. Admissions: 1) Bible 2)Church Tradition
4. 3) The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist
5. Episcopal Church (current ed.)
6. B. First Year Studies: 1) Bible 2) Church Administration 3)
7. Church Tradition 4) Preaching 5) Theology 6) The Doctrine
8. and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
9. D. Third Year Studies: 1) Bible 2) Christian Education 3)
10. Church History
11. 4) Church Leadership 5) Preaching 6) Theology 7)Worship
12. 8) Management Financial and Personnel
13. Financial Implications: None
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: MIN - 15

Title: LOVE FEAST TICKET LANGUAGE CHANGE



Submitted by: Rev. Dr. Clay Barrow

Contact: Revb614@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

MINISTERIAL CLASSIFICATIONS, RULES AND SUPPORT, Paragraph B. Responsibilities item 16 (p. 131)

Intent

Revision of the wording from compulsory and obligatory language to more open language

Rationale

Love Feast is a historical and cherished Ritual observed by early Methodists and the forefathers of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is a ritual that has, unfortunately, lost preeminence in many churches and is unknown in others. This change intends to encourage the renewal of this beautiful ritual not as a mandate but as a tool providing the means of teaching love of God and neighbors. With the revision, the concept of who can come to Communion should be broadened in keeping with Article #19 of the Articles of Religion, which forbids the denial of the cup of any layperson. Whoever partakes of this Holy Sacrament should always be allowed to participate in a free and open table after praying the General Confession.

Current Text

1. According to MINISTERIAL CLASSIFICATIONS, RULES
2. AND SUPPORT,
3. Paragraph B. Responsibilities item 16 (p. 131): The pastor
4. shall give Love Feast Tickets
5. to all full members in good standingbut to no othersand
6. shall renew said tickets
7. quarterly. The pastor may, with the utmost caution, issue a
8. note of permission to attend
9. the Love Feast to any serious person who has attended
10. class three (3) times or is
11. recommended by a responsible person known to the pastor,
12. but never to two (2)
13. consecutive Love Feasts, nor more than three (3) times,
14. without the person becoming a
15. member.

Amended Text

1. The pastor is encouraged to conduct Love Feast before
2. each Communion service.
3. Those who participate in Love Feast will be invited to the
4. first table at Communion when
5. feasible.

Bill Number:

Title: Love Feast Ticket Language Change



Submitted by: Rev. Dr. Clay Barrow

Contact: Revb614@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

MINISTERIAL CLASSIFICATIONS, RULES AND SUPPORT, Paragraph B. Responsibilities item 16 (p. 131)

Intent

Revision of the wording from compulsory and obligatory language to more open language

Rationale

Love Feast is a historical and cherished Ritual observed by early Methodists and the forefathers of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It is a ritual that has, unfortunately, lost preeminence in many churches and is unknown in others. This change intends to encourage the renewal of this beautiful ritual not as a mandate but as a tool providing the means of teaching love of God and neighbors. With the revision, the concept of who can come to Communion should be broadened in keeping with Article #19 of the Articles of Religion, which forbids the denial of the cup of any layperson. Whoever partakes of this Holy Sacrament should always be allowed to participate in a free and open table after praying the General Confession.

Current Text

1. According to MINISTERIAL CLASSIFICATIONS, RULES
2. AND SUPPORT, Paragraph B. Responsibilities item 16 (p.
3. 131): The pastor shall give Love Feast Tickets to all full
4. members in good standingbut to no othersand shall renew
5. said tickets quarterly. The pastor may, with the utmost
6. caution, issue a note of permission to attend the Love Feast
7. to any serious person who has attended class three (3)
8. times or is recommended by a responsible person known to
9. the pastor, but never to two (2) consecutive Love Feasts,
10. nor more than three (3) times, without the person becoming
11. a member.

12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. The pastor is encouraged to conduct Love Feast before
2. each Communion service. Those who participate in Love
3. Feast will be invited to the first table at Communion when
4. 13. feasible.

5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: MIN - 05

Title: Mileage Reimbursement for Ministers Church Travel



Submitted by: Submitted by Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District

Contact: tripettis@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine & Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2016, page 139 and Internal Revenue Service

Intent

To ensure mileage reimbursement for the ministers church travel is the same rate as the Internal Revenue Service mileage rate.

Rationale

A minister uses his/her personal vehicle for church travel. The mileage reimbursement rate is intended to cover the costs for operating a car for business purposes. The costs that are contemplated by the standard mileage rate are standard maintenance, repairs, taxes, gas insurance and registration fees. Ministers should be compensated the same rate as the Internal Revenue Service mileage rate. In addition, because the rate changes, this law shall change when the rate changes.

Current Text

1. 1 CURRENT TEXT: Page 139, Section C, Note: It shall be
2. understood that the term
3. 2 pastoral charge shall be interpreted to mean an individual
4. church or group of
5. 3 churches (circuit) that a pastor serves on a Presiding
6. Elders District. In the case
7. 4 of circuits and Presiding Elders Districts, the travel
8. expenses of the minister,
9. 5 unless otherwise provided for, shall be computed on the
10. basis of thirty-five (35)
11. 6 cents per mile one way, and these expenses shall be an
12. allowable deduction from
13. 7 the ministers income from the pastoral charge.

Amended Text

1. 1 AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Page 139, Section C. Note: It
2. shall be understood that
3. 2 the term pastoral charge shall be interpreted to mean an
4. individual church or
5. 3 group of churches (circuit) that a pastor serves on a
6. Presiding Elders District. In
7. 4 the case of circuits and Presiding Elders Districts, the
8. travel expenses of the
9. 5 minister, unless otherwise provided for, shall be computed
10. on the basis of
11. 6 fifty-seven and one half (57.5) cents per mile one way,
12. and these expenses shall be
13. 7 an allowable deduction from the ministers income from
14. the pastoral charge. The
15. 8 rate shall be in accordance with the current rate the
16. federal government pays and
17. 9 the rate adjusted as the Internal Revenue Service
18. changes its rate and thus
19. 10 becoming the current law.
20. 11
21. 12
22. 13 Funding: At the local church level there is funding
23. associated with this Bill.

Bill Number: MIN - 13

Title: MINISTERS BILL OF RIGHTS COMPARABLE DEFINITION CLARIFICATION



Submitted by: Rev. Linda E. Mouzon

Contact: revlindamouzon@verizon.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Part VIII Ministerial Classification, Rules and Support Section III. Ministers Bill of Rights, B. Basic Rights of Itinerant Ministers;
1. Pastoral Appointment (140)

Intent

The proposed legislation intends to eliminate/decrease the number of lawsuits by defining comparable. This clarification is based upon accepted dictionary definitions

Rationale

This proposal provides clarification of the terms shall be comparable to or better than the previous one and reflects the church's current standing at the time of his/her departure. This clarification eliminates subjective interpretations of the word comparable.

Current Text

1. A pastoral appointment equal to their abilities, training, and
2. experience, when available.
3. The new appointment, when available, shall be comparable
4. to or better than the previous
5. one, provided the pastor has not been found guilty under
6. Judicial Administration. The
7. action shall result in location or an appointment that reflects
8. the Churchs current
9. standing at the time of his or her departure.

10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. A pastoral appointment equal to their abilities, training, and
2. experience, when
3. available. The new appointment when available shall be
4. comparable to (i.e. similar to
5. the churchs current status) and or better than the previous
6. one, provided the pastor has
7. not been found guilty under Judicial Administration. The
8. action may result in location
9. or an appointment that reflects the Churchs current standing
10. at the time of his or
11. her departure as confirmed by the numerical and financial
12. condition of the church
13. certified by the Quarterly Conference and the Presiding
14. Elder and affirmed by a
15. document written, submitted, and signed by the Board of
16. Stewards verifying that the
17. information is accurate.

18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: MIN - 13

Title: Ministers Bill of Rights Comparable Definition Clarification



Submitted by: Rev. Linda E. Mouzon

Contact: revlindamouzon@verizon.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Part VIII Ministerial Classification, Rules and Support Section III. Ministers Bill of Rights, B. Basic Rights of Itinerant Ministers;
1. Pastoral Appointment (140)

Intent

The proposed legislation intends to eliminate/decrease the number of lawsuits by defining comparable. This clarification is based upon accepted dictionary definitions

Rationale

This proposal provides clarification of the terms shall be comparable to or better than the previous one and reflects the church's current standing at the time of his/her departure. This clarification eliminates subjective interpretations of the word comparable.

Current Text

1. A pastoral appointment equal to their abilities, training, and
2. experience, when available. The new appointment, when
3. available, shall be comparable to or better than the previous
4. one, provided the pastor has not been found guilty under
5. Judicial Administration. The action shall result in location or
6. an appointment that reflects the Church's current standing at
7. the time of his or her departure.

Amended Text

1. A pastoral appointment equal to their abilities, training, and
2. experience, when available. The new appointment when
3. available shall be comparable to (i.e. similar to the church's
4. current status) and or better than the previous one, provided
5. the pastor has not been found guilty under Judicial
6. Administration. The action may result in location or an
7. appointment that reflects the Church's current standing at
8. the time of his or her departure as confirmed by the
9. numerical and financial condition of the church certified by
10. the Quarterly Conference and the Presiding Elder and
11. affirmed by a document written, submitted, and signed by
12. the Board of Stewards verifying that the information is
13. accurate.

Bill Number: MIN - 06

Title: Transfer to Another Annual Conference



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 142, Section III B.9

Intent

To assure certificates are issued in a timely manner.

Rationale

To preclude arbitrary denials and delays in issuing certificates without explanation as to reason or cause.

Current Text

1. None

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. conference. Absent extenuating circumstances, the

2. certificate of transfer or written denial shall be issued within

3. 90 days of the request. The written denial must include why

4. the requesting minister is not considered in good and

5. regular standing. The certificate of transfer once issued

6. shall be accepted by the receiving Bishop. Open transfers

7. shall also be acknowledged.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: MIN - 08

Title: Timeframe for Request by Presiding Elders to Locate a Preacher



Submitted by: Submitted by Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District

Contact: tripettis@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, Part IX Section I-D. Request by Presiding Elders to Locate a Preacher (page 156)

Intent

To allow the Ministerial Efficiency Committee (MEC) as a Standing Committee to act as provided for in Part IX, Section I-C.

Rationale

A function of the Ministerial Efficiency Committee should be to serve as a clearing house to help solve issues with ministers before the Annual Conference. Therefore, to give a minister more time for mediation prior to the Annual Conference, change time interval for Presiding Elders to notify a preacher of a request for location from 6 months to 3 months.

Current Text

1. 1. CURRENT TEXT: Section I. THE LOCATED MINISTER
2. 2. D. Request by Presiding Elders to Locate a Preacher,
3. page 156
4. 3. Whenever it is unanimously agreed by the presiding
5. elders of an
6. 4. Annual Conference that a minister should be located for
7. the above specified reasons, they
8. 5. shall notify the preacher in writing six (6) months prior to
9. the session of the Annual
10. 6. Conference. The Conference shall take such action as
11. provided for in the above
12. 7. paragraph regarding the report of the Committee on
13. Ministerial Efficiency (Part IX,
14. 8. Section I-C).

Amended Text

1. 1. AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Section I. THE LOCATED
2. MINISTER
3. 2. D. Request by Presiding Elders to Locate a Preacher,
4. page 156
5. 3. Whenever it is unanimously agreed by the presiding
6. elders of an Annual Conference
7. 4. that a minister should be located for the above specified
8. reasons, they shall notify
9. 5. the preacher in writing three (3) months prior to the
10. session of the Annual
11. 6. Conference. The Conference shall take such action as
12. provided for in the above
13. 7. paragraph regarding the report of the Committee on
14. Ministerial Efficiency (Part
15. 8. IX, Section I-C).
16. 9. Funding: There is no Funding associated with this bill.

Bill Number: MIN - 07

Title: Timeframe for Notifying a Pastor to Request Location



Submitted by: Submitted by the Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District

Contact: tripettis@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, Part IX Section I-C Request for Location by a Committee on Ministerial Efficiency
(page 156)

Intent

To allow the Ministerial Efficiency Committee (MEC) as a Standing Committee to review the efficiency and moral conduct of ministers before Annual Conference.

Rationale

A function of the Ministerial Efficiency Committee should be to serve as a clearing house to help solve issues with ministers before the Annual Conference. Therefore, to give a minister more time for mediation prior to the Annual Conference, change time interval to inform a minister of a recommendation for location from 6 months to 3 months.

Current Text

1. 1. CURRENT TEXT: Section 1. THE LOCATED MINISTER
2. 2. C. Request for Location by a Committee on Ministerial
3. Efficiency, page 156
4. 3. Whenever it is determined by a Committee on Ministerial
5. Efficiency that a member of the
6. 4. Annual Conference is unacceptable, inefficient or
7. indifferent, or that secular affairs
8. 5. disqualifies him or her from pastoral work, the Committee
9. shall notify said pastor in writing
10. 6. six (6) months prior to the Annual Conference session
11. and ask the pastor to request
12. 7. location.

13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. 1. AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Section 1. THE LOCATED
2. MINISTER
3. 2. C. Request for Location by a Committee on Ministerial
4. Efficiency, page 156
5. 3. Whenever it is determined by a Committee on Ministerial
6. Efficiency that a member of the
7. 4. Annual Conference is unacceptable, inefficient or
8. indifferent, or that secular affairs
9. 5. disqualifies him or her from pastoral work, the Committee
10. shall notify said pastor in writing
11. 6. three (3) months prior to the Annual Conference session
12. and ask the pastor to request
13. 7. location.

14. 8.
15. 9.
16. Funding: There is no funding associated with this bill.

17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: MIN - 10

Title: MINISTERIAL LOCATION, RETIREMENT AND TERMINATION



Submitted by: Rev. Dr. Tyrone Hicks

Contact: pastorhicks@sbcglobal.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, Part IX, Section II.B

Page 157

Voluntary Retirement

Intent

To allow ministers who have voluntarily retired and relocated to another Conference and District to move their membership and answer Roll Call at their new Conference and District of residence.

Rationale

Each year retired ministers who have voluntarily retired and relocated to another Conference and District are required to report back to the Conference and District of their retirement which can become a major challenge because of cost, age, and/or health challenges.

Current Text

1. Those who desire to retire before age seventy-five (75)
2. must submit a letter to the Annual Conference requesting
3. retirement. The retired minister shall be a member of a
4. Quarterly Conference. Retired ministers are encouraged to
5. continue preaching. They may assist in their local church
6. and other capacities, as required by the bishop, presiding
7. elder or local pastor.

8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Those who desire to retire before age seventy-five (75)
2. must submit a letter to the Annual Conference requesting
3. retirement. The retired minister shall be a member of a
4. Quarterly Conference. Retired ministers are encouraged to
5. continue preaching. They may assist in their local church in
6. other capacities, as requested by the bishop, presiding
7. elder or local pastor. Pastors retiring who are in "good and
8. regular standing" and moving to another state or country
9. should be allowed to transfer officially from one Conference
10. and District to another Conference and District, placing their
11. membership and answering the Roll in the new Conference
12. and District.
13. Note: There is no cost associated with this change.

14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: MIN - 12

Title: INCLUSION OF AN EXISTING IMMIGRANT CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS INTO THE AFRICAN METHODIST
EPISCOPAL CHURCH EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Submitted by: Rev. Dr. Donna Melynda Clarke

Contact: revmelyndaclarke@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Location, Retirement, and Termination, Section III, Subpoint A (p. 157-158)

Intent

This legislation will provide a formal process for immigrant Christian congregations who are accepting and affirming of our doctrine, including the polity, Articles of Religion and Declaration of Faith, and are desirous to unite as a local charge into the AME Church, are guided and mentored through a structured and standardized process under the leadership and direction of the presiding prelate of that district. In addition, the intent is to address the unique requirements of accommodating language and cultural needs, while also considering the possible residue of trauma, exploitation and alienation that occur against

Rationale

The objective of this legislative proposal is to enable the AME Church to respond to the growing immigrant population that exists throughout the United States and Europe. The opportunity is ripe for harvesting many souls who need the love and support to transition to a Western culture. Secondly, the AME Church has historically been the church to represent people of color, people enslaved, people objectified and marginalized. The AME Church has demonstrated a social justice mandate that must be relevant for all social issues today, including the controversial debate about immigration.

Current Text

1. None

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. Add SECTION III To PART VI STARTING AND MERGING

2. CONGREGATIONS.

3. SECTION III: INCLUSION OF AN EXISTING IMMIGRANT

4. CHRISTIAN

5. CONGREGATIONS INTO THE AFRICAN METHODIST

6. EPISCOPAL CHURCH

7. The pastor along with the congregation of the immigrant

8. church, shall strive to abide to

9. the requirement of starting a new congregation outlined in

10. SECTION I, Part A, by

11. submitting a letter requesting consideration to become part

12. of the AME Church. The

13. Presiding Prelate of the District in which the congregation

14. resides will assign a Presiding

15. Elder and local church to provide training on the AME

16. Church. The organization of the

17. church found in Part B. Organizational Meeting, beginning

18. on page 107, will adjusted to

19. accommodate language differences and the need for

20. interpreters and translation of any

21. needed documentation. Training classes will be offered to

22. the new congregation by

23. direction of the appointed Presiding Elder. The incoming

24. congregation will be considered

25. a mission church for a minimum of 36 months (three years)

26. as currently stated in Part C.

27. Budgetary Responsibility, found on page 109. The clergy of

28. the congregation will be

29. vetted by the local church Pastor and Presiding Elder for

30. determination of steps for

31. licensing and/or forwarding to applicable conferences for

32. further review and training in

33. the Board of Examiners. The district providing the training

34. and mentorship shall attempt

35. to obtain any necessary resources including interpreters

36. and translation of AME

37. materials for the new church community. The new church

38. will report each year to the

39. annual conference of the work accomplished.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: MIN - 11

Title: On Loan Policy Clarification



Submitted by: Rev. Dr. Clay Barrow

Contact: revb614@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Location, Retirement, and Termination, Section III, Subpoint A (p. 157-158)

Intent

To remove the contradiction within the paragraph regarding the termination of ministerial orders, as well as clarify the interpretation of loan status by narrowing the scope to avoid doctrine and polity, which may conflict with present doctrine and polity of the AME Church.

Rationale

Existing policy will give special privilege to the itinerant deacon or elder to serve in our sister denominations without impunity that we share in the same doctrine, polity, and ecclesial structure. The addition defines what returning to the AME Church looks like by defining what it means to show proof of his or her renunciation of his or her membership in another denomination outside of Pan-Methodism.

Current Text

1. Ministerial Location, Retirement and Termination, Section
2. III, Subpoint A (p. 157-158):
3. If a deacon or elder accepts a pastoral appointment with
4. another denomination and
5. becomes a part of that denominations ministerial program,
6. administering the
7. Sacraments and accepting the doctrines of that
8. denomination, he or she shall lose his or
9. her membership in the Annual Conference forthwith. If he or
10. she desires to stay in the
11. African Methodist Episcopal Church, he or she must show
12. proof of his or her
13. renunciation of his or her membership in the other
14. denomination. A presiding bishop or
15. an annual conference may allow a deacon or elder to pastor
16. temporarily in another
17. denomination for a period not to exceed two years. Said
18. pastor must return to the annual
19. conference or lose membership in the same.

Amended Text

1. If a deacon or elder accepts a pastoral appointment with
2. another denomination and
3. becomes a part of that denominations ministerial program,
4. administering the
5. Sacraments and accepting the doctrines of that
6. denomination, he or she shall lose his or
7. her membership in the Annual Conference forthwith. If he or
8. she desires to stay in the
9. African Methodist Episcopal Church, he or she must show
10. proof of his or her
11. renunciation of his or her membership in the other
12. denomination. In addition, a
13. presiding bishop or an annual conference may allow a
14. deacon or elder to pastor
15. temporarily in another denomination without losing his or
16. her orders if said
17. denomination shares alike doctrine and polity to the African
18. Methodist Episcopal
19. Church, i.e. if the denomination is a member of the Pan-
20. Methodist Commission. Said
21. pastor must return to the annual conference in full
22. connection after two years indicated
23. by 1) no longer serving another denomination in a
24. sacramental capacity, 2) must
25. also associate with a local AME church or lose membership
26. in the Annual Conference,
27. and, 3) must answer the roll of the respective AME Annual
28. Conference while they are
29. serving in another denomination.

Bill Number: MIN - 09

Title: MINISTERIAL LOCATION, RETIREMENT AND TERMINATION



Submitted by: TYRONE HICKS

Contact: pastorhicks@sbcglobal.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

PAGE 157

Intent

TO AMEND CURRENT LANGUAGE FOR RETIRED PREACHERS TO ALLOW FOR TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP FROM ONE DISTRICT OR ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO ANOTHER DISTRICT OR ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Rationale

SOME RETIRED PREACHERS MOVE TO OTHER LOCATIONS IN THE STATE OR COUNTRY AND ARE UNABLE TO TRAVEL TO MEET THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE WHERE THEY RETIRED.

Current Text

1. VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT: THOSE WHO RETIRE
2. BEFORE AGE SEVENTY-FIVE (75) MUST SUBMIT A
3. LETTER TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE REQUESTING
4. RETIREMENT. THE RETIRED MINISTER SHALL BE A
5. MEMBER OF A QUARTERLY CONFERENCE. RETIRED
6. MINISTERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE
7. PREACHING. THEY MAY ASSIST IN THEIR LOCAL
8. CHURCH AND OTHER CAPACITIES, AS REQUESTED
9. BY THE BISHOP, PRESIDING ELDER OR LOCAL
10. PASTOR.

11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. THOSE WHO DESIRE TO RETIRE BEFORE AGE
2. SEVENTY-FIVE (75) MUST SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE
3. ANNUAL CONFERENCE REQUESTING RETIREMENT.
4. THE RETIRED MINISTER SHALL BE A MEMBER OF A
5. QUARTERLY CONFERENCE. RETIRED MINISTERS
6. ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE PREACHING. THEY
7. MAY ASSIST IN THE LOCAL CHURCH AND OTHER
8. CAPACITIES, AS REQUESTED BY THE BISHOP,
9. PRESIDING ELDER OR LOCAL PASTOR. RETIRED
10. PREACHER MOVING TO ANOTHER LOCATION
11. OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE ANNUAL
12. CONFERENCE WHERE THEY RETIRED BE ALLOWED
13. TO TRANSFER TO ANOTHER EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OR
14. ANNUAL CONFERENCE. THEY MUST REPORT TO THE
15. NEW ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND BE A MEMBER OF A
16. QUARTERLY CONFERENCE WHERE THEY HAVE
17. LOCATED.

18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number:

Title: On Loan Policy Clarification



Submitted by: Rev. Dr. Clay Barrow

Contact: revb614@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Location, Retirement, and Termination, Section III, Subpoint A (p. 157-158)

Intent

To remove the contradiction within the paragraph regarding the termination of ministerial orders, as well as clarify the interpretation of loan status by narrowing the scope to avoid doctrine and polity, which may conflict with present doctrine and polity of the AME Church.

Rationale

Ministerial Location, Retirement and Termination, Section III, Subpoint A (p. 157-158): If a deacon or elder accepts a pastoral appointment with another denomination and becomes a part of that denominations ministerial program, administering the Sacraments and accepting the doctrines of that denomination, he or she shall lose his or her membership in the Annual Conference forthwith. If he or she desires to stay in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, he or she must show proof of his or her renunciation of his or her membership in the other denomination. A presiding bishop or an annual conference may allow a deacon or elder to pastor temporarily in another denomination for a period not to exceed two years. Said pastor must return to the annual conference or lose membership in the same.

Current Text

1. If a deacon or elder accepts a pastoral appointment with
2. another denomination and becomes a part of that
3. denominations ministerial program, administering the
4. Sacraments and accepting the doctrines of that
5. denomination, he or she shall lose his or her membership
6. in the Annual Conference forthwith. If he or she desires to
7. stay in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, he or she
8. must show proof of his or her renunciation of his or her
9. membership in the other denomination. In addition, a
10. presiding bishop or an annual conference may allow a
11. deacon or elder to pastor temporarily in another
12. denomination without losing his or her orders if said
13. denomination shares alike doctrine and polity to the African
14. Methodist Episcopal Church, i.e. if the denomination is a
15. member of the Pan- Methodist Commission. Said pastor
16. must return to the annual conference in full connection after
17. two years indicated by 1) no longer serving another
18. denomination in a sacramental capacity, 2) must also
19. associate with a local AME church or lose membership in
20. the Annual Conference, and, 3) must answer the roll of the
21. respective AME Annual Conference while they are serving
22. in another denomination.

23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. If a deacon or elder accepts a pastoral appointment with
2. another denomination and becomes a part of that
3. denominations ministerial program, administering the
4. Sacraments and accepting the doctrines of that
5. denomination, he or she shall lose his or her membership in
6. the Annual Conference forthwith. If he or she desires to stay
7. in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, he or she must
8. show proof of his or her renunciation of his or her
9. membership in the other denomination. In addition, a
10. presiding bishop or an annual conference may allow a
11. deacon or elder to pastor temporarily in another
12. denomination without losing his or her orders if said
13. denomination shares alike doctrine and polity to the African
14. Methodist Episcopal Church, i.e. if the denomination is a
15. member of the Pan- Methodist Commission. Said pastor
16. must return to the annual conference in full connection after
17. two years indicated by 1) no longer serving another
18. denomination in a sacramental capacity, 2) must also
19. associate with a local AME church or lose membership in
20. the Annual Conference, and, 3) must answer the roll of the
21. respective AME Annual Conference while they are serving
22. in another denomination.

23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number:

Title: Inclusion of an Existing Immigrant Christian Congregations Into the African Methodist Episcopal Church Episcopal Church



Submitted by: Rev. Dr. Donna Melynda Clarke

Contact: revmelyndaclarke@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Location, Retirement, and Termination, Section III, Subpoint A (p. 157-158)

Intent

This legislation will provide a formal process for immigrant Christian congregations who are accepting and affirming of our doctrine, including the polity, Articles of Religion and Declaration of Faith, and are desirous to unite as a local charge into the AME Church, are guided and mentored through a structured and standardized process under the leadership and direction of the presiding prelate of that district. In addition, the intent is to address the unique requirements of accommodating language and cultural needs, while also considering the possible residue of trauma, exploitation and alienation that occur against

Rationale

The objective of this legislative proposal is to enable the AME Church to respond to the growing immigrant population that exists throughout the United States and Europe. The opportunity is ripe for harvesting many souls who need the love and support to transition to a Western culture. Secondly, the AME Church has historically been the church to represent people of color, people enslaved, people objectified and marginalized. The AME Church has demonstrated a social justice mandate that must be relevant for all social issues today, including the controversial debate about immigration.

Current Text

1. None

2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Add SECTION III To PART VI STARTING AND MERGING
2. CONGREGATIONS. SECTION III: INCLUSION OF AN
3. EXISTING IMMIGRANT CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS
4. INTO THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
5. The pastor along with the congregation of the immigrant
6. church, shall strive to abide to the requirement of starting a
7. new congregation outlined in SECTION I, Part A, by
8. submitting a letter requesting consideration to become part
9. of the AME Church. The Presiding Prelate of the District in
10. which the congregation resides will assign a Presiding Elder
11. and local church to provide training on the AME Church.
12. The organization of the church found in Part B.
13. Organizational Meeting, beginning on page 107, will
14. adjusted to accommodate language differences and the
15. need for interpreters and translation of any needed
16. documentation. Training classes will be offered to the new
17. congregation by direction of the appointed Presiding Elder.
18. The incoming congregation will be considered a mission
19. church for a minimum of 36 months (three years) as
20. currently stated in Part C. Budgetary Responsibility, found
21. on page 1The clergy of the congregation will be vetted by
22. the local church Pastor and Presiding Elder for
23. determination of steps for licensing and/or forwarding to
24. applicable conferences for further review and training in the
25. Board of Examiners. The district providing the training and
26. mentorship shall attempt to obtain any necessary resources
27. including interpreters and translation of AME materials for
28. the new church community. The new church will report each
29. year to the annual conference of the work accomplished.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: GGB-01

Title: The Ecumenical Officer of the AME Church_1



Submitted by: Rev. Dr. V. Gordon Glenn III

Contact: rev_glenn@yahoo.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Part XI, Section I. Active Bishops, D. Assignment of Bishops, p. 167

Intent

To change who may hold this office from being one of the active bishops of the Church to being an office held by a general officer. This will be effective at the 2024 General Conference.

Rationale

This office should be more fully defined so that the work of ecumenism can be more fully utilized by our Church.

Current Text

1. 5. An active bishop, in lieu of an Episcopal district, may be
2. assigned as an ecumenical officer or may be given a
3. special assignment, such as author of books for the Church,
4. and/or any other duties recommended by the Episcopal
5. Committee.

6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. 5. An active bishop, in lieu of an Episcopal district, may be
2. assigned a special assignment, such as author of books for
3. the church, supervise urban ministry, endorse AME
4. chaplains and/or any other duties recommended by the
5. Episcopal Committee.

6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: GGB-02

Title: Filling Episcopal Vancancies in Episcopal Districts



Submitted by: Kimberly Gordon Brooks

Contact: kimberlysaponi@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Part XI, Section III., D Authority

Page 171, (Kindle Locations 4219-4223)

Intent

To clarify the process for ascertaining the request of an episcopal district on the vacancy in the supervision of an episcopal district due to suspension, resignation, death, or otherwise.

Rationale

The current text does not delineate a process for determining how the episcopal district is to convey its request for the filling of a vacancy.

Current Text

1. 2. Should a vacancy occur in the supervision of an
2. episcopal district by suspension, resignation, death or
3. otherwise, the Council of Bishops is authorized to assign
4. one of its number to the said district.
5. No assignment shall be made, however, until the members
6. of the said episcopal district shall have the opportunity to
7. make a request to the Council of Bishops regarding the
8. assignment.

9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. 2. Should a vacancy occur in the supervision of an
2. episcopal district by suspension, resignation, death or
3. otherwise, the Council of Bishops is authorized to assign
4. one of its number to the said district.
5. No assignment shall be made, however, until the members
6. of the said episcopal district shall have the opportunity to
7. make a request to the Council of Bishops regarding the
8. assignment
9. The President of the Council of Bishops, or his/her
10. designee, shall convene a meeting of the districts clergy
11. and lay delegates from the last session of the general
12. conference. The group so constituted, after due notice, shall
13. agree on a recommendation by majority vote determined by
14. a secret ballot. The district shall convey its request to the
15. Council of Bishops through the clergy and lay leaders of the
16. delegation.
17. In the event of the death of the presiding bishop, the district
18. shall not meet prior to a religious ceremony and/or the
19. resting of the remains, except when such ceremony has
20. been delayed beyond a reasonable time of respect.

21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: GGB-03

Title: Extending the General Officers term of service between elections



Submitted by: General Officers Council

Contact: Gpierce@ameced.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Pg. 174

Intent

This proposed legislation seeks to bring about a greater level of parity among the offices of the church, which are elected by the General Conference.

Rationale

The General Conference elects three categories of offices of the church: Bishops, who are elected to serve for life, but with a mandatory retirement age of 75; Judicial Council members, who are elected for eight (8) year renewable terms without a mandatory retirement age; and General Officers, who are elected for four (4) year renewable terms with a mandatory retirement age of 75. A greater level of parity among the offices of the church, which are elected by the General Conference, is achieved if General Officers are also elected to serve for eight (8) year renewable terms. Longer terms of service allow for greater continuity as it relates to programmatic planning and implementation and the administration of central services of the connectional church, promoting more institutional stability.

Current Text

1. Pg. 174, C. Election (The section speaks of the modalities
2. for election but is silent regarding length of term.)
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Section C should begin: A General Officer shall be elected
2. by the General Conference to a term of eight (8) years and
3. can be subsequently re-elected to additional terms of eight
4. years each up to the time of retirement. Regarding
5. retirement, Section IV, J (pg. 193, BoDD2016) shall apply.
6. (Current text of section C should follow this amended text.)
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: GGB-04

Title: Global Development Council Record Keeping



Submitted by: J. Cooper

Contact: cio@ame-church.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, Page 176

Intent

To foster greater communication among all Districts of the GDC. To improve record keeping and information sharing for the denomination. To establish a permanent repository for GDC minutes in the office of the General Secretary/CIO

Rationale

Currently, there is no defined process for formation, archiving, or disseminating the minutes of the GDC.

Current Text

1. No existing text. New text to be inserted under the duties of
2. the General Secretary/CIO as item W.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. The General Secretary/CIO shall serve as a resource and
2. technical support for the duly elected Secretary of the
3. Global Development Council. The General Secretary/CIO
4. shall also assist in the formation, archiving, and
5. dissemination of minutes of GDC meetings.
6. The administrative budget of the General Secretary/CIO
7. shall be adjusted by the Commission on Statistics and
8. Finance to account for these additional duties and
9. responsibilities.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: GGB-05

Title: Global Development Council Financial Management Act



Submitted by: J. Cooper

Contact: cio@ame-church.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, Page 183.

Intent

To improve management of GDC Finances. To improve reporting procedures of GDC Finances

Rationale

No current mechanism exists for collaboration with the CFO of the church.

Current Text

1. : New text to be inserted under the duties of the
2. Treasurer/CFO ii.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. The CFO shall serve as a resource and financial advisor to
2. the GDC for instituting a system of financial management
3. for the GDC and a plan for investing/management of GDC
4. finances.
5. The CFO shall assist the GDC Treasurer in receiving
6. annual financial commitment payments from districts 14-20.
7. The CFO shall receive yearly finance reports from the GDC
8. and assist the GDC in producing an annual Audit.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: GGB-06

Title: Qualification for General Board Membership



Submitted by: Jeffrey Leath

Contact: jeffreynleath@aol.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Part XII, Section I, Page 197, (Kindle Locations 4720-4721)

Intent

To allow for the election of persons to the General Board who are not a part of the sitting delegation.

Rationale

There are qualified clergy and lay who would be an asset to the General Board who are currently ineligible because they are not a part of the General Conference delegate. This would be a way to make participation in the work of the church more inclusive and open to better utilization of skills among our constituents.

Current Text

1. No persons from an episcopal district other than delegates
2. may be in the voting assembly.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. No persons from an episcopal district other than delegates
2. may be in the voting assembly.
3. Insert new text: However, any member of the church in
4. good standing, clergy or lay, is eligible to be elected to the
5. General Board.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number:

Title: Responsibilities of the Commission on Economic Development



Submitted by: Randolph R. Scott, 5th District Lay Member General Board AMEC

Contact: rrscottspr73@yahoo.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

2016 The Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church

PART XII the General Board (Page 197)

SECTION V Commissions (14) (page 201)

Intent

To codify the Commission on Economic Development Purpose adopted by the General Board of the AME Church at its meeting in December 2016.

To codify the Commission on Economic Development Guiding Principles adopted by the General Board of the AME Church at its meeting in June 2017.

Rationale

To confirm the Purpose and Guiding Principles of Economic Development for all projects that are sponsored, endorsed and supported by the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Current Text

1. NONE

2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. A. The purpose of the Economic Development Commission
2. shall be to promote and share practical and innovative
3. approaches for stewardship ministries and economic
4. empowerment for churches, communities and persons.
5. B. To accomplish this purpose the Economic Development
6. Commission shall use and promote these Project Phases
7. and Guiding Principles for all Economic Development
8. projects sponsored, endorsed and supported by the AME
9. Church:
10. 1. Research and Analysis
11. Consisting of activities such as data collection, feasibility
12. analysis, project scope definition, project governance.
13. These project activities should result in a Go/No Go
14. decision for the Project.
15. 2. Design and Development
16. Consisting of activities such as written and approved project
17. plans with goals, timelines and legal, financial and human
18. resource requirements.
19. 3. Implementation
20. Consisting of activities such as project plan execution with
21. transparent and regular reporting on project progress,
22. delays and results to the project governing structure.
23. 4. Evaluation
24. Consisting of activities such as assessing the results and
25. completion of the project plan with a final operational and
26. financial written audit report on the project to the governing
27. structure.
28. Approved at General Board Meeting June 25-26, 2019
29. Atlanta, Georgia
30. Approved at Convo IX December 4-5, 2019 Atlanta,
31. Georgia
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: GGB-07

Title: Mandated Meeting of Commission on Retirement Services in Interim of the General Board.



Submitted by: Jeffrey Leath

Contact: jeffreynleath@aol.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Part XII, Section V, D., 3, Page 205 (Kindle Locations 4848-4851)

Intent

Require quarterly reports and virtual meetings for this commission during the interim of the General Board.

Rationale

With over \$150 million in assets, there should be closer scrutiny of the operation of this department. Commission members should receive quarterly reports, and they should approve/monitor changes in the investment instruments on a regular basis.

Current Text

1. b. Commission on Retirement Services: Shall receive the
2. report of the Executive Director of the Department of
3. Retirement Services. Shall have the power to amend the
4. annuity, retirement and hospitalization plan, provided the
5. amendments are approved by the Council of Bishops and
6. the General Board and do not diminish the vested rights of
7. any beneficiary.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. b. Commission on Retirement Services: Shall receive the
2. report of the Executive Director of the Department of
3. Retirement Services. Shall have the power to amend the
4. annuity, retirement and hospitalization plan, provided the
5. amendments are approved by the Council of Bishops and
6. the General Board and do not diminish the vested rights of
7. any beneficiary.

8. Add New Paragraph:

9. This commission shall receive quarterly reports on the
10. finances of the department. It shall meet in a video/virtual
11. session not less than three additional times in the interim of
12. the annual meeting of the General Board. The Commission
13. shall approve/monitor all movement of investments.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: GGB-08

Title: Change in Frequency of Publication of The Christian Recorder



Submitted by: John Thomas III

Contact: editor@thechristianrecorder.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 210

Part XIII A ,9

Intent

To adjust the frequency of physical printing of The Christian Recorder

Rationale

The current news environment allows for the rapid transmittal of information via electronic means. Printing biweekly is no longer cost-effective.

Current Text

1. 9. Publication of The Christian Recorder
2. The Christian Recorder shall be published biweekly under
3. the direction of the Commission on Publications of the
4. General Board of the AME Church at the AME Sunday
5. School Union in Nashville, Tennessee. The Department of
6. Publications shall be the publishing agent for The Christian
7. Recorder and shall have full responsibility for its printing
8. and publication.

9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. 9. Publication of The Christian Recorder
2. The Christian Recorder shall be printed at least monthly
3. under the direction of the Commission on Publications of
4. the General Board of the AME Church at the AME Sunday
5. School Union in Nashville, Tennessee.
6. Special/Commemorative editions may be physically printed
7. at the discretion of the Editor and the Publisher. Periodic
8. news updates shall be distributed online. The Department of
9. Publications shall be the publishing agent for The Christian
10. Recorder and shall have full responsibility for its printing
11. and publication.

12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: GGB-09

Title: Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)



Submitted by: Lyndajo Watson

Contact:

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, Part XIII, Section III F, #5, 6 Christian Debutante-Master Commission (Page 229 and 230)

Intent

Change current text.

Rationale

The connectional administrator should receive at least an honorarium by the general church since the administrator is expected to be at an report at all meetings of the General Board. A lot has changed since 1959 when guidelines were put in place for CDMC.

Current Text

1. c). Administrator: (2) The CDMC administrator shall have
2. the rank of a Connectional officer, receiving all recognition
3. and courtesies, but shall not received salary; stipend;
4. honorarium or expense from the General Church. (4) Said
5. administrator shall have the authority to contact local
6. pastors, individual and community organizations requesting
7. voluntary membership in the CDMC. The administrator must
8. submit a literary and financial report to the General
9. Conference. He or she shall also report to the General
10. Board annually if it is requested. (d) Funding: (1) The
11. CDMC shall be completely funded through voluntary local
12. church and community membership subscriptions with no
13. financial obligations whatsoever required from the General
14. Church. All administrative and operational expenses plus
15. promotional funds for CDMC must be secured through the
16. annual membership fees of CDMC Patrons. All profit
17. realized from membership patrons shall be used to
18. supplement the Richard Allen Young Adult Council's
19. expanded budget for other youth advancement, enrichment
20. and social service programs, for AME involvement in
21. community and national welfare projects as decided upon
22. from time to time by the General Conference, the Council of
23. Bishops, or the General Board. (2) All profit realized from
24. membership patrons shall be used to supplement the
25. Richard Allen Young Adult Council's expanded budget for
26. other youth advancement, enrichment and social service
27. programs, for AME involvement in community and national
28. welfare projects as decided upon from time to time by the
29. General Conference, the Council of Bishops, or the General
30. Board.

31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. c) Administrator (2) The CDMC administrator shall have the
2. rank of a connectional officer, receiving all recognition and
3. courtesies including an honorarium from the General
4. Church. (4) Said administrator shall have the authority to
5. contact local pastors, individual and community
6. organizations requesting voluntary membership in the
7. CDMC. The administrator must submit a literary report to
8. the General Conference and an annual financial report to
9. the Department of Christian Education. He or she shall also
10. report to the General Board annually if it is requested. (d)
11. Funding: (1)The CDMC shall be completely funded through
12. voluntary local church and community membership
13. subscriptions, donations and fundraisers, with no financial
14. obligations whatsoever required from the General Church.
15. All administrative and operational expenses plus
16. promotional funds for CDMC must will be secured through
17. the annual membership fees of CDMC Patrons, donations
18. and fundraisers (2) All profit realized from membership
19. patrons, fund raisers, and donations shall be used to
20. supplement the Richard Allen Young Adult Council's
21. expanded budget for other youth advancement, enrichment
22. and social service programs, for AME involvement in
23. community and national welfare projects as decided upon
24. from time to time by the General Conference, the Council of
25. Bishops, or the General Board.

26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: GGB-10

Title: The General Conference and Social Action Commission



Submitted by: JACQUELYN DUPONT-WALKER

Contact: JDUPONTW@AOL.COM

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016 - Page 235, Section A: Number 3; Page 234, Part XIV; page 247, Section 1 - A; Composition

Intent

To authorize the designation of the Director/Consultant of the Social Action Commission to be added to the list under Composition of the General Conference.

Rationale

The mission of the Connectional commission, as listed in the 2016 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church identifies a structure from the Connectional level to the Local Church level and spells out the distinctive charge for the Social Action Officer. As such, the Director/consultant is actively engaged throughout the Quadrennium in a network of inter-faith and ecumenical bodies engaging with and speaking for the AME Church. The next step and logical outcome of this involvement is to take action via legislation, resolutions, and engagement at the highest level of deliberation in the AME Church. Pro-active steps as well as react to harmful policy are limited without the ability to participate in the deliberations of the General Conference, thus the Director/consultant of the Social action Commission cannot responsibly carry out eh designated duties and bring integrity to the role of advocate.

This request is consistent with the designation of 80% of the other Connectional Officers. NOTE This Legislation has no fiscal impact.

Current Text

1. The composition of the General Conference shall be the
2. bishops, general officers elected by the General
3. Conference..... the President and Treasurer of the Women's
4. Missionary Society, ... the Connectional President of the
5. Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC) the
6. Connectional Lay President, the Executive and Medical
7. Directors of the Health Commission,....and other elected
8. clergy and lay delegates from each annual conference.

9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. The composition of the General Conference shall be the
2. bishops, general officers elected by the General
3. Conference..... the President and Treasurer of the Women's
4. Missionary Society, ... the Connectional President of the
5. Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC) the
6. Connectional Lay President, the Executive and Medical
7. Directors of the Health Commission,..the
8. Director/Consultant of the Social Action Commission,
9. active-duty military.....
10. This Legislation has NO FISCAL IMPACT. Connectional
11. Officers cover costs from their budgets.
12. Submitted by the Social Action Commission

13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: GGB-11

Title: Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)



Submitted by: Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)

Contact: gpierce@ameced.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2008, Part XIII, Section II A-4 Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC) (Page 237 and 238)

Intent

Change current text so that the three areas of the Doctrine and Discipline that reference CDMC are consistent in language and description.

Rationale

Update text to reflect wording from other suggested revision on page 229 and 230

Current Text

1. 4. Meetings: b). The Commission shall meet annually during
2. the summer session of the Council of Bishops. The
3. members of the Commission shall not receive stipend,
4. salary or honorarium for attending the meetings.

- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Meetings: b). The Commission shall meet annually during
2. the summer session of the Council of Bishops. The
3. administrator of the Commission shall not received stipend
4. nor salary but shall receive an honorarium.

- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CC-02

Title: General Conference Composition



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 247, Part XIV Section I A

Intent

To bring fair representation of Connectional components

Rationale

To adjust the disparity among Connectional Components in the General Conference Composition.

Current Text

1. The composition of the General Conference shall be the
2. bishops; the general officers elected by the General
3. Conference; the General Secretary/CIO of the General
4. Conference; the presidents of the universities and colleges;
5. the deans of seminaries that have been in operation
6. continuously for one (1) or more years prior to the General
7. Conference; the president and treasurer of the Womens
8. Missionary Society; the editor of the Womens Missionary
9. Magazine; the director of the Young Peoples and Childrens
10. Division; the Connectional presidents of Women in Ministry
11. (WIM), Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC), Young
12. Peoples and Childrens Division (YPD) and Lay
13. Organization; Episcopal District Lay Presidents; the
14. president of the Connectional Council; the Executive
15. Director and Medical Director of the Health Commission;
16. active-duty military and veterans administration chaplains
17. who have been ordained for at least four (4) years
18. preceding the General Conference and those who are
19. retired with a minimum of twenty (20) years of service in the
20. Armed Forces of the United States; former World War II
21. Chaplains who are in good and regular standing in their
22. annual conferences; the administrators of all Connectional
23. institutions (i.e., Douglas Hospital); the President of the
24. Connectional Presiding Elders Council, and elected clergy
25. and lay delegates from each annual conference.

Amended Text

1. The composition of the General Conference shall be the
2. bishops; the general officers elected by the General
3. Conference; the general secretary/CIO of the General
4. Conference; the presidents of the universities and colleges;
5. the deans of seminaries that have been in operation
6. continuously for one (1) or more years prior to the General
7. Conference; the president and treasurer of the Womens
8. Missionary Society; the editor of the Womens Missionary
9. Magazine; the director of the Young Peoples and Childrens
10. Division and one at large seat; the Connectional President
11. and four at large seats of Women in Ministry (AME/WIM),
12. the connectional presidents of the Richard Allen Young
13. Adult Council (RAYAC), Young Peoples and Childrens
14. Division (YPD) and Lay Organization; Episcopal District Lay
15. Presidents; the president of the Connectional Council; the
16. Executive Director and Medical Director of the Health
17. Commission; active-duty military and veterans
18. administration chaplains who have been ordained for at
19. least four (4) years preceding the General Conference and
20. those who are retired with a minimum of twenty (20) years
21. of service in the Armed Forces of the United States; former
22. World War II Chaplains who are in good and regular
23. standing in their annual conferences; the administrators of
24. all Connectional institutions (i.e., the Bishop Sarah Frances
25. Davis Connectional Womens Missionary Society Outpatient
26. Health Clinic); the President of the Connectional Presiding
27. Elders Council, and elected clergy and lay delegates from
28. each Annual Conference.

Bill Number: CC-01

Title: General Conference Composition



Submitted by: Robin Porter Smith

Contact: rps14069@msn.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 247, Part XIV Section IA

Intent

Inclusion of elected and/or appointed Connectional Leadership

Rationale

All Connectional Officers are voting members of the General Board. Some Connectional Officers are voting members of the General Conference. This legislation seeks to include those Connectional Officers elected and/or appointed by Connectional organizations within the AME Church. There are no finances associated with this legislation as expenses for these officers are covered within their organizations.

Current Text

1. The composition of the General Conference shall be the
2. bishops; the general officers elected by the General
3. Conference; the General Secretary/CIO of the General
4. Conference; the presidents of the universities and colleges;
5. the deans of seminaries that have been in operation
6. continuously for one (1) or more years prior to the General
7. Conference; the president and treasurer of the Womens
8. Missionary Society; the editor of the Womens Missionary
9. Magazine; the director of the Young Peoples and Childrens
10. Division; the Connectional presidents of Women in Ministry
11. (WIM), Richard Allen Youth Council (RAYAC), Young
12. Peoples and Childrens Division (YPD) and Lay
13. Organization; Episcopal District Lay Presidents; the
14. president of the Connectional Council; the Executive
15. Director and Medical Director of the Health Commission;
16. active-duty military and veterans administration chaplains
17. who have been ordained for at least four (4) years
18. preceding the General Conference and those who are
19. retired with a minimum of twenty (20) years of service in the
20. Armed Forces of the United States; former World War II
21. Chaplains who are in good and regular standing in their
22. annual conferences; the administrators of all Connectional
23. institutions (i.e. Douglas Hospital); the President of the
24. Connectional Presiding Elders Council, and elected clergy
25. and lay delegates from each annual conference.

Amended Text

1. The composition of the General Conference shall be the
2. bishops; the general officers elected by the General
3. Conference; the General Secretary/CIO of the General
4. Conference; the presidents of the universities and colleges;
5. the deans of seminaries that have been in operation
6. continuously for one (1) or more years prior to the General
7. Conference; the president and treasurer of the Womens
8. Missionary Society; the editor of the Womens Missionary
9. Magazine; the director of the Young Peoples and Childrens
10. Division; the Connectional presidents of Women in Ministry
11. (WIM), Richard Allen Youth Council (RAYAC), Young
12. Peoples and Childrens Division (YPD), Lay Organization,
13. Music and Christian Arts Ministry (MCAM), Christian
14. Debutante-Master (CDMC), Sons of Allen (SoA), Fellowship
15. of Church Educators (FCE), Association of AME Scouts
16. (AAMES, which includes a representative from the Boy
17. Scouts, and the Girl Scouts); Episcopal District Lay
18. Presidents; the president of the Connectional Council; the
19. Executive Director and Medical Director of the Health
20. Commission; active-duty military and veterans
21. administration chaplains who have been ordained for at
22. least four (4) years preceding the General Conference and
23. those who are retired with a minimum of twenty (20) years
24. of service in the Armed Forces of the United States; former
25. World War II Chaplains who are in good and regular
26. standing in their annual conferences; the administrators of
27. all Connectional institutions (i.e. Douglas Hospital); the
28. President of the Connectional Presiding Elders Council, and
29. elected clergy and lay delegates from each annual
30. conference.

Bill Number:

Title: Social Action Commission Membership in the General Conference



Submitted by: JACQUELYN DUPONT-WALKER

Contact: jdupontw@aol.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

page 247 - PART XIV Conferences, Section 2. The General Conference, A. Composition

Intent

To authorize the designation of The Director/Consultant of the Social Action Commission as a member of the General Conference.

Rationale

The social justice mission/ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is vested in the work of the Social Action Commission, led by its Director/Consultant. As such, The Director is actively engaged through the Quadrennium in a network of inter-faith and ecumenical bodies engaging with and speaking for the AME Church. The next step and logical outcome of this involvement is to take action via legislation, resolutions, and engagement at the highest level of deliberation of the AME Church. Pro-active steps as well as reaction to harmful policy are limited without the ability to participate in the deliberations of the General Conference, thus the Director/Consultant of the Social Action Commission cannot responsibly carry out the designated duties and bring integrity in the role as advocate.

This request is consistent with 80% of the Connectional Officers. This legislation has no fiscal impact.

Current Text

1. The composition of the General Conference shall be the
2. bishops, the general officers elected by the General
3. Conference, the presidents of the universities and colleges,
4. the deans of seminaries that have been in operation
5. continually for one (1) or more years prior to the general
6. Conference, the president and treasurer of the Women's
7. Missionary Society, the editor of the Women's Missionary
8. Magazine, the director of Young People's and Children's
9. Division, the Connectional presidents of Women in Ministry
10. (WIM), Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC), Young
11. People's and Children's Division (YPD), and Lay
12. Organization, Episcopal District Lay Presidents, the
13. president of the Connectional Council, the Executive
14. Director and Medical Director of the Health Commission,
15. active-duty military and veterans administration chaplains
16. who have been ordained for at least four (4) years
17. preceding the General Conference and those who are
18. retired with a minimum of twenty (20) years of service in the
19. Armed Forces of the United States, former World War II
20. Chaplains who are in good and regular standing in their
21. annual conferences, the administrators of all Connectional
22. institutions, the president of the Connectional Presiding
23. Elders Council and elected clergy and lay delegates from
24. each annual conference.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. The composition of the General Conference shall be
2. bishops, the general officers elected by the General
3. Conference Medical Director; the
4. Director/Consultant of the Social Action Commission; active
5. duty military and veterans..... NOTE: Intended to capture
6. the short phrase, which adds the Director of Social Action
7. Commission, in the midst of the full paragraph.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CC-14

Title: Qualifications of Delegates: Financial Compliance for Pastors and Lay Delegates to Electoral College



Submitted by: Submitted by the Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District

Contact: tripettis@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, page 248

Intent

To ensure the churches that are represented by pastors and lay delegates to the Electoral College have paid all financial obligations to the Presiding Elder and Episcopal District before being considered a delegate to the General Conference.

Rationale

It is the responsibility of the pastors and the officers of the local church to ensure all bills, salaries and church expenses are paid each conference year. Financial obligations should not go unpaid. Delegates to the General Conference should be leaders of the Episcopal District and thus should ensure their church has paid all financial obligations, particularly to the Presiding Elder and the Episcopal District.

Current Text

1. CURRENT TEXT: No current text.

2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to Part XIV Conferences Section 1. The
2. General
3. 3 Conference, C. Qualifications of Delegates
4. 4 1. Ministerial
5. 5 Every itinerant minister elected a delegate by any Annual
6. Conference shall have been
7. 6 an elder during the four (4) years immediately preceding the
8. General Conference to
9. 7 which said minister is elected, and must be in good and regular
10. standing in the
11. 8 Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the
12. time of his or
13. 9 her election. He or she shall be a member of the Conference that
14. elects him or her and
15. 10 shall be in actual service within the bounds of that Conference.
16. The church where the
17. 11 itinerant minister serves as the pastor should be current on all
18. financial obligations,
19. 12 particularly to the Presiding Elder and the Episcopal District. The
20. Presiding Elder
21. 13 should verify the church represented by him or her is current on
22. their financial
23. 14 obligations to the Presiding Elder and the Episcopal District. If the
24. church is not
25. 15 current with these financial obligations then the itinerant minister
26. cannot be elected
27. 16 a delegate or alternate delegate to the General Conference.
28. 17 2. Lay
29. 18 Every lay member elected a delegate by an Electoral College shall
30. be a member of
31. 19 said college and a person of good, natural or acquired who knows
32. and loves The
33. 20 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Church and has
34. maintained a full,
35. 21 good and regular membership in said church four (4) consecutive
36. years next
37. 22 preceding the General Conference, and shall have been a member
38. of his or her local
39. 23 church for six (6) months next preceding the meeting of the
40. Electoral College. No lay
41. 24 member shall vote or be voted for more than once in a
42. quadrennium as a delegate
43. 25 to the Electoral College. The church where the lay member was
44. elected a delegate to
45. 26 the Electoral College should be current on all financial obligations
46. particularly to
47. 27 the Presiding Elder and the Episcopal District. The Presiding Elder
48. should verify
49. 28 the church represented by the lay member is current on their
50. financial obligations
51. 29 to the Presiding Elder and the Episcopal District. If the church is
52. not
53. 30 current with these financial obligations then the lay member cannot
54. be elected
55. 31 a delegate or alternate delegate to the General Conference.
56. 32
57. 33 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.
58.

Bill Number: CC-13

Title: Council of Bishops Representation on Planning Sub-Commission and Video/Virtual Participation in the General Conference



Submitted by: Jeffrey Leath

Contact: jeffreynleath@aol.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Part XIV, Section I, J., 1, c, 5 Page 261 (Kindle Locations 5928-5931)

Intent

To clarify the officer of the Council of Bishops to participate in the logistical planning of the General Conference, and to provide the technology for video/virtual participation of delegates.

Rationale

Current text is unclear as the Secretary of the Council of Bishops changes annually. To provide for the planning and implementation of virtual participation in the General Conference.

Current Text

1. 5) Create Sub-Commission for General Conference
2. Planning
3. The Commission shall create a sub-commission, which, in
4. conjunction with the Secretary of the Council of Bishops, the
5. Chief Financial Officer and the General Secretary of the
6. AME Church, shall perfect all arrangements for the proper
7. planning and entertainment of the General Conference.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. 5) Create Sub-Commission for General Conference
2. Planning
3. The Commission shall create a sub-commission, which, in
4. conjunction with the Program Committee Chairperson of the
5. Council of Bishops, the Chief Financial Officer (Treasurer)
6. and the Chief Information Officer (General Secretary) of the
7. AME Church, shall perfect all arrangements for the proper
8. planning and entertainment of the General Conference,
9. including provisions for the video/virtual participation of
10. delegates.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CC-03

Title: Annual Conference Audit



Submitted by: Submitted by Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District

Contact: tripettis@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016,
Section II. The Annual Conference (pages 266-267)

Intent

To bring more transparency to the operation of the church.

Rationale

The Annual Conference is the only legal entity in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. If we are auditing areas in the AME Church that are not legal entities, i.e. the Episcopal District, then we should audit legal entities. The Episcopal District is a fiduciary entity a body that people entrust their money to for management and not a legal body of the AME Church. In order to make sure information in the Episcopal District is accurate, then information coming from the Annual Conference should come from an audited report.

Current Text

1. CURRENT TEXT: No Current Text.

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. 1 AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to page 267, Section II, new
2. number 4) 4. Every Annual
3. 2 Conference must have an external audit annually by an
4. accredited auditor, that will be
5. 3 financed by each entity (Annual Conference).
6. 4 (Consequently, renumber #4 8 accordingly.)
7. 5
8. 6
9. 7 Funding: There is no funding on the General Budget.
10. However, there is funding associated
11. 8 at the expense of the Annual Conference.

- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CC-04

Title: Letter of Good and Regular Standing



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 269, Section II Annual Conference F (1)

Intent

To ensure letters of good and regular standing are not arbitrarily withheld

Rationale

To preclude denial of letters for clergy in good and regular standing.

Current Text

1. It shall be the duty of every member of the Annual
2. Conference to attend its sessions.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. It shall be the duty of every member of the Annual
2. Conference to attend its sessions. Upon request, a member
3. in good and regular standing of the Annual Conference may
4. request a letter stating same. Absent extenuating
5. circumstances, the letter of good and regular standing or
6. denial of a letter shall be issued within 90 days of the
7. request. The written denial must include why the requesting
8. member is not considered in good and regular standing.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CC-05

Title: Ministerial Efficiency as a Standing Committee



Submitted by: Submitted by the Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District

Contact: tripettis@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine & Discipline of the AMEC 2016, Part XIV Section II - The Annual Conference J1., page 271 and The Glossary, Page 821

Intent

To allow the Ministerial Efficiency Committee (MEC) to convene and work throughout the Annual Conference year, including making determinations and presenting disposition recommendations to the Presiding Elder and Bishop as soon as they have been established and discussed with the Minister.

Rationale

For the welfare of the minister, the local church and the Annual Conference, matters requiring Ministerial Efficiency Committee (MEC) involvement need not be delayed until Annual Conference. Referrals to the MEC may be submitted throughout the conference year by the Presiding Elder and Presiding Bishop, and addressed in a timely fashion with the minister. After a determination has been made that involves either mediation and/or corrective action other than Location of a pastor, said remedial work can begin immediately for the good of the individual and the church. All minister and pastor MEC referrals, determinations, and disposition actions that occur in a given Conference year shall be presented and recorded at the Annual Conference closest to said referral.

Current Text

1. Current Text: None exists pertaining to Ministerial Efficiency
2. Committee as Standing Committee.
3. Glossary, page 821
4. Current Text: An annual conference committee level
5. committee appointed by the Bishop to review the efficiency
6. and moral conduct of those minsters referred to it.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. Page 271 J. Committees
2. Ministerial Efficiency
3. add c. The Ministerial Efficiency Committee as a standing
4. committee shall meet at the
5. call of the Committee chairperson as s/he may deem
6. necessary for carrying out the work of the Committee.
7. Glossary, page 821
8. An annual conference committee level standing committee
9. appointed by the Bishop to review the efficiency and moral
10. conduct of those minsters referred to it.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: CC-06

Title: Realignment of Presiding Elder Districts in Eighth Episcopal District



Submitted by: Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Sr.

Contact: eighthdistamec@aol.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, page 281, Annual Conferences and their Boundaries within the Episcopal Districts No. 1

Intent

To reduce and consolidate the four (4) presiding elder districts in the South Mississippi Annual Conference to three (3) presiding elder districts.

Rationale

Once the reduction and consolidation occur, it will better equip the presiding elder districts to increase church growth, lay and clergy participation and greater efficiency and effectiveness in achieving their vision and mission.

Current Text

1. 1. Eighth District (4 Conferences)
2. 2. South Mississippi Conference: The South Mississippi
3. 3. Conference includes Natchez-Port Gibson, Brookhaven-
4. Hattiesburg, Jackson-Vicksburg and Jackson-Meridian
5. Presiding Elder Districts.

- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. 5. No. 1
2. 6. South Mississippi Conference: The South Mississippi
3. 7. Conference includes Southeast, Southwest and North
4. Presiding Elder Districts.
5. FINANICAL IMPLICATIONS
6. There are no financial implications associated with this bill.

- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CC-07

Title: Realignment of Presiding Elder Districts in the Eighth Episcopal District



Submitted by: Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Sr.

Contact: eighthdistamec@aol.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, page 281, Annual Conferences and their Boundaries within the Episcopal Districts Number: 4

Intent

To reduce and consolidate the three (3) presiding elder districts in the Central North Louisiana Annual Conference to two presiding elder districts.

Rationale

Once the reduction and consolidation occur, it will better equip the presiding elder districts to increase church growth, lay and clergy participation and greater efficiency and effectiveness in achieving their vision and mission.

Current Text

1. 1. Eighth District (4 Conferences)
2. 2. No. 4 Central North Louisiana Conference:
3. 3. The Central North Louisiana Conference includes
4. Shreveport,
5. 4. Monroe-Lake Providence, and Alexandria-Thibodaux
6. 5. Presiding Elder Districts.

- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. 7. Central North Louisiana Conference: The Central North
2. 8. Louisiana Conference includes Shreveport-Monroe
3. 9. and Alexandria-Thibodaux Presiding Elder Districts.
4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
5. There are no financial implications associated with this bill.

- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.



Submitted by: W. Raymond Bryant

Contact: drbryant7@icloud.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, pages 292-294, Section: Procedure: Disciplinary Questions; and pages 799- 801, Certificates

Intent

To facilitate more accurate reporting of each local church and provide clarity to equal to or better as transitions are made by pastors from church to church.

Rationale

Currently the Quarterly Conference disciplinary questions are ambiguous and in need of clarity. These amended disciplinary questions will ensure (1) the accuracy of the information from local churches (i.e. spiritual, membership and financial status); (2) the transparency of reports; and (3) assist the Boards of Stewards and Trustees with the requirements of their reports.

These disciplinary questions are designed to provide the Presiding Elder with more accurate quarterly documentation. It will also provide the Presiding Bishop an accurate end of year report of the local church.

The amended disciplinary questions will accomplish the aforementioned by:

1. reducing redundancy.
2. updating the language.
3. obtaining a more accurate assessment of the condition of the church.

Current Text

1. The Following questions shall be asked by the Presiding Elder and answered by the
2. pastor, in general and in particular and recorded:
3. 1. Are there any appeals from members of the society?
4. 2. Is there any application for license to preach or exhort?
5. 3. Is there any license to be renewed?
6. 4. How many persons have been converted?
7. 5. How many persons have been received as new members?
8. 6. How many persons have been received into full membership?
9. 7. How many persons are now ready to be received into full membership?
10. 8. How many persons have been received by certificate?
11. 9. How many have left with certificate? Names. Where did they go?
12. 10. How many have left without certificate?
13. 11. Total number of persons joining the church this quarter?
14. 12. How many expelled? Names. Why?
15. 13. How many members have died this quarter, and what are their names?
16. 14. What is the number of full members in this church or on this circuit?
17. 15. How many of this church or circuit are registered voters?
18. 16. What is the number of new members in this church or on this circuit? (New
19. members are persons transferring from other Methodist denominations, joining from
20. non-Methodist churches and converts.)
21. 17. Have the new members been instructed in doctrine, laws and history of our church
22. during this quarter.
23. 18. Number of affiliated members?(Affiliated members are members of our
24. denomination residing in the community who have joined temporarily and whose
25. memberships are in AME churches in other locales. They are not to be counted as
26. accessions.)
27. 19. Number of preparatory members. (Preparatory members are youth through age
28. 17. They are not to be counted as full members.)
29. 20. What has been the increase of full members this quarter?
30. 21. How many marriages have been performed by the minister this quarter?
31. 22. How many baptisms this quarter?
32. a. Infants (a weeks to 5 years of age)
33. b. Children (6-12)
34. c. Youth (13-17)
35. d. Adults (18 and over)
36. 23. How many Church Schools?
37. a. Give Church School reports, which should include total number of pupils on roll and
38. average attendance.
39. b. Include amount of money collected and disbursed-purpose and manner of
40. appropriation.
41. c. Books in the library?
42. 24. Does this station, circuit or mission have a Lay Organization?
43. a. If so, how many members does the Lay Organization have?
44. 25. Does the station, circuit or mission have a Womens Missionary Society?
45. a. If so, how many does the Womens Missionary Society have?
46. 26. Is the church incorporated properly?
47. a. Where are the incorporation papers located?
48. 27. What are the number of community projects within the church receiving funds from
49. outside the church? (Child care, Senior Citizens homes, etc.)
50. 28. Give report of stewards, which should include money raised to pay minister and
51. presiding elder, benevolence and all other purposes.
52. 29. Give report of trustees, which must include all money handed by the trustees,
53. manner and
54. purpose of disbursements.
55. 30. Are all church properties insured? For what amount?
56. 31. What is the present indebted?
57. 32. How much money has been collected for the General Budget Fund?
58. a. For retirement and hospitalization?
59. 33. How many subscribers are there this quarter for our church periodicals?
60. Name the periodicals.
61. 34. The chairperson will call for reports from all organizations and auxiliaries of the
62. church,
63. mission and circuit.
64. 35. All reports shall be carefully written out prior to the quarterly conference session.
65. The
66. conference may receive and adopt these reports at once, or send them back to their
67. respective departments for correction. If necessary, they shall be returned to the next
68. quarterly conference, unless otherwise ordered.
- 69.
- 70.
- 71.

Amended Text

1. The Following questions shall be asked by the Presiding Elder and answered by the pastor, in general and in particular and recorded:
2. THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF THE CONGREGATION
3. 1. Has any member registered an appeal with the Elder before the convening of this quarter?
4. 2. What date was the Church Conference held to organize for the new Conference year (ask at the first quarter)?
5. 3. Who are the stewards to be nominated for this conference year?
6. 4. Who is the steward delegate to the District Conference?
7. 5. Are there any applications for licenses to preach, to be renewed or license to exhort?
8. 6. Who are the preachers serving in this church? (List name and order)
9. a. Itinerant Elders
10. b. Itinerant Deacons
11. c. Locals
12. d. Licentates
13. e. Exhorters
14. 7. How many have confessed Christ as their Savior this quarter? (List total and names)
15. a. At a worship service
16. b. Through other evangelistic efforts of the church
17. 8. Who are those persons who have joined this church this quarter? (List names and total)
18. a. From other denominations
19. b. With no other church affiliation
20. c. Transferred from another affiliated Methodist tradition
21. 9. Within the period of this quarter have all the new members been instructed in the basic tenants of scripture, faith and the Discipline and
22. Doctrine of the African Methodist Episcopal Church?
23. 10. Who are they that have been read into full membership of our church this past quarter? Please give number and names.
24. 11. Name those persons who have left this church this quarter.
25. a. With letter
26. b. Without letter
27. 12. Have any of the members been expelled by the Pastor this quarter. If so, has their right to appeal been sufficiently adjudicated by church law
28. prior to the quarter?
29. 13. Please list the names of the persons who have died this quarter.
30. 14. What is the number of verified full members? At the end of the fourth (4th) quarter the stewards are to make this list available to the Elder.
31. a. Adults
32. b. Affiliated
33. c. Young Adults (18-39)
34. 15. What is the number of preparatory members (17 and under)?
35. 16. What youth ministries does this church have?
36. 17. How many worship services did you have this Quarter?
37. a. What is the average attendance to each worship service?
38. 18. How many Bible Studies are there weekly and what is the average attendance?
39. a. Does the Pastor teach Bible Study?
40. b. Is there an online or teleconference Bible Study and what is the attendance?
41. 19. Has your full membership increased beyond your reported verified membership, if so by what number?
42. 20. Name those who have been baptized this quarter.
43. a. Infants
44. b. Children (6-12)
45. c. Youth (13-17)
46. d. Adults
47. 21. Name those persons who have been married by the clergy of the church this quarter.
48. 22. The following components are to submit a brief summary of their activities, successes, and challenges during the quarter:
49. a. Christian Education e. Youth Ministries
50. b. Church School f. Young Adult Ministry
51. c. Missionary Society
52. d. Lay Organization
53. CHURCH FISCAL MANAGEMENT
54. 1. FINANCIAL REPORT
55. a. Please provide for the quarter a comprehensive financial report dating from the close of the previous quarter. All income and disbursement
56. must be itemized. The report should include all and any accounts in the name of the Church including Certificates of Deposits, investments,
57. grants and gifts, not associated with your 501(c)3. Pursuant to the Discipline Board of Stewardsthey shall make accurate reports of every
58. expenditure of money whether to the pastor, church, sick or poor. The Treasurer of Church and a minimum of three stewards, must sign off on
59. this report.
60. b. Please submit by the second quarter an operating budget.
61. c. Please provide for the quarter an aging report of all bills: 30 days (current) 60 days
62. (past due) 90 days (past due).
63. d. What was the support of the pastor for the quarter?
64. e. What is the outstanding debt owed the pastor?
65. 1. what is the outstanding debt owed the Presiding Elder?
66. f. Name the Insurance Company what is the current renewal date; who is the agent
67. and provide proof that the policy is current and at replacement value?
68. a. Includes wind damage? Yes _____ No _____
69. b. Includes flood damage Yes _____ No _____
70. c. Includes earthquake damage Yes _____ No _____
71. g. Mortgage company information
72. - Who holds the mortgage?
73. - What are the basic terms of the mortgage?
74. - Who are the guarantors on the mortgage?
75. - What is the interest rate?
76. - What was the principle and initial date of the loan?
77. - What is the monthly payment and show a statement that provides proof that the mortgage is current?
78. - Have you changed your mortgage company since the last Quarter?
79. h. Have all Connectional, Episcopal District, Annual Conference, and Presiding Elders District Financial obligations been met?
80. i. What other financial obligation, i.e. additional debt, with contractual obligation, open line of credit, credit cards, and leases are outstanding?
81. What is the amount due?
82. 2. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS
83. a. How many times has the pastor met with the Board of Stewards this quarter?
84. b. What has been the work of the Board of Stewards this quarter?
85. c. What successes, new endeavors and challenges have you met?
86. d. What goals have you accomplished?
87. e. What are you planning with the pastor to implement church growth?
88. f. Have all of the officers of the church taken the sexual harassment training per Discipline?
89. g. Does the church have an active Health Ministry? Yes _____ No _____
90. In development? Yes _____ No _____ Provide information on event (s):
91. h. Did the church engage in ministry or awareness events towards eliminating or addressing congregation or community needs associated with
92. the HIV/AIDS pandemic? Yes _____ No _____ Provide information on events (s).
93. i. Does the church actively seek to support the inclusion of persons who are differently abled? (include services for the hearing and vision
94. impaired, emergency evacuation and ensuring all persons can safely exit the building, etc.).
95. j. Have all persons working with children had background checks? Yes _____ No _____
96. 3. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
97. a. What has been the work of the Trustees this quarter?
98. 1) How many times has the pastor met with the Board of Stewards this quarter?
99. 2) List the addresses of all properties. Are these properties included in the insurance policy at replacement value or liability?
100. 3) Has there been any property sold since the last quarter? If so, for what amount?
101. 4) Is there a resolution from the church conference for the sale of the property and for what amount?
102. 5) Is there a resolution from the church conference to borrow money or to incumber property?
103. 6) What property is being leased and for how much? And provide proof that the taxes are being paid on this property.
104. 7) Are all leased or rental property properly insured showing the local church (Conference Trustees) as loss payee?
105. 8) Provide for the Presiding Elder the recorded deed at the first quarter and provide any changes to the deed or property at the remaining
106. quarters.
107. 9) Please list problem areas on the property.
108. 10) If the Church owns a cemetery is it properly managed, cataloged and insured?
109. 11) Where are the important documents of the church kept? Annually, please present to the quarter.
110. 12) Has the church initiated an active shooter training? Yes _____ No _____ Date _____
111. 13) Has the church conducted disaster preparedness activities? Yes _____ No _____ (include evacuation drills, CPR/AED training, gathering
112. of recommended supplies, training, etc.)
113. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
114. There are no financial implications associated with this bill.
- 115.
- 116.
- 117.
- 118.

Bill Number: CC-08

Title: THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL



Submitted by: PAUL MUGALA

Contact: mugalapm@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

PART XV

PAGE 297

PAGE 298

Intent

PAGE 297:

THIS IS TO STREAMLINE THE AMEC OPERATIONS ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA AND ITS SURROUNDING ISLANDS WHICH HAS TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW EXPONENTIALLY IN TERMS OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT, CHURCH GROWTH, ECUMENICAL AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, EDUCATION, HEALTH, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WITH THE INTENT TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE COMMUNITIES

Rationale

PAGE 297

TO BORROW SOME OF THE COMMENTS IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE PREAMBLE AS IT IS IN THE AMEC 2016 BOOK OF DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE; WE BELIEVE THIS IS A LIBERATING AND PROACTIVE GOVERNANCE MODEL THAT EMBRACES, EMPOWERS, AND ENVISIONS FULL PARTICIPATION OF LEADERSHIP AMONG ALL CONSTITUENTS THROUGHOUT THE CONNECTION.

PAGE 298

TO REFLECT THE APPROPRIATE REASON FOR THE CHANGE OF THE NAME OF AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL

Current Text

1. PAGE 297
2. GLOBAL WITNESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA, THE NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN, EUROPE,
3. SOUTH AMERICA AND INDIA
4. PAGE 298
5. Last Sentence:
6. The initiative is now known as the Global Development Council.
7. PAGE 299 PART XV
8. SECTION 1. PREAMBLE
9. CURRENT TEXT:
10. B. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
11. 1 NAME
12. The name of this initiative shall be the GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF THE AME CHURCH.
13. 2. Mission and Purpose
14. c. unite all AME Churches in Africa, the nations of the Caribbean, South
15. America, Europe and India.
16. h. promote deeper understanding, collaboration and cohesion among Churches
17. in Africa, the nations of the Caribbean, South America, Europe, India and Canada with those in the US.
18. j. propose legislation in the General Conference to move the process beyond
19. the Global Development Council.
20. 3. Membership The membership of the Global Development Council shall be:
21. a. all bishops page 300
22. b. general officers
23. c. connectional officers and field representatives
24. d. members of the General Board
25. e. supervisors and presidents of episcopal auxiliaries and organizations
26. residing and serving in Africa, the nations of the Caribbean, South
27. America, Europe and India, and
28. f. one (1) clergy and one (1) layperson from each annual conference, elected
29. by simple majority at the first (1st) session of the annual conference after
30. the closure of the 47th Session of the General Conference of the AME
31. Church, rotating between one (1) youth [age eighteen (18) to thirty-five
32. (35)] and adult layperson with each succeeding General Conference.
33. 4. Members of the Executive Board The members of the Executive Board shall
34. be:
35. a. all bishops serving in Africa, the nations of the Caribbean, South America and Europe.
36. b. one (1) layperson and one (1) clergy of each episcopal district.
37. c. all Field Representatives.
38. d. the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer elected at the biennial
39. meetings of the Global Development Council.
40. 5. Election The mode of election shall be determined by the Global
41. Development Council in accordance with The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal
42. Church.
43. 6. Duties of the Executive Board The duties of the Executive Board shall be to:
44. a. facilitate the realization of the aspirations of the members of the AME
45. Church resident in the Global Community.
46. b. create, appoint and spell out the terms of references of ad hoc task forces,
47. committees or coordinators and, when need arises, address specific issues
48. and matters.
49. c. receive, hear, edit and prepare all bills agreed upon by the Global
50. Development Council meetings for submission to the biennial meetings for subsequent submission to the
51. General Conference Revisions Committee.
52. d. draft rules, procedures, regulations and Bylaws that are in keeping with The Doctrine and Discipline of
53. the African Methodist Episcopal Church to govern the Global Development Council.
54. PAGE 301
55. e. develop budgets for its operations and submit to the Global Development Council for approval.
56. f. consider reports from the Field Representatives for possible advice, direction, feedback and
57. implementation.
58. g. raise, receive and administer funds received from the Connectional Church, episcopal districts, and
59. other sources independent of the Connectional Church for its operation.
60. 7. Meetings
61. a. The Global Development Council will hold biennial meetings. The first biennial meeting shall be called
62. by the senior bishop serving in the Global community not later than February 15, 2005.
63. b. The Executive Board of the Global Development Council shall meet at least annually.
64. c. The expenses of members attending meetings (Biennial or Executive Board Annual Meetings) of the
65. Global Development Council shall be borne by their respective annual conference.
66. 8. Program Coordinator
67. a. As part of the development and empowerment program for ministry, the Global Development Council
68. may appoint a Program Coordinator from time to time, to plan and implement specific activities (i.e., Joint
69. Leadership Congress and other such activities), and
70. b. One (1) of the two (2) Episcopal representatives to the Global Development Council must be
71. designated by his or her presiding bishop as Global Development Council Episcopal Coordinator,
72. responsible for the total program of the Global Development in consultation with the bishop.
73. 9. Amenability The Global Development Council shall be amenable to the General
74. Board Commission on Global Development of Africa and shall be governed by
75. The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
76. 10. Amendments This legislation can be amended by the General Conference of the
77. African Methodist Episcopal Church.
78. 11. Parliamentary Procedure The
79. Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the
80. current edition of Roberts Rules of Order page 302 Newly Revised, when not in
81. conflict with The Discipline, shall govern the proceedings of the Global
82. Development Council.
83.
84.
85.
86.
87.

Amended Text

1. PAGE 297
2. THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL [AJC] AN INDEPENDENT AUTONOMY FOR EFFECTIVE SPIRITUAL
3. DEVELOPMENT AND CHURCH GROWTH OF THE AMEC ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA AND ITS SURROUNDING
4. ISLANDS BY AFRICANS FROM AN AFRICAN CONTEXT
5. PAGE 298
6. THE INITIATIVE HAS NOW BEEN REVERTED BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL NAME KNOWN AS THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION
7. COUNCIL. THE AJC IS WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT [AS OF THE 51ST QUADRENNIAL OF THE AMEC 2020 GENERAL
8. CONFERENCE CONVENED IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA] TO HAVE ITS OWN GOVERNANCE AND MODE OF ELECTION FOR
9. ONLY PEOPLE BORN IN AFRICA AND MEET THE APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS SHALL CONTEST FOR ALL THE
10. ELECTED OFFICES TO SERVE IN LEADERSHIP ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.
11. PAGE 299
12. AMENDED TEXT:
13. B. AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL
14. 1 NAME
15. THE NAME OF THIS INITIATIVE SHALL BE THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL OF THE AME CHURCH AMENABLE TO
16. THE CONNECTIONAL AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR DOCTRINE AND SOME PARTS OF THE DISCIPLINE ONLY
17. 2. Mission and Purpose
18. c. Unite all AME Churches in Africa and pursue new opportunities in areas
19. where there is no AMEC presence; such as the, Ethiopia, Chad, exploit
20. Church Growth opportunities in Ghana and Nigeria.
21. f. Secure for members in the emerging African and its Islands Communities for
22. opportunities for service in the ministry of governance.
23. h. Promote deeper understanding, collaboration and cohesion among Churches
24. in Africa and its surrounding Islands
25. * Please Note that the following items are not relevant to the AJC so please
26. Get rid of these items completely i, j, .
27. 3. Membership
28. The membership of the African Jurisdiction Council shall be:
29. a. All AJC elected and consecrated Bishops
30. b. All AJC elected Connectional and General officers; the Judicial Council
31. c. All the African Episcopal Districts Constituents
32. d. All members of the AJC General Board Members
33. e. All the AJC supervisors and presidents of episcopal auxiliaries and organizations serving in Africa and its surrounding Islands
34. Please Note: the rest from item f; the whole 4; 6, 7, 8; are no longer relevant to the AJC; 5 becomes; 9 becomes 5; 10 becomes 6;
35. and 11 becomes 7 as noted below.
36. 4. ELECTIONS / MEETINGS, ETC REFER TO PAGE 247 PART XIV
37. FOR NOW, PLEASE REFER TO PAGE 247 PART XIV TO BE RATIFIED AT
38. THE AJC ORGANIZATION GENERAL CONFERENCE TO BE ORGANIZED
39. PRIOR TO THE CONNECTIONAL 51ST QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE
40. AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE CURRENTLY POSTPONED TO THE YEAR
41. 2021 SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA USA
42. 5. AMENABILITY
43. THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL OF THE AME CHURCH
44. SHALL BE AMENABLE TO THE CONNECTIONAL
45. AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR DOCTRINE AND SOME PARTS OF
46. THE DISCIPLINE ONLY. HOWEVER, SHALL HAVE ITS OWN AUTONOMY
47. TO ORGANIZE ITS OWN GENERAL CONFERENCE IN CONFORMITY TO
48. THE CONNECTIONAL GENERAL CONFERENCE SET UP
49. 6. AMENDMENTS
50. THIS LEGISLATION CAN BE AMENDED BY THE AJC GENERAL
51. CONFERENCE AND RATIFIED AT THE CONNECTIONAL GENERAL
52. CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.
53. 7. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE
54. THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST
55. EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND THE CURRENT EDITION OF ROBERTS RULES
56. OF ORDER PAGE 302 NEWLY REVISED, WHEN NOT IN CONFLICT WITH
57. THE DISCIPLINE, SHALL GOVERN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE AFRICAN
58. JURISDICTION COUNCIL.
59. 8. JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION PLEASE REFER TO PAGE 315 PART XVI
60. PAGE 315 PART XVI JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION SHALL SERVE AS THE
61. JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL
62. UNTIL IT IS RATIFIED AT THE ORGANIZATION GENERAL CONFERENCE
63. OF THE AJC.
64. 9. THE AJC POTENTIAL EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS RE-DISTRICTING MAP
65. HERE IS THE SUGGESTED AJC EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS MAPPING TO BE
66. RATIFIED AT THE ORGANIZATION GENERAL CONFERENCE PRIOR TO
67. THE CONNECTIONAL 51ST QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE AMEC
68. GENERAL CONFERENCE:
69. A. THE 14TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Burkina Faso, Cote DeVore, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, and Sierra Leone
70. B. THE 15TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Angola, Botswana, and Namibia
71. C. THE 17TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Zambia
72. D. THE 18TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Madagascar, Mozambique, and Swaziland
73. E. 19TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Lesotho and South Africa
74. F. 20TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Malawi and Zimbabwe
75. G. 21ST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Cameroon, Central, African Republic, Gabon, Congo Brazzaville, and Congo DRC
76. H. 22ND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda
77. I. 23RD EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Somalia
78. J. 24TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Benin, Chad, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo
79. K. THE ECUMENICAL ECONOMICAL EMPOWERMENT EPISCOPAL OFFICE TO OPERATE FROM THE AJC HQ
80. L. POTENTIAL AJC HQ NIGERIA DUE TO ITS MAJOR HARVEST IN TERMS OF CHURCH GROWTH WITH ITS MASSIVE
81. POPULATION OF MORE THAN 200 MILLION GODS PEOPLE
82. M. REGIONAL OFFICES IN ETHIOPIA, GHANA, CAMEROON, AND SOUTH AFRICA/ZAMBIA
83. 10. THE AJC GOVERNANCE MODEL AND CONNECTIONAL AMEC
84. GENERAL CONFERENCE ENGAGEMENT IN ALIGNMENT TO
85. PAGE 159 PART X ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF GENERAL
86. AND CONNECTIONAL DIVISIONS
87. 12. THE AJC COUNCIL OF BISHOPS
88. IN ORDER TO EXERCISE FAIR PLAY AND JUSTICE ONLY BISHOPS ELECTED BY
89. THE AJC GENERAL CONFERENCE SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO SERVE
90. IN THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS
91. PAGE 302 PART XV SECTION II TO SECTION VIII
92. INTENT TEXT:
93. IN ORDER TO HAVE A TOTAL AFRICAN CONSTITUENT CONENSUS THESE SECTIONS BEGINNING WITH ESECTION II TO
94. SECTION VIII SHALL BE REVIEWED AND RATIFIED AT THE ORGANIZATION GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN
95. JURISDICTION COUNCIL TO BE CALLED AHEAD OF THE CONNECTIONAL GENERAL CONFERENCE BARRING NO
96. CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
97. RATIONALE TEXT:
98. TO REFLECT THE AFRICAN PURSUIT OF CONSTITUENTS VOICE INCLUSION IN THE SHAPING THE VISION, MINISTRY,
99. AND MISSION OF THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL
100. CURRENT TEXT:
101. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPROPRIATE SECTIONS FROM PAGE 302 SECTION II TO PAGE 312 SECTION VIII
102. AMENDED TEXT:
103. LEAVE AS IS FOR NOW BUT SHALL BE RATIFIED BY THE AFRICAN CONSTITUENTS AS A VOICE OF INCLUSION IN THE
104. SHAPING OF THE VISION, MINISTRY, AND MISSION OF THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL AT THE ORGANIZATION
105. AJC GENERAL CONFERENCE
106. BUDGET:
107. ZERO BUDGET IMPACT TO THE GENERAL TREASURY AME CHURCH.

Bill Number: CC-09

Title: THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL



Submitted by: PAUL MUGALA

Contact: mugalapm@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

PART XV

PAGE 297

PAGE 298

Intent

PAGE 297:

THIS IS TO STREAMLINE THE AMEC OPERATIONS ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA AND ITS SURROUNDING ISLANDS WHICH HAS TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW EXPONENTIALLY IN TERMS OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT, CHURCH GROWTH, ECUMENICAL AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, EDUCATION, HEALTH, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WITH THE INTENT TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE COMMUNITIES

Rationale

PAGE 297

TO BORROW SOME OF THE COMMENTS IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE PREAMBLE AS IT IS IN THE AMEC 2016 BOOK OF DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE; WE BELIEVE THIS IS A LIBERATING AND PROACTIVE GOVERNANCE MODEL THAT EMBRACES, EMPOWERS, AND ENVISIONS FULL PARTICIPATION OF LEADERSHIP AMONG ALL CONSTITUENTS THROUGHOUT THE CONNECTION.

PAGE 298

TO REPLACE THE LAST SENTENCE TO REFLECT THE NEW NAME OF AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL

Current Text

1. PAGE 297
2. GLOBAL WITNESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA,
3. THE NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN, EUROPE, SOUTH
4. AMERICA AND INDIA
5. PAGE 298
6. SECTION 1. PREAMBLE
7. A. BACKGROUND:
8. Last Sentence:
9. The initiative is now known as the Global Development
10. Council.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. PAGE 297
2. THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL [AJC] AN
3. INDEPENDENT AUTONOMY FOR EFFECTIVE
4. SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND CHURCH GROWTH OF
5. THE AMEC ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA AND ITS
6. SURROUNDING ISLANDS BY AFRICANS FROM AN
7. AFRICAN CONTEXT.
8. PAGE 298
9. THE INITIATIVE HAS NOW BEEN REVERTED BACK TO
10. ITS ORIGINAL NAME KNOWN AS THE AFRICAN
11. JURISDICTION COUNCIL. THE AJC IS WITH IMMEDIATE
12. EFFECT [AS OF THE 51ST QUADRENNIAL OF THE
13. AMEC 2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE CONVENED IN
14. ORLANDO, FLORIDA] TO HAVE ITS OWN
15. GOVERNANCE AND MODE OF ELECTION FOR ONLY
16. PEOPLE BORN IN AFRICA AND MEET THE
17. APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS SHALL CONTEST FOR
18. ALL THE ELECTED OFFICES TO SERVE IN
19. LEADERSHIP ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number:

Title: THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL/GLOBAL WITNESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA, THE NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN, EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA AND INDIA



Submitted by: PAUL MUGALA

Contact: mugalapm@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

PART XV

PAGE 297

PAGE 298

Intent

PAGE 297:

THIS IS TO STREAMLINE THE AMEC OPERATIONS ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA AND ITS SURROUNDING ISLANDS WHICH HAS TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW EXPONENTIALLY IN TERMS OF SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT, CHURCH GROWTH, ECUMENICAL AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT, EDUCATION, HEALTH, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WITH THE INTENT TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE COMMUNITIES

Rationale

PAGE 297

TO BORROW SOME OF THE COMMENTS IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE PREAMBLE AS IT IS IN THE AMEC 2016 BOOK OF DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE; WE BELIEVE THIS IS A LIBERATING AND PROACTIVE GOVERNANCE MODEL THAT EMBRACES, EMPOWERS, AND ENVISIONS FULL PARTICIPATION OF LEADERSHIP AMONG ALL CONSTITUENTS THROUGHOUT THE CONNECTION.

PAGE 298

TO REFLECT THE APPROPRIATE REASON FOR THE CHANGE OF THE NAME OF AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL

Current Text

1. PAGE 297
2. GLOBAL WITNESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA, THE NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN, EUROPE,
3. SOUTH AMERICA AND INDIA
4. PAGE 298
5. Last Sentence:
6. The initiative is now known as the Global Development Council.
7. PAGE 299 PART XV
8. SECTION 1. PREAMBLE
9. CURRENT TEXT:
10. B. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
11. 1 NAME
12. The name of this initiative shall be the GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF THE AME CHURCH.
13. 2. Mission and Purpose
14. c. unite all AME Churches in Africa, the nations of the Caribbean, South
15. America, Europe and India.
16. h. promote deeper understanding, collaboration and cohesion among Churches
17. in Africa, the nations of the Caribbean, South America, Europe, India and Canada with those in the US.
18. j. propose legislation in the General Conference to move the process beyond
19. the Global Development Council.
20. 3. Membership The membership of the Global Development Council shall be:
21. a. all bishops page 300
22. b. general officers
23. c. connectional officers and field representatives
24. d. members of the General Board
25. e. supervisors and presidents of episcopal auxiliaries and organizations
26. residing and serving in Africa, the nations of the Caribbean, South
27. America, Europe and India, and
28. f. one (1) clergy and one (1) layperson from each annual conference, elected
29. by simple majority at the first (1st) session of the annual conference after
30. the closure of the 47th Session of the General Conference of the AME
31. Church, rotating between one (1) youth [age eighteen (18) to thirty-five
32. (35)] and adult layperson with each succeeding General Conference.
33. 4. Members of the Executive Board The members of the Executive Board shall
34. be:
35. a. all bishops serving in Africa, the nations of the Caribbean, South America and Europe.
36. b. one (1) layperson and one (1) clergy of each episcopal district.
37. c. all Field Representatives.
38. d. the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer elected at the biennial
39. meetings of the Global Development Council.
40. 5. Election The mode of election shall be determined by the Global
41. Development Council in accordance with The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal
42. Church.
43. 6. Duties of the Executive Board The duties of the Executive Board shall be to:
44. a. facilitate the realization of the aspirations of the members of the AME
45. Church resident in the Global Community.
46. b. create, appoint and spell out the terms of references of ad hoc task forces,
47. committees or coordinators and, when need arises, address specific issues
48. and matters.
49. c. receive, hear, edit and prepare all bills agreed upon by the Global
50. Development Council meetings for submission to the biennial meetings for subsequent submission to the
51. General Conference Revisions Committee.
52. d. draft rules, procedures, regulations and Bylaws that are in keeping with The Doctrine and Discipline of
53. the African Methodist Episcopal Church to govern the Global Development Council.
54. PAGE 301
55. e. develop budgets for its operations and submit to the Global Development Council for approval.
56. f. consider reports from the Field Representatives for possible advice, direction, feedback and
57. implementation.
58. g. raise, receive and administer funds received from the Connectional Church, episcopal districts, and
59. other sources independent of the Connectional Church for its operation.
60. 7. Meetings
61. a. The Global Development Council will hold biennial meetings. The first biennial meeting shall be called
62. by the senior bishop serving in the Global community not later than February 15, 2005.
63. b. The Executive Board of the Global Development Council shall meet at least annually.
64. c. The expenses of members attending meetings (Biennial or Executive Board Annual Meetings) of the
65. Global Development Council shall be borne by their respective annual conference.
66. 8. Program Coordinator
67. a. As part of the development and empowerment program for ministry, the Global Development Council
68. may appoint a Program Coordinator from time to time, to plan and implement specific activities (i.e., Joint
69. Leadership Congress and other such activities), and
70. b. One (1) of the two (2) Episcopal representatives to the Global Development Council must be
71. designated by his or her presiding bishop as Global Development Council Episcopal Coordinator,
72. responsible for the total program of the Global Development in consultation with the bishop.
73. 9. Amenability The Global Development Council shall be amenable to the General
74. Board Commission on Global Development of Africa and shall be governed by
75. The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
76. 10. Amendments This legislation can be amended by the General Conference of the
77. African Methodist Episcopal Church.
78. 11. Parliamentary Procedure The
79. Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the
80. current edition of Roberts Rules of Order page 302 Newly Revised, when not in
81. conflict with The Discipline, shall govern the proceedings of the Global
82. Development Council.
83.
84.
85.
86.
87.

Amended Text

1. PAGE 297
2. THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL [AJC] AN INDEPENDENT AUTONOMY FOR EFFECTIVE SPIRITUAL
3. DEVELOPMENT AND CHURCH GROWTH OF THE AMEC ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA AND ITS SURROUNDING
4. ISLANDS BY AFRICANS FROM AN AFRICAN CONTEXT
5. PAGE 298
6. THE INITIATIVE HAS NOW BEEN REVERTED BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL NAME KNOWN AS THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION
7. COUNCIL. THE AJC IS WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT [AS OF THE 51ST QUADRENNIAL OF THE AMEC 2020 GENERAL
8. CONFERENCE CONVENED IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA] TO HAVE ITS OWN GOVERNANCE AND MODE OF ELECTION FOR
9. ONLY PEOPLE BORN IN AFRICA AND MEET THE APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS SHALL CONTEST FOR ALL THE
10. ELECTED OFFICES TO SERVE IN LEADERSHIP ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.
11. PAGE 299
12. AMENDED TEXT:
13. B. AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL
14. 1 NAME
15. THE NAME OF THIS INITIATIVE SHALL BE THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL OF THE AME CHURCH AMENABLE TO
16. THE CONNECTIONAL AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR DOCTRINE AND SOME PARTS OF THE DISCIPLINE ONLY
17. 2. Mission and Purpose
18. c. Unite all AME Churches in Africa and pursue new opportunities in areas
19. where there is no AMEC presence; such as the, Ethiopia, Chad, exploit
20. Church Growth opportunities in Ghana and Nigeria.
21. f. Secure for members in the emerging African and its Islands Communities for
22. opportunities for service in the ministry of governance.
23. h. Promote deeper understanding, collaboration and cohesion among Churches
24. in Africa and its surrounding Islands
25. * Please Note that the following items are not relevant to the AJC so please
26. Get rid of these items completely i, j, .
27. 3. Membership
28. The membership of the African Jurisdiction Council shall be:
29. a. All AJC elected and consecrated Bishops
30. b. All AJC elected Connectional and General officers; the Judicial Council
31. c. All the African Episcopal Districts Constituents
32. d. All members of the AJC General Board Members
33. e. All the AJC supervisors and presidents of episcopal auxiliaries and organizations serving in Africa and its surrounding Islands
34. Please Note: the rest from item f; the whole 4; 6, 7, 8; are no longer relevant to the AJC; 5 becomes; 9 becomes 5; 10 becomes 6;
35. and 11 becomes 7 as noted below.
36. 4. ELECTIONS / MEETINGS, ETC REFER TO PAGE 247 PART XIV
37. FOR NOW, PLEASE REFER TO PAGE 247 PART XIV TO BE RATIFIED AT
38. THE AJC ORGANIZATION GENERAL CONFERENCE TO BE ORGANIZED
39. PRIOR TO THE CONNECTIONAL 51ST QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE
40. AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE CURRENTLY POSTPONED TO THE YEAR
41. 2021 SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA USA
42. 5. AMENABILITY
43. THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL OF THE AME CHURCH
44. SHALL BE AMENABLE TO THE CONNECTIONAL
45. AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR DOCTRINE AND SOME PARTS OF
46. THE DISCIPLINE ONLY. HOWEVER, SHALL HAVE ITS OWN AUTONOMY
47. TO ORGANIZE ITS OWN GENERAL CONFERENCE IN CONFORMITY TO
48. THE CONNECTIONAL GENERAL CONFERENCE SET UP
49. 6. AMENDMENTS
50. THIS LEGISLATION CAN BE AMENDED BY THE AJC GENERAL
51. CONFERENCE AND RATIFIED AT THE CONNECTIONAL GENERAL
52. CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.
53. 7. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE
54. THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST
55. EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND THE CURRENT EDITION OF ROBERTS RULES
56. OF ORDER PAGE 302 NEWLY REVISED, WHEN NOT IN CONFLICT WITH
57. THE DISCIPLINE, SHALL GOVERN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE AFRICAN
58. JURISDICTION COUNCIL.
59. 8. JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION PLEASE REFER TO PAGE 315 PART XVI
60. PAGE 315 PART XVI JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION SHALL SERVE AS THE
61. JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL
62. UNTIL IT IS RATIFIED AT THE ORGANIZATION GENERAL CONFERENCE
63. OF THE AJC.
64. 9. THE AJC POTENTIAL EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS RE-DISTRICTING MAP
65. HERE IS THE SUGGESTED AJC EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS MAPPING TO BE
66. RATIFIED AT THE ORGANIZATION GENERAL CONFERENCE PRIOR TO
67. THE CONNECTIONAL 51ST QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE AMEC
68. GENERAL CONFERENCE:
69. A. THE 14TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Burkina Faso, Cote DeVore, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Senegal, and Sierra Leone
70. B. THE 15TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Angola, Botswana, and Namibia
71. C. THE 17TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Zambia
72. D. THE 18TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Madagascar, Mozambique, and Swaziland
73. E. 19TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Lesotho and South Africa
74. F. 20TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT Malawi and Zimbabwe
75. G. 21ST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Cameroon, Central, African Republic, Gabon, Congo Brazzaville, and Congo DRC
76. H. 22ND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda
77. I. 23RD EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Somalia
78. J. 24TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Benin, Chad, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo
79. K. THE ECUMENICAL ECONOMICAL EMPOWERMENT EPISCOPAL OFFICE TO OPERATE FROM THE AJC HQ
80. L. POTENTIAL AJC HQ NIGERIA DUE TO ITS MAJOR HARVEST IN TERMS OF CHURCH GROWTH WITH ITS MASSIVE
81. POPULATION OF MORE THAN 200 MILLION GODS PEOPLE
82. M. REGIONAL OFFICES IN ETHIOPIA, GHANA, CAMEROON, AND SOUTH AFRICA/ZAMBIA
83. 10. THE AJC GOVERNANCE MODEL AND CONNECTIONAL AMEC
84. GENERAL CONFERENCE ENGAGEMENT IN ALIGNMENT TO
85. PAGE 159 PART X ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF GENERAL
86. AND CONNECTIONAL DIVISIONS
87. 12. THE AJC COUNCIL OF BISHOPS
88. IN ORDER TO EXERCISE FAIR PLAY AND JUSTICE ONLY BISHOPS ELECTED BY
89. THE AJC GENERAL CONFERENCE SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO SERVE
90. IN THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS
91. PAGE 302 PART XV SECTION II TO SECTION VIII
92. INTENT TEXT:
93. IN ORDER TO HAVE A TOTAL AFRICAN CONSTITUENT CONENSUS THESE SECTIONS BEGINNING WITH ESECTION II TO
94. SECTION VIII SHALL BE REVIEWED AND RATIFIED AT THE ORGANIZATION GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN
95. JURISDICTION COUNCIL TO BE CALLED AHEAD OF THE CONNECTIONAL GENERAL CONFERENCE BARRING NO
96. CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
97. RATIONALE TEXT:
98. TO REFLECT THE AFRICAN PURSUIT OF CONSTITUENTS VOICE INCLUSION IN THE SHAPING THE VISION, MINISTRY,
99. AND MISSION OF THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL
100. CURRENT TEXT:
101. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPROPRIATE SECTIONS FROM PAGE 302 SECTION II TO PAGE 312 SECTION VIII
102. AMENDED TEXT:
103. LEAVE AS IS FOR NOW BUT SHALL BE RATIFIED BY THE AFRICAN CONSTITUENTS AS A VOICE OF INCLUSION IN THE
104. SHAPING OF THE VISION, MINISTRY, AND MISSION OF THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL AT THE ORGANIZATION
105. AJC GENERAL CONFERENCE
106. BUDGET:
107. ZERO BUDGET IMPACT TO THE GENERAL TREASURY AME CHURCH.

Bill Number: CC-10

Title: Reverend



Submitted by: franklin membe

Contact: franklinmembe@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

PAGE 299 SECTION 1B2: MISSION AND PURPOSE

Intent

CREATION OF THE MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE AJC TO ADOPT THE MISSION AND PURPOSE AS ENSHRINED IN THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rationale

TO ENHANCE THE AFRICA JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY AS A COUNCIL WHILE RETAINING THE CONNECTIONAL CHARACTER

Current Text

1. NONE

2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. THE AJC GC SHALL ADOPT THE MISSION AND
2. PURPOSE AS ENSHRINED IN THE DOCTRINE AND
3. DISCIPLINE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL
4. CHURCH AND MAY AMEND THE SAME WITH
5. PROVISIONS TO ALLOW FOR EXCLUSIVE SELF
6. DETERMINATION AND ADMINISTERING OF THE
7. AFFAIRS OF AFRICAS OWN CHURCH BUSINESS TO
8. REFLECT THE ASPIRATIONS AND WISHES OF THE
9. AME CHURCH IN AFRICA EXCLUSIVELY FOR AFRICAN
10. COUNTRIES
11. SUCH AMENDMENTS SHALL HOWEVER NOT
12. CONTRADICT THE SPIRIT OF THE CONNECTIONAL
13. CHURCH IN AS FAR AS SUCH CONNECTIONAL
14. PROVISIONS OF THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF
15. THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
16. SHALL NOT BE CONTRARY TO THE HOLY BIBLE
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CC-11

Title: Reverend



Submitted by: franklin membe

Contact: franklinmembe@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

PAGE 308: PART XV SECTION VII SUB SECTION D STRUCTURE CLAUSE 1 THE FREDERICK CALHOM JAMES
CENTRE OF AME SERVICE - Sub-section D STRUCTURE Clause 1 Executive Board sub clause a COMPOSITION

Intent

TO LEGISLATE FOR FULL PARTICIPATION OF AJC ON ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO AJC AT THE CONNECTIONAL
LEVEL

Rationale

TO ENSURE THAT ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO OR AFFECTING THE CHURCH IN AFRICA IN THE REALM OF THE
CONNECTION:

1. HAVE RELEVANT AFRICAN REPRESENTATION. THIS IS NECESSARY FOR AFRICA TO ENSURE THAT THE
CHURCH IN AFRICA PARTICIPATES IN DECISIONS MADE AS AFFECTING THE CONTINENT
2. SERVE THE PURPOSE OF RAISING THE AFRICAN CHURCH FROM THE BACKDROP OF DISENFRANCHISEMENT
AND DEPRIVATION OF THE PAST FAILURES TO ADEQUATELY DEVELOP THE SPIRITUAL, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL
BEING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AJC CONSTITUENCY

Current Text

1. AS IT IS WITH AN INCLUSION
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. COMPOSITION is amended by the inclusion of the words,
2. and 2 members appointed by the AJC
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CC-12

Title: Reverend



Submitted by: franklin membe

Contact: franklinmembe@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

PAGE 309: PART XV SECTION VII SUB SECTION D STRUCTURE CLAUSE 1 THE FREDERICK CALHOM JAMES
CENTRE OF AME SERVICE - Sub-section E MEMBERSHIP

Intent

TO SEEK REPRESENTATION ON THE FREDERICK CALHOM JAMES CENTRE OF AME SERVICE BOARD

Rationale

TO ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY AND PARTICIPATION IN MATTERS OF THE CONNECTION DIRECTLY AFFECTING
THE AJC CONSTITUENCY

Current Text

1. AS IT IS WITH AN INCLUSION
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. SUB-SECTION E MEMBERSHIP IS AMENDED BY THE
2. INCLUSION OF THE WORDS, AND 2 MEMBERS
3. APPOINTED BY THE AJC
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: JA-01

Title: Child and Youth Protection and Background Checks



Submitted by: Department of Christian Education

Contact: gpierce@ameced.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

pg. 333

Intent

This proposed legislation seeks to require adult employees and volunteers beginning work with or already working with ministries with children and/or youth or with organizations or agencies associated with the church that serve children and/or youth to have periodic national criminal background checks and training related to child protection policies and procedures.

Rationale

The Book of Doctrine and Discipline speaks of criminal background checks and anti-sexual harassment training for those entering ministry and for clergy. It further speaks of preventing any and all sexual misconduct by clergy, staff, appointed or elected officers, or volunteers of the AME Church; but, it does not make explicit the requirement of adult employees and volunteers to have periodic national criminal background checks. Such an explicit requirement strengthens the church's safeguards for children and youth and offers protection to the church's ministry and service to and with young people.

Current Text

1. Pg. 333, Section X. Sexual Misconduct 3. Proactive
2. Measures to Combat Abuse
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. (To be added as separate second paragraph of Section X,3,
2. following the a, b, c listing)
3. The church must be a safe place where faith can be
4. nurtured, free from abusive and predatory behavior. This is
5. particularly true for the sake of children and youth. As
6. proactive measures toward this goal, adult employees and
7. volunteers beginning their work with or already working with
8. ministries with children and/or youth or with organizations or
9. agencies associated with the church that serve children
10. and/or youth must have national criminal background
11. checks no less than every two years as well as participate
12. in a child abuse prevention and ministry protection training
13. also no less than every two years administered by the
14. Department of Christian Education. Responsibility of any
15. costs associated with the background check or training to
16. be covered should be negotiated and determined by the
17. adult staff or volunteer and the church
18. leader/ministry/organization/agency recruiting or having
19. oversight over the adult staff or volunteer. Results of said
20. background checks should be kept securely on file in the
21. headquarters of the episcopal district, in which the adult
22. staff or volunteer is serving. Verification of completion of the
23. before mentioned training will be maintained in a secure,
24. central database within the Department of Christian
25. Education, with periodic reports shared with the respective
26. episcopal districts.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.



Submitted by: RAVI PERRY

Contact: ravi.perry@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Section XV: Marriage and Matrimonial Relations, Part B: Same-Sex Marriage, Page 360

Intent

INTENT:

Section XV, Part B is proposed to be deleted. Other Protestant Christian denominations of which we are closely affiliated have already embraced these actions (e.g., the Episcopal Church). Are their interpretations of Holy Scriptures wrong? Or is there something unique about the African interpretation of Holy Scriptures? The Church's deafening silence toward members of the LGBTQ community globally makes

Rationale

RATIONALE: I am proposing that the AME Church delete Section XV, Part B (2016 Discipline, page 360). By deleting the section, the AME would be signaling it permits what said section now bans. This will benefit the church. Deleting the section shields the church from the difficulties experienced in other Protestant denominations wherein they sought to add new text as it relates to the issue of whether or not to fully embrace and extend the rights of full members to LGBTQ+ identified persons. The AME church need not replace the section with any new text, but it may. By simply deleting the section, the church would be then permitting local churches and pastors welcome LGBTQ parishioners into full membership in God's house. Should the AME Church take this action, the global reaction will be favorable, and membership will increase. The AME Church was founded because of oppression. This history is unique in that the denomination's roots are closely tied to a commitment to the eradication of injustice in the name of God. This church, the first Black ecumenical organization in the United States, was the first in the Western Hemisphere to approve women to preach (Jarena Lee). This church revised its prior Disciplines to allow women into ministry and eventually to be eligible to become Bishops. This church, in spite of 1 Corinthians 14:34, rightly saw it to ordain women as preachers, ministers, pastors, Presiding Elders, and Bishops, not only allowing them to speak but to hold leadership posts. This was and is fair and just. Holy Scriptures do not explicitly support or reject this action with respect to gender and church leadership. Likewise, neither do the Holy Scriptures explicitly forbid same-sex attraction, companionship, love, and marriage - particularly, not as it is practiced in monogamous partnerships and is largely understood as today in the 21st century.

Marriage is a civil right shared between two human beings. The AME Church recognizes such in that it permits its clergy to marry couples, but it only extends that right to certain human beings. As a nonprofit tax-exempt organization, the church, by its participation in marriage ceremonies in the United States, already legitimizes the social contract of the state and its official role in validating marriages as a legally defined relationship between two people. We regularly celebrate anniversaries and we take time during worship service to do so. The anniversaries celebrated are dates in which marriage contracts between

Current Text

1. Section XV: Marriage and Matrimonial Relations, Part B:
2. Same-Sex Marriage, Page 360
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. "Embracing All of God's People into Full Membership"
2. The AME Church believes God loves all and welcomes all.
3. Thereby, all persons are eligible for full membership into the
4. church. Local churches can choose whether or not to
5. openly welcome LGBTQ persons in terms of external
6. signage and outreach. All local churches must admit any
7. human being eligible and desiring of full membership to
8. have access to full membership in the AME church. Local
9. churches should hold church conferences on issues
10. affecting LGBTQ persons, ensuring a majority of active
11. members in the past six months have been invited to
12. participate and to vote on the matter(s). Should a local
13. church choose to openly welcome and embrace LGBTQ
14. persons, appropriate signage on the exterior of the church
15. or elsewhere in church publications is permitted. Should a
16. local church choose not to at that time, the local church, its
17. clergy or members, is yet encouraged to embrace all
18. persons as full members in Gods house.
19. The AME Church believes God wishes all humankind to
20. experience the joy of love and the love of God. Insofar as
21. two human persons are found fit to engage in the awesome
22. responsibility of a commitment to one another, the AME
23. Church welcomes such persons as full members. The AME
24. Church permits its clergy to marry said persons in public or
25. private ceremonies, in official and unofficial capacities as
26. AME clergy, and such ceremonies are permitted on church
27. property. The AME Church encourages its clergy of all
28. ranks to embrace love and the commitment shared between
29. two human beings. As such, clergy are permitted to preside
30. over, attend, coordinate, host, and sponsor any commitment
31. ceremonies wherein the clergy believes
32. the couple to be in good standing with the Church and
33. seeking a close relationship with God.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-01

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, Page 470-, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION

Intent

To correct the reference to Annual Conference in the Constitution and Bylaws of the CLO.

Rationale

Annual should be in front of Conference where applicable.

Current Text

1. Conference should be corrected to reflect Annual
2. Conference where applicable.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Annual should be added in front of Conference where
2. applicable.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-02

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 472, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE III DIVISIONS,

Intent

To have one Constitution which shall govern all levels of the Connectional Lay Organization.

Rationale

The Lay Organization is one organization with several levels. This will ensure that all levels of the Lay Organization are managed in the same manner. Any specific tradition or process may be identified in a Procedural Manual or Rules and Regulations for said level.

Current Text

1. No Current Text New text to be inserted
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Section 3 Each level of the Connectional Lay Organization
2. shall operate within the framework of the Executive Board
3. and Constitution and Bylaws as approved by the
4. Connectional Lay Organizational Biennial Convention and
5. ratified by the General Conference.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-03

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, Page 473, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP, Section 2.d.

Intent

To correct stylistic errors.

Rationale

(Correction of stylistic errors)

Article IV Membership, page 473

Two ages are displayed for the young adult representative. 18-30 and 18-35. The 18-30 should be deleted.

Current Text

1. d. Six (6) elected delegates from each Episcopal District
2. Lay Organization, of whom at least one (1) shall be a young
3. adult Representative, ages 18-30 18-35.

4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. d. Six (6) elected delegates from each Episcopal District
2. Lay Organization, of whom at least one (1) shall be a young
3. adult Representative, ages 18-35.

4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-04

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 473, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIIP, Section 2.e.

Intent

To correct the omitted text which was previously approved by the Connectional Lay Organization.

Rationale

Previously approved amendments were not included in the 2016 Doctrine and Discipline. To correct such omitted text.

Current Text

1. Section 2.e. All Conference Lay Organization Presidents.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Section 2.e All Conference Lay Organization Presidents;
2. and Directors of Lay Activities and Young Adult
3. Representatives (YAR)
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-05

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 473, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP, Section 2.b.

Intent

To eliminate confusion as to the voting status of any past president who has been awarded Emeritus status and to determine any financial responsibilities of the Lay Organization at all levels and to define the role and the role and qualifications of the office of President Emeritus defined in the By-laws.

Rationale

To really define this role so that every past president is not automatically considered President Emeritus. Also, to determine what financial obligation is connected to this position.

Current Text

1. Section 2. b. All persons holding the designation and/or
2. office of President Emeritus.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. No amended text - Delete Article IV, Section 2.b.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-06

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 480, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE VI NOMINATION AND ELECTION
PROCEDURE, Section 3

Intent

To include the local, district of the Annual Conference (where applicable) and the Conference presidents signatures for candidates for Connectional office.

Rationale

To ensure persons running for Connectional office are active on all levels including Annual Conference, District of the Annual Conference and local church levels

Current Text

1. Section 3. All persons seeking an elected office must submit
2. a letter of Intent with qualifications signed by the Episcopal
3. District President to the Chairperson of the Nominating
4. Committee. The format for the letter of Intent will be
5. provided by the Nominating Committee and must be
6. returned Letter must be returned by certified mail, its
7. international equivalent and/or electronic communications
8. postmarked on or before January 15th of the election year.
9. This deadline date will constitute the close of all
10. nominations submitted to the Nominating Committee.
11. There shall be no nominations from the floor of the Biennial
12. Session.

Amended Text

1. Section 3. All persons seeking an elected office must submit
2. a Letter of Intent with qualifications signed by the Episcopal
3. District, Annual Conference, District of the Annual
4. Conference (where they exist) and local church Presidents
5. to the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. The
6. format for the letter of Intent will be provided by the
7. Nominating Committee and must be returned Letter must be
8. returned by certified mail, its international equivalent and/or
9. electronic communications postmarked on or before
10. January 15th of the election year. This deadline date will
11. constitute the close of all nominations submitted to the
12. Nominating Committee. There shall be no nominations
13. from the floor of the Biennial Session.

Bill Number: CO-07

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Pages 485 to 488, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE VIII QUALIFICATIONS, Sections 2, 3, 4,5 ,6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12,13,14, 15 and 16

Intent

To correct articles and section designations, punctuations and cross-references.

Rationale

Subsection 1 should always be followed by a Subsection 2, if there is no Subsection 2, the indicator of 1, is not necessary. If there is a Subsection a, then there needs to be a Subsection b.

Current Text

1. (Stylistic correction of current text by removing subsection
2. "a" in all the above mentioned sections.)
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. (Correction of stylistic errors)
2. - Article VIII Qualifications, pages 485, 486, 487 and 488
3. Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16
4. have Subsection a without Subsection b.
5. Delete Subsection "a" in all the above.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-08

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 488, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE IX EXECUTIVE BOARD, Section 2

Intent

To delete the requirement to have an Executive Board Meeting preceding the Biennial and another one at the seat of the Biennial.

Rationale

To streamline and better coordinate Executive Board Meetings. To have an Executive Board Meeting preceding the Biennial and another meeting at the seat of the Biennial is expensive and no longer relevant. Proper meeting preparation, strategic planning and utilizing the most advanced technology allow much better use of resources.

Current Text

1. Section 2. The Executive Board shall meet at least once,
2. but no more than twice, annually, at the time and place
3. designated by the President and members of the Executive
4. Board. The Board shall hold two (2) meetings, immediately
5. preceding and at the seat of the next Biennial Session.

6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Section 2. The Executive Board shall meet at least once,
2. but no more than twice, annually, at the time and place
3. designated by the President and members of the Executive
4. Board.

5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-09

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 488, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE IX EXECUTIVE BOARD, Section 1

Intent

To correct the omitted text which was previously approved by the Connectional Lay Organization.

Rationale

Previously approved amendments were not included in the 2016 Doctrine and Discipline. To correct such omitted text.

Current Text

1. Section 1. There shall be an Executive Board of the
2. Connectional Lay Organization, composed of the elected
3. officers of the organization, President Emeriti and
4. chairpersons of standing committees.

5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Section 1. There shall be an Executive Board of the
2. Connectional Lay Organization, composed of the elected
3. officers of the organization, Episcopal District Presidents,
4. President Emeriti and chairpersons of standing committees.

5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-10

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 490, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE XII POWERS AND JURISDICTIONS,
Section 1

Intent

To correct articles and section designations, punctuations and cross-references.

Rationale

(Correction of stylistic errors)

- Article XII Powers and Jurisdictions, page 490

Has a Section 1, without a Section 2.

Delete Section 1 in the above.

Current Text

1. Section 1. The Connectional Lay Organization shall
2. exercise prudent and appropriate authority, power, and
3. supervision over all Episcopal District Lay Organizations
4. established under the provisions of this Constitution.

5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. The Connectional Lay Organization shall exercise prudent
2. and appropriate authority, power, and supervision over all
3. Episcopal District Lay Organizations established under the
4. provisions of this Constitution.

5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-11

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 490, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE X MEETINGS, Section 4

Intent

To amend the dates of reporting elected Biennial delegates from April 1 and May 1 of the Biennial year to January 1 and February 1 respectively.

Rationale

The Connectional Lay Organization is moving to an on-line registration process. To facilitate this process, the election of delegates and reporting elected delegates should be finalized earlier in the year preceding the Biennial for more effective planning and implementation of the automated registration process.

Current Text

1. Section 4. All delegates to the Biennial session must be
2. elected at a regular or properly convened meeting. The
3. names and addresses of all delegates must be submitted to
4. the Connectional Financial Secretary on or before April 1 of
5. the Biennial year. These names shall be forwarded to the
6. Connectional Director of Lay Activities by the Financial
7. Secretary on or before May 1 of the Biennial year for the
8. express purpose of expediting pre-registration for
9. Educational sessions

10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Section 4. All delegates to the Biennial session must be
2. elected at a regular or properly convened meeting. The
3. names and addresses of all delegates must be submitted to
4. the Connectional Financial Secretary on or before January
5. 1 of the Biennial year. These names shall be forwarded to
6. the Connectional Director of Lay Activities by the Financial
7. Secretary on or before February 1 of the Biennial year for
8. the express purpose of expediting pre-registration for
9. Educational sessions.

10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-12

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 491, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE XIV COMMITTEES, Section 2

Intent

To amend the standing committees to include the Budget and Finance, Social Action and Organization and Officers Effectiveness.

Rationale

It is necessary to add the aforementioned committees, as their functions broadly impact major objectives of the Connectional Lay Organization. The work of the Budget and Finance Committee is vital to the day to day operations of the Connectional Lay Organization. In addition to preparing the proposed two year budget, it is necessary to monitor the implementation of the budget on a monthly basis, in order to make sound recommendations to the Executive Board.

In our current world climate, Social Action has become a very large umbrella under which many of our objectives fall. Objectives include but are not limited to voter education and mobilization, Human rights, prison reform, financial literacy as well as economic and environmental justice.

The Organizational and Officers Effectiveness Committee will provide guidelines, implementation and corrective actions when deemed necessary. This committee is also responsible for developing, presenting and implementing the process and tools for the Officers evaluation.

Current Text

1. Section 2. Standing committees are appointed to implement
2. specific goals, objectives and programs that advance of and
3. are vital to the functioning of the Connectional Lay
4. Organization. Standing committees shall be the following:
5. Proposed Legislation, Constitution and By-Laws, and AMEV
6. Alert.

- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Section 2. Standing committees are appointed to implement
2. specific goals, objectives and programs that advance of and
3. are vital to the functioning of the Connectional Lay
4. Organization. Standing committees shall be the following
5. Proposed Legislation, Constitution and By-Laws, AMEV-
6. Alert, Budget and Finance, Social Action and Organizational
7. and Officers Effectiveness.

- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-12

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 492, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE XIV COMMITTEES, Section 8

Intent

To amend the composition of the Budget and Finance Committee, adding the Financial Secretary.

Rationale

Currently the Treasurer is the only elected officer who serves on the committee. However, on page 476, Article V-Officers Duties and Responsibilities, Section 1. Subsection I.2. it is provided that the Financial Secretary will serve as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee. The Financial Secretary thus needs to be added under the composition of the Budget and Finance Committee as a member.

Current Text

1. Section 8. The Budget and Finance Committee composed
2. of the Treasurer and other members for a total of no more
3. than seven (7) members shall be appointed by the
4. President.

5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Section 8. The Budget and Finance Committee composed
2. of the Treasurer, Financial secretary and other members for
3. a total of no more than seven (7) members shall be
4. appointed by the President.

5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-12

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 493-494, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE XV SUBORDINATE BODIES, Section 2

Intent

To list the frequencies of meetings for the Episcopal Districts, Annual Conferences, Districts of the Annual Conference Lay Organization (where they exist).

Rationale

Currently the Discipline lists the Station/charge or circuit Lay Organization as required meeting not less than eleven (11) times per year and the Connection Lay Organization to meet biennially.

The frequency of meetings for the Episcopal District, Annual Conference and Districts of the Annual Conferences is not listed.

Current Text

1. No current text. New text to be added to section 2
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Section 2. f. The Annual Conference Lay Organization shall
2. fix the time for regular meetings which should not be fewer
3. than four (4) times per year.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-13

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 493, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE XV SUBORDINATE BODIES, Section 1

Intent

To list the frequencies of meetings for the Episcopal Districts, Annual Conferences, Districts of the Annual Conference Lay Organization (where they exist).

Rationale

Currently the Discipline lists the Station/charge or circuit Lay Organization as required meeting not less than eleven (11) times per year and the Connection Lay Organization to meet biennially.

The frequency of meetings for the Episcopal District, Annual Conference and Districts of the Annual Conferences is not listed.

Current Text

1. No current text. New text to be added to section 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Section 1. h. The Episcopal District Lay Organization shall
2. fix the time for regular meetings, which should be annually.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-15

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 494, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE XII SUBORDINATE BODIES, Section 3

Intent

To correct articles and section designations, punctuations and cross-references.

Rationale

Section 3. d. should be after 3.c. Currently there is an error as a. is after c.

Current Text

1. a. This organization is amenable to the Conference Lay
2. Organization and must report to the Conference Lay
3. Organization at least annually
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. d. This organization is amenable to the Conference Lay
2. Organization and must report to the Conference Lay
3. Organization at least annually
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-17

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 494, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE XV SUBORDINATE BODIES, Section 3

Intent

To list the frequencies of meetings for the Episcopal Districts, Annual Conferences, Districts of the Annual Conference Lay Organization (where they exist).

Rationale

Currently the Discipline lists the Station/charge or circuit Lay Organization as required meeting not less than eleven (11) times per year and the Connection Lay Organization to meet biennially.

The frequency of meetings for the Episcopal District, Annual Conference and Districts of the Annual Conferences is not listed.

Current Text

1. No current text. New text to be added to section 3
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Section 3. e. The District Lay Organization of the Annual
2. Conference (where it exists) shall fix the time for regular
3. meetings, which should not be fewer than eight (8) times
4. per year.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-18

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 495, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE XVI AMENDMENTS, Section 1

Intent

To correct articles and section designations, punctuations and cross-references.

Rationale

(Correction of stylistic errors)

Article XVI Amendments, page 495

Has a Section 1 without a Section 2.

Delete Section 2.

Current Text

1. Section 1. Amendment of Bylaws. Amendments to the
2. Constitution and By Laws of the Connectional Lay
3. Organization may be made by filing a copy of the proposed
4. amendment with the Connectional President and Secretary.
5. The Secretary shall send an official copy of the proposed
6. amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee at
7. least six months or (180) days prior to the meeting of the
8. Connectional Lay Organizations Biennial Session The
9. Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall send copies of
10. proposed amendments, by certified mail and/or electronic
11. communication to each of the Episcopal District Presidents.
12. Two-thirds vote of the members present and eligible to vote
13. at the Biennial Session shall be required to effect an
14. amendment. Amendments will take effect at the close of
15. the General Conference

16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Amendment of Bylaws. Amendments to the Constitution
2. and By Laws of the Connectional Lay Organization may be
3. made by filing a copy of the proposed amendment with the
4. Connectional President and Secretary. The Secretary shall
5. send an official copy of the proposed amendment to the
6. Constitution and Bylaws Committee at least six months or
7. (180) days prior to the meeting of the Connectional Lay
8. Organizations Biennial Session The Constitution and
9. Bylaws Committee shall send copies of proposed
10. amendments, by certified mail and/or electronic
11. communication to each of the Episcopal District Presidents.
12. Two-thirds vote of the members present and eligible to vote
13. at the Biennial Session shall be required to effect an
14. amendment. Amendments will take effect at the close of
15. the General Conference

16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-19

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 496, SECTION III. B. Bylaws of the Connectional Lay Organization

Intent

To eliminate confusion as to the voting status of any past president who has been awarded Emeritus status and to determine any financial responsibilities of the Lay Organization at all levels and to define the role and the role and qualifications of the office of President Emeritus defined in the By-laws.

Rationale

To really define the role of the President Emeritus so that every past president is not automatically considered President Emeritus. Also, to determine what financial obligation is connected to this position.

Current Text

1. No current text Add new text to the Bylaws of the CLO on
2. page 496. Add Section 10, Page 496,
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Section 10. Emeritus Presidents are past presidents who
2. have served 8 years in office and an active member of the
3. Connectional Lay Organization. Upon being identified and
4. honored as an Emeritus President, all persons holding the
5. designation shall be a perpetual member of the Lay
6. Organization he/she has served honorably.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-20

Title: Mr.



Submitted by: Abednego Makiti

Contact: abemakiti54@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 497, SECTION III. B. Bylaws of the Connectional Lay Organization

Intent

To clarify the tune of the Lay Hymn

Rationale

There are three (3) tunes listed in the AMEC Hymnal for Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah. It is therefore necessary to clarify which of the three (3) is the tune for the Lay Hymn.

Current Text

1. Tune: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Tune (Zion): Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-21

Title: Revised Constitution and Bylaws for the Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)



Submitted by: Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)

Contact: gpierce@ameced.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Pages 503-519

Intent

To add the RAYAC Constitution and the Revised Bylaws to The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Rationale

The Connectional RAYAC has engaged in a process to revise its Constitution and Bylaws.

The document as a whole found on pages 503-519

SECTION IV.
THE RICHARD ALLEN YOUNG ADULT COUNCIL
A. CONSTITUTION

Bill Number: CO-22

Title: Revised Constitution and Bylaws for the Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)



Submitted by: Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)

Contact: gpierce@ameced.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

pg 503-518

Intent

The ratification of the revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)

Rationale

The RAYAC has engaged in a revision process to modify several parts of its Constitution and Bylaws.

The entirety of Section IV, pages 503-518

SECTION IV
THE RICHARD ALLEN YOUNG ADULT COUNCIL
A. CONSTITUTION

204

Bill Number:

Title: SONS OF ALLEN: THE CONNECTIONAL MENS MINISTRY



Submitted by: Monroe Miller

Contact: mmiller22@bellsouth.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

pp. 519 - 523

Intent

To codify the Sons of Allen Benediction as a part of the official liturgy of the Sons of Allen organization.

Rationale

The Sons of Allen is a Connectional Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, answerable to the Commission of Christian Education of the AME Church. As such, the inclusion of an official benediction as part of the liturgy of this organization is right and proper. Written by Reverend Joseph Darby, the benediction has been in wide usage for a number of years. The purpose of this proposed legislation is to codify its usage as an official part of the Sons of Allen ministry and to have it included in The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the section under the Sons of Allen.

Current Text

1. Currently, there is no text in The Doctrine and Discipline of
2. the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. ARTICLE XV - SONS OF ALLEN BENEDICTION
2. May the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the Father of
3. our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and the God of our
4. founder, Richard Allen, bless, strengthen and empower us
5. to serve the present age as Christian men empowered by
6. the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-23

Title: Music and Christian Arts Ministry Constitution and By-Laws, 2020-2024



Submitted by: Music and Christian Arts Ministry (MCAM)

Contact: gpierce@ameced.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist
Episcopal Church 2016, Pages 523- 540, Section ALL

Intent

To submit Constitution and Bylaws for the
ensuing Quadrennium, 2020-2024, ratified by MCAM Executive Board, March 23, 2020.

Rationale

To submit Constitution and Bylaws for action
of the 2020 General Conference

Current Text

1. Whole of the Constitution and Bylaws as appears in The
2. Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal
3. Church, 2016.

- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

[Faint, illegible text visible through the paper, likely bleed-through from the reverse side. The text appears to be organized in a list or table format, with some lines starting with "1." and others with "2."]

Bill Number: CO-24

Title: AME/WIM Objectives



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 540-541, Section VIII: Article II Section 2.

Intent

To clarify AME/WIM Objective

Rationale

To more accurately state objectives

Current Text

1. The purpose of AME/WIM is to meet and further the
2. following objectives:
3. a. To recognize and support women in ministry as an
4. essential part of the leadership of the AME Church.
5. b. To raise the consciousness of the AME Church on issues
6. important to women.
7. c. To address and eradicate sexism in the AME Church.
8. d. To work to expand leadership opportunities for women in
9. ministry in leadership in the AME Church.
10. e. To support women in the pastoral ministry.
11. f. To support women in specialized ministries including but
12. not limited to: chaplaincy, writing, teaching, counseling,
13. research, prison, youth, geriatric, singles, street, health
14. care, family/life relations, music, homeless, HIV/AIDS and
15. religious education ministries.
16. g. To encourage academic training for the ministry.
17. h. To sponsor a Connectional conference at least once
18. during each Quadrennium.
19. i. To support and provide assistance and outreach to
20. women in ministry in the Fourteenth through Twentieth
21. Episcopal Districts.
22. j. To compile a complete and accurate record of all women in
23. ministry in the AME church.
24. k. to foster and develop relationships with people and
25. entities that will assist in furthering the objectives described
26. herein.

27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Objectives. The purpose of AME/WIM is to meet and further
2. the following objectives:
3. a. To recognize and support women in ministry as an
4. essential part of the leadership of the AME Church.
5. b. To raise the consciousness of the AME Church on issues
6. important to women.
7. c. To address and eradicate sexism in the AME Church.
8. d. To advocate for and work to expand leadership
9. opportunities for women in ministry at every level of the
10. AME Church.
11. e. To support women in the pastoral ministry and
12. specialized ministries that support the AME Churches
13. mission to minister to the social spiritual development of all
14. people.
15. f. To encourage and support academic training for the
16. ministry.
17. g. To sponsor a Connectional conference at least once
18. during each Quadrennium.
19. h. To support and provide assistance and outreach to
20. women in ministry in the Fourteenth through Twentieth
21. Episcopal Districts.
22. i. To compile a complete and accurate record of all women in
23. ministry in the AME church.
24. j. To foster and develop relationships with people and
25. entities that will assist in furthering the objectives described

26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-25

Title: AME WIM Membership



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 542, Section VIII: Article III Section 2

Intent

To Modify Membership Levels

Rationale

To allow greater participation at all levels

Current Text

1. Membership. The categories of membership shall be:
2. a. Full Membership: for women ordained to the itinerant
3. ministry. They shall be eligible to vote and to hold most
4. offices. [See eligibility chart]
5. b. Local Membership: for women ordained to the local
6. ministry, licensed evangelists, and licensed exhorters. They
7. shall be eligible to vote and to hold some offices. [See
8. eligibility chart]
9. c. Advisory Membership: for superannuates who have
10. retired from active service in the itinerant or local ministry.
11. They shall be eligible to vote but not to hold office.
12. d. Student/Licentiate Membership: for women enrolled in an
13. institution of higher education on a full time basis and/or
14. women licensed to preach and preparing for ordination.
15. Licentiatees are not entitled to vote or hold office unless
16. within a Campus Ministry. [See Election Eligibility Chart].
17. Ordained Clergy are eligible to vote.
18. e. Associate Membership: for male clergy and laity who are
19. supportive of AME/WIM. They shall not be eligible to vote or
20. to hold office.
21. f. All persons seeking membership must be in good and
22. regular standing in their local churches and Annual
23. Conferences as defined by The Doctrine and Discipline of
24. the AME Church. Good and regular standing for women in
25. ministry shall include the payment of dues on the
26. Connectional, District and Annual Conference levels
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Membership. The categories of membership shall be:
2. a. Full Membership: for women ordained to the itinerant
3. ministry. They shall be eligible to vote and to hold most
4. offices. [See eligibility chart]
5. b. Local Membership: for women ordained to the local
6. ministry, licensed evangelists, and licensed exhorters. They
7. shall be eligible to vote and to hold some offices. [See
8. eligibility chart]
9. c. Advisory Membership: for superannuates who have
10. retired from active service in the itinerant ministry or
11. evangelists and local ministers over 75. They shall be
12. eligible to vote but not to hold office.
13. d. Student/Licentiate Membership: for women enrolled in an
14. institution of higher education on a full-time basis and/or
15. women licensed to preach and preparing for ordination.
16. Licentiatees are not entitled to vote or hold office unless
17. within a Campus Ministry. [See Election Eligibility Chart].
18. Ordained Clergy are eligible to vote.
19. e. Associate Membership: for male clergy and laity who are
20. supportive of AME/WIM. They shall not be eligible to vote or
21. to hold office.
22. f. All persons seeking membership must be in good and
23. regular standing in their local churches and Annual
24. Conferences as defined by The Doctrine and Discipline of
25. the AME Church. Good and regular standing for women in
26. ministry shall include the payment of dues on the
27. Connectional, Episcopal District and Annual Conference
28. levels
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-26

Title: AME/WIM Dues



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 542, Section VIII, Article III Section 2

Intent

To adjust dues to meet current needs of WIM

Rationale

Dues have not increased but expenses have

Current Text

1. Dues. Connectional dues for Districts One through Thirteen
2. shall be:
3. Full Membership = \$25.00
4. Local Membership = \$15.00
5. Advisory Membership = \$10.00
6. Student/Licentiate Membership = \$10.00
7. Associate Membership = \$20.00
8. Dues and the names of members shall be sent to the
9. Connectional Financial Secretary and copies of the names
10. shall be sent to the Connectional President, Third Vice
11. President and General Secretary.
12. AME/WIM in Districts Fourteen through Twenty shall
13. establish a comparable and affordable amount for the five
14. membership categories. Full records of dues received and
15. membership shall be reported to the Connectional
16. President, Third Vice President, and Secretary, but the dues
17. shall be made payable to and retained by the AME/WIM
18. District collecting the same and used for operational
19. expenses of AME/WIM.
20. Dues shall be paid annually to the Connectional Executive
21. Board, the Episcopal District, the Annual Conference and, if
22. applicable, to the presiding elder district conference branch
23. of the annual conference. Connectional dues must be
24. received by the Treasurer no later than May 31st. Each
25. Episcopal District shall select an annual date on which dues
26. are paid on the Connectional and the Episcopal District
27. level. The time for payment of dues to the Annual
28. Conference and the Presiding Elder Districts shall be
29. determined by the respective conferences. Upon payment
30. of dues, each member will receive a membership card.
31. Payment of dues will entitle members to the Connectional
32. newsletter.
33. The amount of annual membership dues at the Episcopal
34. District, Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District, and
35. Campus Ministry levels shall be determined by the
36. respective Executive Boards and the general membership
37. but in no case shall the amount exceed the connectional
38. level.

39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Dues. Connectional dues for Districts One through Thirteen
2. shall be:
3. 1. Full Membership = \$30.00
4. 2. Local Membership = \$20.00
5. 3. Advisory Membership = \$15.00
6. 4. Student/Licentiate Membership = \$15.00
7. 5. Associate Membership = \$20.00
8. Connectional dues and the names of members shall be sent
9. to the Connectional Financial Secretary and copies of the
10. names shall be sent to the Connectional Third Vice
11. President.
12. The Episcopal District AME/WIM Executive Boards in
13. Districts Fourteen through Twenty shall establish in writing a
14. comparable and affordable dues amount for each of the five
15. membership categories. Full records of amount of dues
16. received and membership names shall be reported to the
17. Connectional Third Vice President, Treasurer and Financial
18. Secretary. All Connectional Dues received for Districts
19. Fourteen through Twenty, shall remain in the Episcopal
20. District treasurer to assist with the work and expenses of
21. AME/WIM in that Episcopal District.
22. Dues shall be paid annually to the Treasurers on the
23. Connectional Level, the Episcopal District level, the Annual
24. Conference level and, if applicable, to the Presiding Elder
25. district conference level. Each episcopal district shall
26. connectional dues at the fall episcopal district meeting.
27. Connectional dues must be received by the Connectional
28. Treasurer no later than May 31st. The time for payment of
29. dues to the Annual Conference and the Presiding Elder
30. Districts shall be determined by the respective conferences.
31. The amount of annual membership dues at the Episcopal
32. District, Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District, and
33. Campus Ministry levels shall be determined by the
34. respective Executive Boards and the general membership
35. but in no case shall the amount exceed the connectional
36. level.

37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-27

Title: AME WIM Executive Board Composition



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 544, Section VIII, Article VI Section 1

Intent

To create the position of Statistician

Rationale

To accurately record progress, statistical data is necessary

Current Text

1. Section 1. Powers and Numbers. AME/WIM shall be
2. managed by an Executive Board. Members of the
3. Connectional Executive Board shall consist of: President,
4. First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice
5. President, General Secretary, Financial Secretary,
6. Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Herstoryographer,
7. Worship Director, and a Central/Southern Africa
8. Coordinator. These officers shall perform the duties
9. prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary
10. authority adopted by AME/WIM.

11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Section 1. Composition of Connectional AME/WIM
2. Executive Board. AME/WIM shall be managed by an
3. Executive Board. Members of the Connectional Executive
4. Board shall consist of: President, First Vice President,
5. Second Vice President, Third Vice President, General
6. Secretary, Financial Secretary, Corresponding Secretary,
7. Treasurer, Statistician, Herstoryographer, Worship Director,
8. and a Central/Southern Africa Coordinator. These officers
9. shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by
10. the parliamentary authority adopted by AME/WIM.

11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-29

Title: AME WIM Executive Board Nominations



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 546, Section VIII, Article VI Section 12

Intent

To broaden eligibility to serve on the nomination committee

Rationale

To provide more persons an opportunity to serve

Current Text

1. Section 12. Nominations: The nomination of officers shall be
2. governed by the ad hoc Nominating Committee appointed
3. by the Executive Board. The Nominating Committee shall
4. be appointed no later than the seat of the Bishops Council
5. one year prior to the General Conference.
6. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three to five
7. persons. At least two persons shall be the Consultants to
8. the Executive Board. The other persons shall be full
9. members of AME/WIM in good and regular standing.
10. Members of the nominating committee shall be ineligible for
11. nomination by the committee for any position to be filled on
12. the Executive Board.
13. Recommendations and nominations for office to the
14. Executive Board must be submitted no later than February
15. 11th during the year of the General Conference.
16. Recommendations and nominations will not be accepted at
17. the seat of the General Conference. Persons nominated to
18. run for Executive Board office must be present at the time
19. and place of the election meeting in order to be elected.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Section 12. Nominations: The nomination of officers shall be
2. governed by the ad hoc Nominating Committee appointed
3. by the Executive Board. The Nominating Committee shall
4. be appointed no later than the seat of the Bishops Council
5. one year prior to the General Conference.
6. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three to five
7. persons. At least two persons shall be the Consultants to
8. the Executive Board. The other persons shall be full
9. members or advisory members of AME/WIM in good and
10. regular standing. Members of the nominating committee
11. shall be ineligible for nomination by the committee for any
12. position to be filled on the Executive Board.
13. Recommendations and nominations for office to the
14. Executive Board must be submitted no later than February
15. 11th during the year of the General Conference.
16. Recommendations and nominations will not be accepted at
17. the seat of the General Conference. Persons nominated to
18. run for Executive Board office must be present at the time
19. and place of the election meeting in order to be elected.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-28

Title: Connectional AME WIM Annual Meetings



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 546, Section VIII, Article VI Section 10

Intent

To amend annual meeting time

Rationale

To provide more flexibility for scheduling of annual meeting

Current Text

1. Section 10. Meetings. The election meeting of AME/WIM
2. shall be held Quadrennially at the seat of the General
3. Conference. The annual meeting of AME/WIM shall be held
4. during each summer session of the Bishops Council and
5. General Board Meeting.

6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Section 10. Meetings. The election meeting of AME/WIM
2. shall be held Quadrennially at the seat of the General
3. Conference. The annual meeting of AME/WIM shall be held
4. during the Bishops Council meeting.

5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-30

Title: AME/WIM Executive Board Responsibilities and Duties



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 547-548, Section VIII, Article VI Section 16, 18-19, 21-23

Intent

To modify and add duties and responsibilities by amending the referenced sections. Sections not referenced remain the same.

Rationale

Duties of specific positions are modified to reflect current need and roles of positions.

Current Text

1. Section 16. Third Vice President: Powers and Duties. The Third Vice
2. President shall preside in the absence of the President, First Vice
3. President and Second Vice President. She shall be responsible for
4. membership recruitment and retention. She will maintain an accurate
5. directory of all members of AME/WIM. She will serve as a
6. Membership resource for the Episcopal District Presidents. She shall
7. chair the Membership Committee and report quarterly to the President
8. and Executive Board. Section 18. Communication Secretary: Powers
9. and Duties. She shall be responsible for all correspondence including
10. social media. She shall send out to the membership a notice of each
11. meeting. She shall conduct the general correspondence of the
12. organization including distribution of the newsletter, maintenance of
13. the website and all other electronic distributions. She shall assist the
14. Third Vice President in gathering names and current contact
15. information of women in ministry for inclusion in the Connectional
16. directory.
17. Section 19. Financial Secretary: Powers and Duties. The Financial
18. Secretary shall be responsible for the maintenance of account
19. records. She shall maintain a list of all dues-paying members. She
20. shall record all monies (income and expenditures) for the quadrennial
21. and report the same to the Executive Board. She and the treasurer
22. shall be accurate in the record of all monies received and spent, and
23. shall ensure compliance with our written financial policies. She shall
24. provide a monthly financial report to the President and Executive
25. Board.
26. None
27. Section 21. Herstoryographer: Powers and Duties. Shall prepare a
28. narrative account of the WIM activities during her term of office,
29. which, when approved by the general membership, will become a
30. permanent part of the herstory record of WIM. She shall research,
31. gather, record and make available herstory and other information
32. on AME/WIM and on women in ministry. The Herstoryographer shall
33. coordinate with the Herstoryographers on the Episcopal District,
34. Annual Conference and Presiding Elder District levels to provide a
35. comprehensive library on women in ministry and the status and role of
36. women in ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Before
37. the 30th day of September following the General Conference she
38. shall be responsible for the transfer of records to the President and
39. Executive Board, and the Director of Research and Scholarship for
40. the A.M.E. Church.
41. Section 22. Director of Liturgy & Worship: Powers and Duties. The
42. Director of Liturgy & Worship shall be familiar with the concept of
43. intentional and innovative worship experiences, and spiritual
44. formation, and shall encourage all women in ministry to use gender-
45. inclusive language. She shall work with the First Vice President in the
46. worship component of all programming of all gatherings, conferences,
47. and workshops convened on the Connectional level. She shall chair
48. the Worship Committee and shall share her gifts with the Worship
49. Leaders in the Episcopal Districts.
50. Section 23. Central/South African Coordinator: Powers and Duties.
51. The Central/Southern Africa Coordinator shall serve as a liaison with
52. and resource for the Episcopal District Presidents in the Fifteenth,
53. Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth Episcopal
54. Districts and shall serve as a resource to the Global Assistance
55. Committee. The Central/Southern Africa Coordinator shall be a
56. member of one of the Episcopal districts in Central and Southern
57. Africa.
58.

Amended Text

1. Section 16. Third Vice President: Powers and Duties. Third Vice
2. President shall preside in the absence of the President, First Vice
3. President and Second Vice President. She shall be responsible for
4. membership recruitment and retention. She will maintain an accurate
5. directory of all members of AME/WIM. She will serve as a Membership
6. resource. She shall chair the Membership Committee and report quarterly
7. to the President and Executive Board.
8. Section 18. Communication Secretary: Powers and Duties. She shall be
9. responsible for all correspondence including social media. She shall send
10. out to the membership a notice of each meeting. She shall conduct the
11. general correspondence of the organization including distribution of the
12. newsletter, maintenance of the website and all other electronic
13. distributions.
14. Section 19. Financial Secretary: Powers and Duties. The Financial
15. Secretary shall be responsible for the maintenance of account records.
16. She shall maintain a list of all dues-paying members. She shall record all
17. monies (income and expenditures) for the quadrennial and report the
18. same to the Executive Board. She and the treasurer shall be accurate in
19. the record of all monies received and spent and shall ensure compliance
20. with our written financial policies. She shall provide a monthly financial
21. report to the President and Executive Board; and she must provide
22. quarterly written acknowledgement to each. Episcopal District President,
23. Third Vice Presidents, Financial Secretary and Treasurer
24. Section 21. Statistician: Powers and Duties. Shall design surveys,
25. census, reporting forms and polls to collect information and summarize
26. useful data regarding women in ministry in the AME Church. She shall
27. report such data to the Commission on Women In Ministry and
28. Connectional Executive Board. She shall work with the Connectional CIO,
29. Connectional AME/WIM Third Vice President, Connectional Financial
30. Secretary and AME/WIM Episcopal District officers.
31. Section 22. Herstoryographer: Powers and Duties. Shall prepare a
32. narrative account of the WIM activities during her term of office, which,
33. when approved by the general membership, will become a permanent
34. part of the herstory record of WIM. She shall research, gather, record
35. and make available herstory and other information on AME/WIM and on
36. women in ministry. The Herstoryographer shall coordinate with the
37. Herstoryographers on the Episcopal District, Annual Conference and
38. Presiding Elder District levels to provide a comprehensive library on
39. women in ministry and the status and role of women in ministry in the
40. African Methodist Episcopal Church. Before the 30th day of September
41. following the General Conference, she shall be responsible for the
42. transfer of all original copies of records to the President and Executive
43. Board.
44. Section 23. Director of Liturgy & Worship: Powers and Duties. The
45. Director of Liturgy & Worship shall be familiar with the concept of
46. intentional and innovative worship experiences, and spiritual formation,
47. and shall encourage the church to use gender-inclusive language. She
48. shall work with the First Vice President in the worship component of all
49. programming of all gatherings, conferences, and workshops convened on
50. the Connectional level. She shall chair the Worship Committee and shall
51. share her gifts with the Worship Leaders in the Episcopal Districts. Shall
52. connect with Episcopal District Director of Liturgy & Worship
53. Section 24. Central/South African Coordinator: Powers and Duties. The
54. Central/Southern Africa Coordinator shall serve as a liaison with the
55. Connectional President and resource for the Episcopal District Presidents
56. in the Fifteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth
57. Episcopal Districts and shall serve as a resource to the Global Assistance
58. Committee. The Central/Southern Africa Coordinator shall be a member
59. of one of the Episcopal districts in Central and Southern Africa.
60. Responsible resource for global quadrennial conference
61.

Bill Number: CO-31

Title: AME WIM Standing Committees



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 550, Section VIII, Article VIII Section 3

Intent

To remove standing committee designations to allow the creation of standing committees as needed.

Rationale

To give the Executive Board the liberty to create or eliminate committees as needed.

<i>Current Text</i>	<i>Amended Text</i>
1. Section 3. Standing Committees. The standing committees	1. None. Delete section
2. and their responsibilities shall be as follows:	2.
3. a. The Budget and Finance Committee shall study the	3.
4. financial needs of AME/WIM and recommend ways and	4.
5. means of generating income.	5.
6. b. The Membership Committee shall suggest strategies for	6.
7. identifying the needs of women in ministry, enhancing	7.
8. services to the membership and increasing participation in	8.
9. AME/WIM, and prior to the quadrennial election meeting	9.
10. shall assist with preparation of a list to establish the	10.
11. credentials of members for voting and nomination for office.	11.
12. c. The Program Committee shall work with planning	12.
13. Connectional services, meetings, conferences and other	13.
14. events.	14.
15. d. The Bylaws and Legislation Committee shall receive,	15.
16. study, analyze and interpret proposed amendments to the	16.
17. Bylaws and legislation affecting women in ministry.	17.
18. e. The Publications Committee shall work with the	18.
19. publication of a quarterly newsletter, preparing of	19.
20. educational and informational publications, and assisting	20.
21. with preparing information to be published in The Christian	21.
22. Recorder and other publications.	22.
23. f. The Public Relations Committee shall work to promote	23.
24. and disseminate information on the presence and	24.
25. contribution of AME/WIM and women in ministry in the	25.
26. A.M.E. Church.	26.
27. g. The Worship Committee shall work with the planning of	27.
28. services and with developing resources on worship and	28.
29. liturgy to be made available to the Episcopal District	29.
30. organizations.	30.
31. h. The Strategic Planning Committee shall work to identify	31.
32. and develop strategies to strengthen AME/WIMs	32.
33. organizational growth and to enhance the presence of	33.
34. women in ministry in the A.M.E. Church.	34.
35. i. The Global Assistance Committee shall work to identify	35.
36. and generate funding and other resources to assist women	36.
37. in ministry in the Fourteenth through Twentieth Episcopal	37.
38. Districts.	38.
39.	39.
40.	40.
41.	41.
42.	42.
43.	43.
44.	44.
45.	45.
46.	46.
47.	47.
48.	48.
49.	49.

Bill Number: CO-32

Title: AME WIM Episcopal District Statistician Powers and Duties



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 553, Section VIII, Article III Section 8

Intent

To create position and establish duties of Episcopal District statistician

Rationale

To define progress a statistician is needed

Current Text

1. None

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. Section 8. Statistician. Power and Duties. Shall distribute
2. and receive surveys, census, reporting forms and polls for
3. the purpose of collecting information and summarizing
4. useful data regarding women in ministry in the AME Church.
5. She shall report such data to the Episcopal District,
6. Connectional Executive Board. She shall work with
7. members of her Episcopal District and the Annual
8. Conference Statistician.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: CO-33

Title: AME WIM Annual Conference Herstorigrapher



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 558, Section VIII, Article XIV Section 8

Intent

To clarify duties of Annual Conference Herstorigrapher

Rationale

To assure Annual Conference WIM History is preserved.

Current Text

1. Section 8. Herstoryographer. The Herstoryographer will
2. collect information on AME/WIM in the Episcopal District
3. and compile a data bank and be a resource for the District.
4. The Herstoryographer shall coordinate with
5. Herstoryographers on all Connectional levels and provide a
6. comprehensive library on women in ministry and the status
7. and role of women in ministry in her Episcopal District. The
8. Herstoryographer should make a presentation to the
9. Episcopal District AME/WIM at an Episcopal District
10. Meeting at least once a quadrennial on her findings.

11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Section 8. Herstoryographer. The Herstoryographer will
2. collect information on AME/WIM in the Annual Conference
3. level and compile a data bank of events during her time in
4. office inclusive of the Annual Conference roll and
5. demographics (i.e. number female Presiding Elders,
6. preachers, and conference appointments.) She shall be a
7. resource for the Annual Conference. The Herstoryographer
8. shall coordinate with Herstoryographers on all levels and
9. provide a comprehensive library on women in ministry and
10. the status and role of women in ministry in her Annual
11. Conference. The Herstoryographer should make a
12. presentation to the Women in Ministry of her Conference at
13. the Annual Conference at least once a quadrennial on her
14. findings.

15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-34

Title: Connectional AME WIM Eligibility Chart



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 562

Intent

To update Eligibility Chart to reflect amendments

Rationale

To reflect eligibility and term limit changes in chart

Current Text

1. Unable to submit chart, providing text only. Will submit chart
2. when requested.
3. Office/Term Length/Term Limits/ Eligibility
4. Connectional/4 years/2 (8 years)/
5. Itinerant Elder
6. Good standing two (2) consecutive years before election
7. Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
8. Present at time and place of election
9. Elected by general membership at properly noticed meeting
10. Episcopal District/4 years/2 (8 years)/
11. Itinerant Elder
12. Good standing two (2) consecutive years before election
13. Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
14. Elected by general membership at properly noticed meeting
15. Annual Conference/1 year/none/
16. Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator must be Itinerant Elder
17. Other officers must be ordained (Local or Itinerant)
18. Good standing for at least one (1) year before nomination
19. Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
20. Elected by general membership at properly noticed meeting
21. Present at time and place of elections
22. Presiding Elder District/1 Year/none/
23. Coordinator, Itinerant Elder when available
24. Good standing for at least one (1) year before nomination
25. Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
26. Elected by general membership at properly noticed meeting
27. Present at time and place of elections
28. Campus Ministry/1 Year/1 Year/
29. Must be a member of AMEWIM
30. Must be accountable to Presiding Elder District Coordinator
31. of if none then the Annual Conference Coordinator.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Unable to submit chart, providing text only. Will submit chart
2. when requested.
3. Office/Term Length/Term Limits/Eligibility Requirements
4. Connectional/4 years/2 (8 years)
5. Itinerant Elder
6. Good standing two (2) consecutive years before election
7. Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
8. Present at time and place of election
9. Elected by general membership at properly noticed meeting
10. Episcopal District /4 years/2 (8 years)
11. President and 1st Vice President must be Itinerant Elder, all
12. other offices must be Itinerant Elder or Itinerant Deacon
13. Good standing two (2) consecutive years before election
14. Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
15. Present at time and place of election
16. Elected by general membership at properly noticed meeting
17. Annual Conference/2 year/4 terms (8 years)
18. Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator must be Itinerant
19. Elder or Itinerant Deacon
20. Other officers must be ordained (Itinerant Elder, Itinerant
21. Deacon or Local Elder)
22. Good standing for at least one (1) year before nomination
23. Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
24. Present at time and place of elections
25. Elected by general membership at properly noticed meeting
26. Presiding Elder District/1 Year/ 4 terms (4 years)
27. Coordinator must be an Itinerant Elder when available;
28. otherwise a Full or Local member of AME/WIM
29. Accountable to the Conference Coordinator
30. Good standing for at least one (1) year before nomination.
31. Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
32. Present at time and place of elections
33. Elected by general membership at properly noticed
34. meeting.
35. Campus Ministry/1 Year/1 Year
36. Must be a full, local or student/licentiate member of
37. AME/WIM in good standing
38. Accountable to the Conference Coordinator that the campus
39. is located within
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number:

Title: Commission on Health: Ministry to those who are differently challenged.



Submitted by: Rev. Miriam J. Burnett, MD, MPH

Contact: chcamec@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Connectional Organizations: International Health Commission, page 574

Intent

to correct terminology

Rationale

to correct the term differently challenged to differently abled

Current Text

1. Section 6: Ministry to those who are differently challenged.
2. Provide information on making our churches and worship
3. welcoming and accessible for all people including those
4. who are differently challenged. Provide resources that will
5. support churches in their effort to include persons who are
6. differentially challenged. Provide information on emergency
7. evacuation and ensuring all persons can safely exit the
8. building.

9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Section 6: Ministry to those who are differently abled.
2. Provide information on making our churches and worship
3. welcoming and accessible for all people including those
4. who are differently abled. Provide resources that will
5. support churches in their effort to include persons who are
6. differentially abled. Provide information on emergency
7. evacuation and ensuring all persons can safely exit the
8. building.

9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-35

Title: AAMES Bylaws Revision (1 of 4): Adding Associate Director of Girl Scouts and Associate Director of Boy Scouts



Submitted by: Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts (AAMES)

Contact: gpierce@ameced.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016 Part Article IV Officers Section 1 , page 578

Intent

The purpose of this requested revision is to add Associate Director of Girl Scouts and Associate Director of Boy Scouts as Officers of the Association.

Rationale

To add the Associate Director of Girl Scouts and Associate Director of Boy Scouts to the Officers of the Association to serve in the absence of the Directors.

Current Text

1. Article IV, Section 1 , pg. 578
2. The officers of the Association shall be a Connectional
3. Director of Boy Scouts; a Connectional Director of Girl
4. Scouts; a Secretary ; an Assistant Secretary; a Treasurer; a
5. Financial Secretary; a Chaplain; a Historiographer; and a
6. Parliamentarian. The officers shall perform the duties
7. prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary
8. authority adopted by the Association.

9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. The officers of the Association shall be a Connectional
2. Director of Boy Scouts; AN ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF
3. BOY SCOUTS, a Connectional Director of Girl Scouts; AN
4. ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF GIRL SCOUTS; a Secretary;
5. an Assistant Secretary; a Treasurer; a Financial Secretary;
6. a Chaplain; a Historiographer; and a Parliamentarian. The
7. officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws
8. and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the
9. Association. (Adopted by AAMES December 11, 2019)

10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-38

Title: AAMES Bylaws Revision (4 of 4): Duties of the Associate Director of Girl Scouts and Associate Director of Boy Scouts



Submitted by: Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts

Contact: gpierce@ameced.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016 Part Article V Duties of Officers Section 1 ,
page 579

Intent

The purpose of this revision is to add the Duties of the Associate Director of Boy Scouts and Associate Director of Girl Scouts.

Rationale

To add the Duties of Associate Director of Boy Scouts and Associate Director of Girl Scouts

Current Text

1. The Connectional Director of Boy Scouts and the
2. Connectional Director of Girl Scouts shall preside at all
3. meetings of the Association and of the Executive Board.
4. The Connectional Directors shall be ex officio members of
5. all committees. They shall plan, evaluate, and promote the
6. program under the direction of the Executive Secretary.

7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. The Connectional Director of Boy Scouts and the
2. Connectional Director of Girl Scouts shall preside at all
3. meetings of the Association and of the Executive Board.
4. The Associate Directors shall serve in the absence of the
5. presiding Connectional Directors. The Directors shall be ex
6. officio members of all committees. They shall plan,
7. evaluate, and promote the program under the direction of
8. the Executive Secretary.
9. (Adopted by AAMES on December 18, 2019)

10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-37

Title: AAMES Bylaws Revision (3 of 4): Adding Past Connectional Girl Scout Directors and Connectional Boy Scout Directors to the AAMES Executive Board



Submitted by: Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts

Contact: gpierce@ameced.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016 Part Article VII - Section 1. , Page 580

Intent

The purpose of this revision is to allow AAMES past connectional directors to be members of the executive board.

Rationale

As practiced by many other organizations, ministries, and executives offices of the AME Church, the inclusion of these past leaders will allow AAMES to maintain institutional knowledge within the ministry and will be a potentially valuable resource to the executive board. These past directors could be called on to handle special projects by the executive board or advise new directors from time to time.

Current Text

1. Page 580
2. Article VIIThe Executive Board, Section 1. The Executive
3. Secretary, the Connectional Director of Boy Scouts, The
4. Connectional Director of Girl Scouts, and the Elected
5. Officers of the Association shall constitute the Executive
6. Board.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Page 580
2. Article VII-The Executive Board, Section 1. The Executive
3. Secretary, the Connectional Director of Boy Scouts, The
4. Connectional Director of Girl Scouts, the Elected Officers of
5. the Association and Past Connectional Directors of Boy
6. Scouts and Girl Scouts shall constitute the Executive Board.
7. (Adopted by AAMES on December 11, 2019)
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-36

Title: AAMES Bylaws Revision (2 of 4): a Quadrennial Camporee



Submitted by: Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts

Contact: gpierce@ameced.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016 Part Article VI - Meetings Page 580

Intent

The purpose of this revision is to add the AAMES Quadrennial Camporee to The Doctrine and Discipline.

Rationale

To make the Quadrennial Camporee an official AAMES gathering recognized by the church.

Current Text

1. None

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. Article VI--Meetings, Section 3. AAMES shall have a
2. Quadrennial Camporee. The Camporee shall take place
3. prior to the start of the General Conference, unless
4. amended or changed by the AAMES Executive Board.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: CO-40

Title: Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators Revised Bylaws



Submitted by: Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators

Contact: gpierce@ameced.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2016. pages 588-591

Intent

The revision of the Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators Bylaws

Rationale

The inclusion of the revised CFCE Bylaws for inclusion in the 2020 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The CFCE approved these changes on November 4, 2019.

Current Text

1. The whole of the Bylaws found on pages 588-591

2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators
2. Bylaws
3. Preamble
4. Persons are called, converted, and committed to the educational ministry of the church under the mandate given by Jesus when He commanded his disciples, Go ye therefore, and teach all nations. Educators involved in missions education, discipleship training, Bible training, and other instructional programs join together to share ideas, insights, and information, develop appropriate resources, and learn new strategies. The vision of the founders is embraced by reclaiming the importance of the teaching ministry and encouraging congregations to become and remain centers of learning.
5. ARTICLE I - NAME
6. The name of the organization shall be the Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators of the Christian Education Department of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
7. ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES
8. The Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators will provide a forum for the presentation of ideas; exploration of Church education trends; improvement of curriculum; and support for Connectional Christian Education Department projects and programs.
9. ARTICLE III - MEMBERS
10. Section 1. Membership
11. Membership in this connectional organization is open to all church educators who have been appointed to serve in the teaching ministry by bishops, presiding elders, and pastors and those who have been elected to positions or have an interest in the teaching ministry at the local church, annual conference, episcopal district, and connectional levels.
12. Section 2. Dues
13. Members are asked to pay dues of fifty dollars (\$50.00) annually at the Annual Ministries in Christian Education (MCE) meeting. Dues include a subscription to the Journal of Christian Education and other FCE projects.
14. ARTICLE IV OFFICERS
15. Section 1. Officers - The officers shall be the Chair, Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Financial Secretary, Chaplain, and Parliamentarian.
16. Section 2. The Chair and the Vice Chair shall be appointed by the Executive Director of the Christian Education Department at the Connectional Christian Education Congress. All other officers shall be elected by the membership.
17. Section 3. The duties of officers shall be:
18. A. Chair
19. 1. The Chair of the Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators (CFCE) shall preside over the Executive Board and all meetings of the CFCE body;
20. 2. The Chair is an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee;
21. 3. The Chair shall appoint chairpersons of all committees as may be necessary to conduct (business) and develop the Fellowship;
22. 4. The Chair shall coordinate workshops for the Ministries in Christian Education (MCE) meetings and the Quadrennial Christian Education Congress in collaboration with the Executive Director and the Continuing Education Committee;
23. 5. The Chair shall submit written reports to the Executive Director for the General Board, General Conference, and the Annual MCE/CFCE meetings; and
24. 6. The Chair shall be recognized as a Connectional Officer.
25. B. Vice Chair
26. 1. The Vice Chair shall serve in the absence of the Chair;
27. 2. The Vice Chair shall assist in coordinating all activities of CFCE;
28. 3. The Vice Chair serves as Coordinator for all Standing Committees; and
29. 4. The Vice Chair shall be responsible for the submission of article(s) to be published in each edition of the Journal of Christian Education.
30. 5. The Vice Chair shall be responsible for maintaining the membership rolls of current and participating members.
31. C. Recording Secretary
32. The Recording Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all meetings and serve as the custodian of all records and information.
33. D. Corresponding Secretary
34. The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for communications sent to the membership listing time, place, and agenda for all meetings and other correspondence.
35. E. Financial Secretary
36. 1. The Financial Secretary shall receive, record, and report all funds and forward to the Executive Director of the Christian Education Department; and
37. 2. The Financial Secretary shall chair the Budget and Finance Committee.
38. F. Chaplain
39. The Chaplain shall be responsible for the spiritual discipline of the CFCE and plan worship/devotional experiences at meetings.
40. G. Parliamentarian
41. 1. The Parliamentarian shall advise the Presiding Officer concerning questions of parliamentary procedures and advise the membership, board of directors, and executive committee concerning the rules governing the transaction of business of the CFCE;
42. 2. The Parliamentarian shall follow the bylaws of this organization, the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, latest edition at all meetings;
43. 3. The Parliamentarian shall serve as a member of the bylaws committee; and
44. 4. The Parliamentarian shall be seated next to the presiding officer.
45. ARTICLE V TERM OF OFFICE
46. Section 1. All elected officers shall serve for one Quadrennium - four (4) years. Persons elected to office will be limited to no more than two consecutive terms of office.
47. Section 2. Elections shall be held at the Connectional Christian Education Congress. All elections shall be by ballot.
48. Section 3. In case of a vacancy, the Chair in collaboration with the Executive Director shall appoint a person to serve until the next annual meeting of the FCE. At that time the vacant position will be filled by a special election for that purpose.
49. ARTICLE VI -MEETINGS
50. Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the Connectional Fellowship of Christian Educators will be held at the Ministries in Christian Education (MCE) meeting and at the Connectional Christian Education Congress.
51. Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the Chair of the Connectional Fellowship of Christian Educators, the Executive Board, or upon written request of a quorum from the membership. A minimum of thirty (30) days notification shall be given, except in cases of emergency. One third of the voting membership shall constitute a quorum.
52. Section 3. The Connectional FCE Membership, Executive Board, Executive Committee, standing committees, and special committees may meet by telephone, web conference, or any electronic communications media, if a physical meeting is not feasible or possible, so long as all members may simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting and as technology or cost allows.
53. ARTICLE VII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
54. The Executive Committee shall be constituted as follows: all elected and appointed Connectional FCE officers, all CFCE subcommittee chairpersons, and former CFCE chairs as consultants, if needed. The Executive Director shall be an ex-officio member. The Executive Committee shall meet once a quarter and have the authority to conduct business of the CFCE between regular meetings.
55. ARTICLE VIII EXECUTIVE BOARD
56. The Executive Board shall be constituted as follows; all elected and appointed Connectional FCE officers, all Episcopal District Christian Education Directors, all CFCE subcommittee chairpersons, and former CFCE Chairs as consultants. The Executive Director shall be an ex-officio member. The Executive Board shall meet once a quarter and have the authority to conduct business of the CFCE between regular meetings.
57. ARTICLE XI CFCE COMMITTEES
58. Committees shall be established to carry out the work of the body. The following are Standing Committees:
59. 1. Membership
60. 2. Curriculum Development and Assessment
61. 3. Continuing Education (Workshops)
62. 4. Communications (Newsletter, Column in Journal)
63. 5. Bylaws Review
64. 6. Budget/Finance
65. All committee appointments must be approved by the Executive Director.
66. ARTICLE X FELLOWSHIPS
67. Fellowships at the episcopal district, conference level, presiding elder districts, and local church may be formed at the call of the episcopal district Christian Education Director (CED). Reports, following the by-laws established at the connectional level, should be submitted to the episcopal district Christian Education Director on an annual basis.
68. ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS
69. These bylaws may be amended at the Connectional Christian Education Congress during the Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators (CFCE) meeting. The proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Executive Director, Chair, and Secretary at least ninety (90) days before the Congress. The Executive Director will submit the amendments to the Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee shall consider all proposed amendments. The proposed amendments shall be submitted to the membership at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Congress. The amendments are adopted by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting.
70. ARTICLE XII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY
71. The rules contained in the current addition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, latest edition, shall govern the proceedings of the organization in all cases of which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the CFCE Bylaws, and the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
72. July 1998; adopted at General Conference 2000
73. Revised November 4, 2019

Bill Number: CO-39

Title: Revised Constitution and Bylaws for the Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)



Submitted by: Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)

Contact: gpierce@ameced.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

pg 591-597

Intent

The ratification of the revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)

Rationale

The CDMC has engaged in a revision process to modify several parts of its Constitution and Bylaws.

Current Text

1. The entirety of Section XIII, pages 591-597

2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. ARTICLE I - Name
2. The name of the organization shall be the Christian Debutante-Master Commission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
3. ARTICLE II - Purpose
4. The purpose of the Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC) is to provide guidance and information as to relevant study of fieldwork activities, program suggestions, liturgical requirements and all other details. It shall also study the supplies needed for the preparation and presentation of a unified, coordinated program on the Connectional, Episcopal District, Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District, and Local Church.
5. ARTICLE III - Structure
6. The Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC) shall function under the Department of Christian Education.
7. ARTICLE IV Goals and Objectives
8. 1. To promote growth and development by conducting workshops, training programs on all levels for youth and adults.
9. 2. To acquaint young people with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His ministry.
10. 3. To provide wholesome recreation and fellowship for youth and adults in the Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC).
11. 4. To interact with other youth organizations such as YPD and RAYAC.
12. 5. To hold culminating religious ceremonies for the Debutantes and Masters on all levels.
13. 6. To organize a Christian Debutante-Master Commission in all A.M.E. Churches throughout the connectional church.
14. 7. To recruit and train leaders to serve in the Christian Debutante-Master Commission.
15. ARTICLE V Membership
16. Membership in the Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC) is open to all members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church who are interested in the continued Christian education and spiritual development of young people.
17. Annual membership dues shall be set by the Executive Board and approved by the membership. Dues shall be paid during the annual Ministries in Christian Education (MCE) meeting or at the call of the administrator
18. ARTICLE VI Officers
19. Section 1. The appointed and elected officers of the CDMC shall be:
20. A. Administrator/Commissioner
21. B. 1st Vice President/Commissioner
22. C. 2nd Vice President/Commissioner
23. D. Recording Secretary
24. E. Assistant Recording Secretary
25. F. Corresponding Secretary
26. G. Treasurer
27. H. Historiographer
28. I. Worship Leader
29. J. Parliamentarian
30. K. Social Media Coordinator
31. Section 2. Only persons who have held/nom hold office on the Episcopal District or Annual Conference level are eligible to hold office on the Connectional level.
32. ARTICLE VII Election of Officers
33. Section 1. The officers listed in Article VI shall be elected by plurality.
34. Section 2. Connectional Officers shall be elected to a four (4) year term at the Connectional Christian Education Congress.
35. Section 3. The election shall be conducted by the Chairman of the Commission on Christian Education or a designee.
36. Section 4. The duties of the officers shall be such as ordinarily pertain to their respective offices.
37. Section 5. No person may hold the same position for more than two (2) consecutive quadrennials.
38. Section 6. In case of a vacancy, the Administrator/Commissioner in collaboration with the Christian Education Director shall appoint a person to serve until the next annual meeting of the MCE.
39. Section 7. The officers shall be elected to a four (4) year term during the year of the Connectional Christian Education Congress beginning in 2014.
40. Section 8. The election shall be conducted by the Executive Director of Christian Education or his/her designee.
41. ARTICLE VIII Meetings
42. The Connectional CDMC shall meet annually during the MCE meeting to prepare its goals and objectives for the year and to present them to the Department of Christian Education and at the General Board Meeting.
43. ARTICLE IX Duties of Officers
44. A. Administrator/Commissioner shall assume responsibilities for the overall CDMC Program. The Administrator/Commissioner shall coordinate workshops for the Annual MCE meetings, Annual CDMC Institute, and the Christian Education Congress in collaboration with the Executive Director of Christian Education. The Administrator/Commissioner shall submit written reports to the General Board, General Conference, Annual MCE and CDMC Institute meetings. The Administrator/Commissioner shall preside over the Executive Board, all meetings of the CDMC.
45. B. 1st Vice President/Commissioner shall assume the complete duties of the Administrator/Commissioner during the absence or when it has been determined by the Executive Board that the Administrator/Commissioner can no longer perform the duties.
46. C. 2nd Vice President/Commissioner shall in the absence of the Administrator and 1st Vice Commissioner, preside at all the meetings and assume all duties of the office of Administrator/Commissioner.
47. D. Recording Secretary shall be responsible for the recording of attendance and accurate minutes of all business transacted during meeting and shall read the minutes of any previous meetings, when called upon to do so by the Administrator/Commissioner. The Recording Secretary shall prepare the minutes of meetings and serve as custodian of all records and information.
48. E. Assistant Recording Secretary shall assist the Recording Secretary in keeping accurate records and, in the absence of the Secretary, shall perform the duties of the Recording Secretary.
49. F. Corresponding Secretary shall review all correspondence, report pertinent information to the Executive Board, and reply to correspondence as directed by the Administrator/Commissioner.
50. G. Treasurer shall receive all monies and disburse same upon authorization of the Administrator/Commissioner, as approved by the body. The Treasurer shall keep accurate records and give an itemized report at each Executive Board meeting, Christian Education Congress, MCE meeting and whenever called upon to do so by the administrator.
51. H. Historiographer shall keep a written and pictorial record of the participants, activities and achievements of the organization and make it available upon request.
52. I. Worship Leader shall make adequate preparation for each Devotional Service and compile a memorial manual. The Worship Leader shall provide spiritual leadership to the organization.
53. J. Parliamentarian shall advise, when necessary, during all meetings concerning questions of parliamentary procedures. The Parliamentarian shall follow The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised.
54. K. Social Media Coordinator(SMC)-shall oversee the official connectional CDMC website. The Social Media Coordinator shall manage the official Connectional Facebook, Instagram, Twitter pages and email account. The SMC will also assist with online press at all levels.
55. Article X Committees
56. Section 1. Standing Committees
57. A. Constitution and By-Law Committee
58. B. Membership & Recruitment Committee
59. C. Handbook Committee
60. D. Curriculum Development Committee
61. E. Statistical Committee
62. F. Scholarship Committee
63. G. Outreach Committee
64. H. Dedication & Program Planning Committee
65. Section 2. Special Committees
66. A. Advisory Board
67. B. Budget & Finance Committee
68. C. Credentials & Nomination Committee
69. ARTICLE XI Duties of Committees
70. Section 1. Standing Committees
71. A. Constitution & By-Law Committee shall revise, study and analyze all proposed constitutional changes and amendments. The proposed Constitution & By-Laws shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of Christian Education before approval.
72. B. Membership & Recruitment Committee shall recruit members; compile a director/roster of the membership by Episcopal District including home address, home phone number, cell number and email address.
73. C. Handbook Committee shall study and analyze the CDMC Handbook and make necessary revisions. The proposed handbook revisions shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of Christian Education before final copy is printed.
74. D. Curriculum Development Committee shall develop and review the CDMC Curriculum and resource guides to continue to provide Christian Education and spiritual development of young people and adults. The proposed curriculum revisions shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of Christian Education before final copy is printed.
75. E. Statistical Committee shall maintain a written record of participants by Episcopal District.
76. F. Scholarship Committee shall evaluate eligible students based on academic record, financial need, reference letters, qualities of leadership and extracurricular activities and accomplishments and promote the Annual Red & White Day to raise funds for the recipients of the Scholarship.
77. G. Outreach Committee shall provide spiritual leadership to the CDMC. The committee shall acquaint young people with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His ministry and stress the importance of fulfilling the mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church through various activities for youth and adults.
78. H. Dedication & Program Planning Committee shall be responsible for planning and implementing the total program of the activities and Dedication Ceremony.
79. Section 2. Special Committees
80. A. Advisory Board shall survey the strengths and weaknesses of the CDMC program and make recommendations for improvement. This committee shall be composed of not fewer than 18 nor more than 36 persons to include past CDMC Administrators
81. B. Budget & Finance Committee shall study the complete financial picture of the CDMC. In consultation with Administrator/Commissioner, Director of Christian Education, and Committee Chairpersons. She/he shall assess the financial needs of the CDMC and submit the same to the General Board and General Conference for approval.
82. C. Credentials & Nomination Committee shall receive and verify all credentials for elected officers before placing an individuals name on the voting ballot. Credentials must be received before the close of the MCE meeting. Elections will be held during the Connectional Christian Education Congress.
83. ARTICLE XII Amendments
84. This constitution may be amended by the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
85. ARTICLE XIII Executive Board
86. The Executive Board shall consist of the following CDMC Officers: Administrator/Commissioner, 1st Vice Commissioner, 2nd Vice Commissioner, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Historiographer, Worship Leader, Parliamentarian, Social Media Coordinator, Episcopal District Commissioners, and Standing and Special Committee members. The Executive Board shall be responsible for:
87. a. The affairs of the CDMC of the African Methodist Episcopal Church;
88. b. The Quadrennial meeting (held at the seat of the general conference)of the organization;
89. c. The Annual meeting/CDMC Institute;
90. d. The Connectional Dedication Ceremony program; and
91. e. The filling of vacancies in any office.
92. ARTICLE XIV Finances
93. All administrative and operational expenses plus promotional funds for CDMC shall be funded by annual dues from members of CDMC, or other income. All profit from membership patrons shall be used for the Connectional CDMC Ceremony and other ongoing programs of CDMC expand the budget for youth advancement, enrichment and social service programs, for African Methodist Episcopal Church involvement in community and national outreach projects as decided upon by the General Board, Council of Bishops or the General Conference.
94. ARTICLE XV By-Laws
95. The CDMC of the African Methodist Episcopal Church may adopt by-laws consist with the constitution. The by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the CDMC of the African Methodist Episcopal Church by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting thereof, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given at a previous regular meeting or in writing.
96. ARTICLE XVI
97. The Presiding Bishop of each Episcopal District shall appoint a District Commissioner of the CDMC of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The District Commissioner shall work with the Bishop and Conference Commissioners to establish an Episcopal District program and in identifying special projects. Each Annual Conference shall have a Conference Commissioner appointed by the Presiding Bishop. Presiding Elders shall appoint a Commissioner in their District who will supervise the work of the CDMC; and local Pastors shall appoint a Commissioner who will supervise the work of the CDMC.

Bill Number: WL-02

Title: Removal of Male-Centric Language in the Lay Hymn



Submitted by: Bill Dickens

Contact: dickensb@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 713, 2016 Book of Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Intent

To make the signature hymn of the Connectional Lay Organization gender neutral.

Rationale

The 2012 General Conference voted to exclude gender specific references in future editions of the Book of Doctrine and Discipline. The 2016 edition of the Book of Doctrine and Discipline retains male-centric language in the Laymen's Song. The Connectional Lay Organization is comprised of men and women. The reference to "man" and "men" in the hymn should be stricken in compliance with the 2012 mandate for the promotion of gender equality throughout the Lay Organization.

Current Text

1. Page 713 of the Book of Doctrine and Discipline reads in
2. the song title: "The Laymen's Song".
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. The amended song title would read: "The Lay Song". All
2. subsequent references to "man" or "men" would be
3. replaced with "laity". This would require musical editing of
4. the hymn to reflect new wording.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: APP-05

Title: Commission on Health: Quarterly Conference Health Ministry reporting



Submitted by: Rev. Miriam J. Burnett, MD, MPH

Contact: chcamec@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Certificates: Disciplinary Questions by the Presiding Elder for the Quarterly Conference, page 800 to follow question 25

Intent

To add the questions to the Quarterly Conference report form that will provide 1) documentation of local Commission on Health activity; 2) the questions that will document the mandatory HIV/AIDS training for clergy and lay leaders; and 3) documentation of disaster preparedness activities and active shooter training.

Rationale

To provide documentation of the Commission on Health reporting on a quarterly basis. This documentation will provide preparation for the required Annual conference reporting as well as provide a documentation trail that can be used for potential funding opportunities. Many insurance companies are now requiring documentation of active shooter training and procedures.

Current Text

1. n/a
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. 26. Commission on Health
2. a. Does your church have an active Health Ministry?
3. Yes___ No___ In development___
4. Provide info on event(s):
5. b. Did your church engage in ministry or awareness events
6. towards eliminating or addressing congregation or
7. community needs associated with the HIV/AIDS pandemic?
8. Yes ___ No___
9. Provide info on event(s):
10. c. Last date of completion of a 'What effective religious
11. leaders should know about HIV/AIDS' mandatory training
12. Names and dates for Clergy _____
13. Names and dates for Officers _____
14. d. Has your church completed active shooter training? Yes
15. ___ Date ___ No___
16. e. Has your church conducted disaster preparedness
17. activities? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, describe (include evacuation
18. drills, CPR/AED training, gathering of recommended
19. supplies, training, etc.)
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: APP-06

Title: Commission on Health: Annual Conference Health Ministry reporting



Submitted by: Rev. Miriam J. Burnett, MD, MPH

Contact: chcamec@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Certificates, page 804

Intent

1) to add the questions to the Annual Conference report form that were passed during the 50th Session of the General Conference, July 2016 and 2) to provide the questions that will document the mandatory HIV/AIDS training for clergy and lay leaders

Rationale

the legislation was already passed but not included in the 2016 AME Discipline with further clarification of documentation

Current Text

1. n/a
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. 17. Commission on Health
2. a. Does your charge/church have an active Health Ministry?
3. Yes___ No___ In progress___
4. b. Did your charge/church engage in ministry or awareness
5. events towards eliminating or addressing congregation or
6. community needs associated with the HIV/AIDS pandemic?
7. Yes ___ No___
8. Optional to provide info on event(s):
9. c. Last date of completion of a 'What effective religious
10. leaders should know about HIV/AIDS' mandatory training
11. Names and dates for Clergy _____
12. Names and dates for Officers _____
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: APP-03

Title: Detailed Glossary Admendments



Submitted by: JACQUELYN DUPONT-WALKER

Contact: JDUPONTW@AOL.COM

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

2016 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, page 811 - 824 - The Glossary of African Methodist Episcopal Acronyms, Terms and Phrases

Intent

The following information is submitted in response concerns of the Connectional Prayer Ministry. It will document the new official name, edit other text to add that name, and create a bibliography. It also adds the named projects and initiatives of the prayer ministry.

Rationale

The Glossary of African Methodist Episcopal Acronyms, Terms, Phrases and bibliography should be amended, and edited to insure relevant, contemporary and accurate terminology. The naming of the prayer ministry after the late Bishop Sarah Frances Davis should also be noted in the Discipline.

Current Text

1. Glossary extends from page 811 to page 826

Amended Text

1. Add to Acronyms
2. 1) Page 811/ACRONYM/BSFDCK and I- /This is the acronym for, Bishop Sarah Francis
3. Davis Covenant Keepers and Intercessors, legislated and established on July 2016 in
4. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the AME Church General Conference 50th Quadrennial
5. Session.
6. Add to Definitions
7. 2) Page 814/BSFDCK and I/Glossary (Definition): The Bishop Sarah Francis Davis
8. Covenant Keepers and Intercessors is a conglomeration of clergy and laity working
9. together with the goals to fast, pray and intercede for the African Methodist Episcopal
10. Connectional Church, our Bishops, Episcopal Supervisors, all Connectional and General
11. Officers and their Families, all Presiding Elders and their Families, all Clergy and their
12. Families, all Laity and their Families, all our Youth and Young Adults. Conduct spiritual
13. mapping, domestic and international prayer intercession for matters across the world.
14. Responsible for the Connectional Day of Prayer for the AME Connectional Church every
15. April 13th of each year, as well as the Midnight Prayer which is held the first Monday at
16. Midnight eastern standard time every month and the General Conference Prayer Chapels
17. and early morning Prayer Labs.
18. 3) Page 816/Connectional Day of Prayer/Glossary (Definition): An approved and
19. established date of April 13th of each year for a uniformed day of fervent prayer that
20. includes all the AME Church Episcopal Districts One through Twenty-one. This day of
21. uniformed prayer is facilitated by the Director of the Bishop Sarah Francis Davis Covenant
22. Keepers and Intercessors.
23. 4) Page 816/Covenant Keepers-/Glossary (Definition): To come; a coming together; a
24. meeting or agreement of minds. In theology, the covenant keepers of works, is that implied
25. is the commands, prohibitions, and promises of God; the promise of God to man, that
26. mans perfect obedience should entitle him to happiness. This do, and live; that do, and
27. die.
28. 5) Page 818/Domestic-/Glossary (Definition): Existing or occurring inside a particular
29. country; for example, the United States of America is domestic; not foreign or international.
30. 6) Page 818/Evangelist-/Glossary (Definition): One who publishes glad tidings; a
31. messenger, or speaker of good news. According to Ephesians 4:11-12; THE THIRD
32. CALLED FOR THE PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY
33. FOR THE EDIFYING OF THE BODY OF CHRIST. These persons were sent not to settle
34. in a particular place, but to travel among the churches, and finish what the Apostles had
35. begun. An example was Philip the deacon, Mark, Silas, according to Acts 21:8.
36. 7) Page 819/Intercessor(s)-/Glossary (Definition): A person, or persons who intervenes on
37. behalf of another, especially in prayer. The person or persons who appeal to God. For
38. example, there are nine basic types of prayers; Communion, Supplication, Intercession,
39. Spiritual Warfare, Agreement, Watch, Thanksgiving, Forgiveness and Repentance. Christs
40. prayer for His followers, John 17:6-26.
41. 8) Page 819/International-/Glossary (Definition): Existing, occurring or carried on between
42. two or more nations. Opposite of domestic. Pertaining to representation for different
43. countries. Generally observing concerns that are beyond our national boundaries. For
44. example, our domestic episcopal districts are Districts One through Thirteen; and our
45. international episcopal districts are Districts Fourteen through Twenty.
46. 9) Page 823/Prayer Labs-/Glossary (Definition): A contemporary reset of a biblical
47. sermonette or brief presentation that is presented to a body of listeners or participants who
48. are encouraged to ask questions, give comments or to witness and faith share after the
49. sermonette or brief presentation has been delivered. The sermonette provider or presenter
50. is expected to respond or answer the questions and comments or address them to the
51. best of their ability.
52. 10) Page 824/Spiritual Mapping-/Glossary (Definition): A new approach to evangelizing
53. ones community. This concept researches the historical and current conditions pertaining
54. to a community, city, township, state or province of a domestic or international
55. geographical area or nation; for the purpose of prayer, fasting and evangelism. There are
56. various processes in the research, patterns, activity and historical time-lines to complete a
57. spiritual mapping project. It concludes with a thorough investigation of the spiritual
58. conditions of a region, or nation, domestic or international. This mapping is used to
59. understand the area or region to better motivate and faith share.
60. Add to the Bibliography
61. Lucado, Max. No Wonder They Call Him The Savior. Questar Publishers, Multnomah
62. Books, copyright 1986 by Max Lucado.
63. Lucado, Max. Walking With The Savior. All color topical inserts were compiled from
64. Walking With The Savior. Published by Tyndale House Publishers, copyright 1993 by Max
65. Lucado.
66. The Holy Bible. New International Version Study Bible. Grand Rapids, Michigan; 1984.
67. Books and Chapters: Ephesians 4:11-12; Acts 21:8; John 17:6-26.
68. Zondervan, King James Version Study Bible. Grand Rapids, Michigan, Zondervan, 2002.
69. NOTE: This legislation has NO FISCAL IMPACT.
70. Submitted by the Connectional Prayer Ministry and the 5th District Legislative Task Force
- 71.
- 72.
- 73.
- 74.

Bill Number: APP-02

Title: Accessions



Submitted by: Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

Contact: jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 812, Section: Glossary

Intent

To be consistent with Quarterly Conference Disciplinary questions

Rationale

The Quarterly Conference Disciplinary Questions recognizes distinguishes between new members and full members. The current definition excludes new members in the accession count.

Current Text

1. Accessions. The act of a person who unites with a
2. congregation after meeting all requirements for full
3. membership.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Accession: A person who unites with a local congregation.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: APP-04

Title: The Ecumenical Officer of the AME Church_2



Submitted by: Rev. Dr. V. Gordon Glenn III

Contact: rev_glenn@yahoo.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Glossary, p. 818

Intent

To make a new General Officer, Executive Director of Ecumenical Affairs, and define the duties thereof.

Rationale

This office should be more fully defined so that the work of ecumenism can be more fully utilized by our Church.

Current Text

1. A bishop given a special assignment instead of an
2. episcopal district to represent the AME Church in
3. ecumenical affairs, supervise urban ministry, endorse AME
4. chaplains and the like.

Amended Text

1. The Executive Director of Ecumenical Affairs will oversee
2. the Ecumenical Office of the AME Church as defined below.
3. The Executive Director of Ecumenical Affairs shall
4. undertake study and reflect with others on the nature of the
5. unity to which Christians are called in the light of Gods
6. purpose for the world and the Church.
7. The Executive Director of Ecumenical Affairs shall be a
8. theological resource and enabler, expanding and extending
9. the vision of Christian unity and sharing in the task of
10. making the vision a reality.
11. Within the AME Connection:
12. The Executive Director of Ecumenical Affairs shall, so far as
13. possible, draw attention to the ecumenical dimension in
14. every aspect of life of the Connectional Church
15. 1. By being in attendance at required Connectional
16. meetings
17. 2. By advising the Bishop's Council and their staff on
18. matters where there is ecumenical participation and
19. potential.
20. 3. By contributing to the work of the General Board, Bishops
21. Council and other Connectional boards and committees so
22. that they may build links with equivalent structures in
23. partner churches throughout the Christian diaspora and,
24. whenever possible, develop mutually beneficial strategies.
25. 4. By maintaining creative dialogue and developing joint
26. activities with training and resource personnel, including
27. those responsible for ministerial training and for mission
28. development across the Connectional Church.
29. Outside the AME Connection:
30. The Executive Director of Ecumenical Affairs shall help to
31. make the Connectional Church aware of international
32. developments of ecumenical significance which involve or
33. affect the AME Church
34. 1. By representing the AME Church on the World Council of
35. Churches, National Council of Churches and other global
36. and national ecumenical boards, councils and bodies.
37. 2. By contributing in any appropriate way to the World
38. Council of Churches, National Council of Churches and
39. other global and national ecumenical boards, councils and
40. bodies.
41. 3. By providing the AME Church with the content and local
42. implications of global and national dialogues and
43. agreements.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: WL-01

Title: Mandatory Inclusion of the Connectional Budget in the Printed Discipline



Submitted by: Rev. Dr. V. Gordon Glenn III, Rev. Bridget Mitchell, Rev. Rachel Williams-Glenn, Esther Gillmore, Katherine McCraney, and Susan Smith, 5th Episcopal District, Midwest Conference

Contact: rev_glenn@yahoo.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

None. In the 2012 Doctrine Discipline the Connectional Budget (2013-2016) followed "The Appendix" (p. 691-699) and before the "Glossary."

Intent

To correct an omission from the 2016 Doctrine and Discipline. The Connectional Budget which guides spending and projects income for the ensuing Quadrennial shall be printed in the Doctrine and Discipline as a mandatory section and not as a separate document.

Rationale

For transparency, the Connectional Budget should be in the printed Doctrine and Discipline, not in a separate document.

Current Text

1. None.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. The Connectional Budget (2021-2024) should follow the
2. "Bibliography" and precede the "Glossary."
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CO-41

Title: Reverend



Submitted by: franklin membe

Contact: franklinmembe@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

NEW PART XVI

Intent

DEVELOP A FINANCING STRATEGY FOR THE:-

1. FUNDING OF AJC ESTABLISHMENT
2. FUNDING OF AJC 1st GC
3. FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF AJC TO THE CONNECTIONAL GC

Rationale

THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AMICABLE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN AJC AND THE CONNECTIONAL GC BY WAY OF A RECIPROCAL FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP TO THE EXTENT THAT

1. THE CONNECTIONAL GC PROVIDES AN INITIAL BUDGETARY ALLOCATION TO THE AJC TO AID THE LATTER IN THE INITIAL EXPENSES OF SETTING UP THE AJC AND FUNDING OF THE 1st AJC GENERAL CONFERENCE.
2. THE AJC GC COMMIT ITSELF TO BE A REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE CONNECTIONAL GC SO AS TO LAY A FOUNDATION OF RECIPROCITY IN TERMS OF CONNECTIONAL GC COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR CHURCHES IN DEVELOPING NATIONS

Current Text

1. NEW

2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. IN ORDER TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION OF
2. THE AJC, THERE SHALL BE PROVIDED A BUDGETARY
3. ALLOCATION BY THE CONNECTIONAL GENERAL
4. CONFERENCE TO SUBSIDIZE THE ANTICIPATED HIGH
5. INITIAL COSTS IN THE SHORT RUN SPECIFICALLY THE
6. SETTING UP OF THE AJC AND FUNDING OF THE 1st
7. AJC GENERAL CONFERENCE.
8. THIS IS ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE AJC GC
9. SHALL BE CONTRIBUTING TO THE CONNECTIONAL GC
10. SO AS TO LAY A FOUNDATION FOR RECIPROCITY IN
11. TERMS RECEIVING PERIODIC DEVELOPMENT FUND
12. ALREADY EARMARKED BY THE CONNECTIONAL GC
13. FOR CHURCHES IN DEVELOPING NATIONS UNDER
14. THE GDC AND THROUGH EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CO-42

Title: Reverend



Submitted by: franklin membe

Contact: franklinmembe@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

NEW PART XVI

Intent

PROVIDE LEGISLATION FOR THE ELECTION OF SUITABLE PERSONS TO THE OFFICE OF AJC BISHOP

Rationale

ENSURING QUALITY LEADERSHIP BOTH SPIRITUALLY, MENTALLY, SOCIALLY AND ACADEMICALLY WITH ABILITY TO MIX EASILY WITH PERSONS OF ALL RACIAL, NATIONALITY, ETHNIC, AGE, GENDER AND SOCIAL STATUS.

Current Text

1. NEW

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE OF BISHOP SHALL BE

2. 1. NATIONALS OF AFRICA,

3. 2. MINIMUM AGE OF 40 AND NOT EXCEEDING 72

4. YEARS OF AGE AT THE TIME OF SEEKING OFFICE.

5. 3. HAVE ATTENDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

6. SCHOOL

7. 4. MUST HAVE ATTAINED A MINIMUM ACADEMIC

8. QUALIFICATION OF A DEGREE IN ANY DISCIPLINE;

9. 5. MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF A DIPLOMA IN

10. THEOLOGY FROM AN UNQUESTIONABLE INSTITUTION

11. OF LEARNING;

12. 6. HAS SERVED AS PASTOR FOR NOT LESS THAN

13. TWO QUADRENNIAL TERMS;

14. 7. IS IN GOOD STANDING.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: CO-43

Title: Reverend



Submitted by: franklin membe

Contact: franklinmembe@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

New

Intent

LEGISLATION TO MANDATE THE AJC TO CARRY OUT THE RE-DISTRICTING OF THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS AND ELECTION OF AJC GC BISHOPS AND GENERAL OFFICERS

Rationale

1. TO STOP THE IMPOSITION OF BISHOPS ON THE CONTINENT WHOSE SUBJECTS HAVE BEEN DEMOGRAPHICALLY AND FINANCIALLY DISENFRANCHISED FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS OF ELECTING THEIR LEADERS
2. THE CONTEXTUALISATION OF LEADERSHIP AND SOLUTIONS FOR EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE AJC CONSTITUENCY
3. TO FACILITATE THE SETTING UP OF A FORMIDABLE PLATFORM FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CHURCH IN AFRICA

Current Text

1. NEW

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. THE AJC GC IS HEREBY MANDATED AS FOLLOWS :-

2. TO WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS OF THE 51st GC 2020,

3. CARRY OUT A RE-DISTRICTING EXERCISE OF THE

4. EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS IN AFRICA;

5. ELECT BISHOPS AND GENERAL OFFICERS FOR THE

6. AJC-GC

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: CO-44

Title: Reverend



Submitted by: franklin membe

Contact: franklinmembe@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

NEW

Intent

LEGISLATION TO MANDATE THE AJC TO HOLD THE AJC GENERAL CONFERENCE WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS AFTER THE 51st CONNECTIONAL GC 2020.

Rationale

THE AJC-GC SHALL SERVE THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING DIRECTION FOR THE LEGISLATING, EXECUTING AND INTERPRETATION OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GC FOR SELF DETERMINATION AND FOR THE CREATION OF MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS AND SYSTEMS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHURCH IN AFRICA TO REFLECT THE ASPIRATIONS AND WISHES OF THE AME CHURCH IN AFRICA EXCLUSIVELY FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Current Text

1. NONE

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. THE 51st GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AME

2. CHURCH HEREBY CREATES THE AFRICA

3. JURISDICTION COUNCIL GENERAL CONFERENCE

4. (AJC-GC) AND

5. MANDATES THE SAME TO PROVIDE DIRECTION FOR

6. THE LEGISLATING, EXECUTING AND INTERPRETATION

7. OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GC FOR

8. SELF DETERMINATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF

9. AFRICAS OWN BUSINESS TO REFLECT THE

10. ASPIRATIONS AND WISHES OF THE AME CHURCH IN

11. AFRICA EXCLUSIVELY FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES

12. WHILE REMAINING PART OF THE CONNECTIONAL

13. CHURCH.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: CO-45

Title: Reverend



Submitted by: franklin membe

Contact: franklinmembe@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

NEW

Intent

LEGISLATION TO MANDATE THE AJC TO HOLD THE AJC GENERAL CONFERENCE WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS AFTER THE 51st CONNECTIONAL GC 2020.

Rationale

THE AJC-GC SHALL SERVE THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING DIRECTION FOR THE LEGISLATING, EXECUTING AND INTERPRETATION OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GC FOR SELF DETERMINATION AND FOR THE CREATION OF MANAGEMENT MECHANISMS AND SYSTEMS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHURCH IN AFRICA TO REFLECT THE ASPIRATIONS AND WISHES OF THE AME CHURCH IN AFRICA EXCLUSIVELY FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Current Text

1. NONE

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. THE 51st GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AME

2. CHURCH HEREBY CREATES THE AFRICA

3. JURISDICTION COUNCIL GENERAL CONFERENCE

4. (AJC-GC) AND

5. MANDATES THE SAME TO PROVIDE DIRECTION FOR

6. THE LEGISLATING, EXECUTING AND INTERPRETATION

7. OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GC FOR

8. SELF DETERMINATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF

9. AFRICAS OWN BUSINESS TO REFLECT THE

10. ASPIRATIONS AND WISHES OF THE AME CHURCH IN

11. AFRICA EXCLUSIVELY FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES

12. WHILE REMAINING PART OF THE CONNECTIONAL

13. CHURCH.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: CO-46

Title: Reverend



Submitted by: franklin membe

Contact: franklinmembe@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

NEW

Intent

LEGISLATION FOR THE CREATION OF THE AJC GENERAL CONFERENCE

Rationale

THE AJC-GC SHALL SERVE THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING DIRECTION FOR THE LEGISLATING, EXECUTING AND INTERPRETATION OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE AJC-GC FOR SELF DETERMINATION AND ADMINISTERING OF AFRICA'S OWN CHURCH BUSINESS TO REFLECT THE ASPIRATIONS AND WISHES OF THE AME CHURCH IN AFRICA EXCLUSIVELY FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES

Current Text

1. NONE

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. THE 51st GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AME

2. CHURCH HEREBY

3. 1. CREATES THE AFRICA JURISDICTION COUNCIL

4. GENERAL CONFERENCE (AJC-GC) FOR PURPOSES OF

5. PROVIDING DIRECTION FOR THE LEGISLATING,

6. EXECUTING AND INTERPRETATION OF THE GOALS

7. AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GC FOR SELF

8. DETERMINATION AND ADMINISTERING OF AFRICAS

9. OWN CHURCH BUSINESS TO REFLECT THE

10. ASPIRATIONS AND WISHES OF THE AME CHURCH IN

11. AFRICA.

12. 2. CREATED AJC GENERAL BOARD COMMISSION OF

13. THE AFRICAN JURISDICTIONS

14. 3. THE AJC COUNCIL SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE

15. GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND SHALL BE

16. GOVERNED BY THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF

17. THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: CO-47

Title: Reverend



Submitted by: franklin membe

Contact: franklinmembe@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

N/A

Intent

LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE A NEW PART XV1 FOR THE ENACTMENT OF THE AFRICA JURISDICTION COUNCIL -AJC
AS AN ORGAN OF THE CONNECTION

Rationale

1. TO HAVE SELF DETERMINATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF AFRICAS OWN BUSINESS AS ALLUDED TO ON PAGE 298 PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE 2016 BOOK OF THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE AME CHURCH
2. TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT OF HEIGHTENED DEVELOPMENT USING HOME GROWN SOLUTIONS AND LEADERSHIP FOR THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA BY LOCALISING LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF AJC AFFAIRS IN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF THE AME DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE AS IS AMENDED HERETO

Current Text

1. N/A

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. PART XVI THE AFRICA JURISDICTION COUNCIL (AJC)

2. FOR SELF DETERMINATION AND ADMINISTERING OF

3. AFRICAS OWN CHURCH BUSINESS TO REFLECT THE

4. ASPIRATIONS AND WISHES OF THE AME CHURCH IN

5. AFRICA EXCLUSIVELY FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: CO-48

Title: Reverend



Submitted by: franklin membe

Contact: franklinmembe@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

N/A

Intent

LEGISLATION TO INCLUDE A NEW PART XV1 FOR THE ENACTMENT OF THE AFRICA JURISDICTION COUNCIL -AJC
AS AN ORGAN OF THE CONNECTION

Rationale

1. TO HAVE SELF DETERMINATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF AFRICAS OWN BUSINESS AS ALLUDED TO ON PAGE 298 PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE 2016 BOOK OF THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE AME CHURCH
2. TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT OF HEIGHTENED DEVELOPMENT USING HOME GROWN SOLUTIONS AND LEADERSHIP FOR THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA BY LOCALISING LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF AJC AFFAIRS IN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF THE AME DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE AS IS AMENDED HERETO

<i>Current Text</i>	<i>Amended Text</i>
1. N/A	1. PART XVI THE AFRICA JURISDICTION COUNCIL (AJC)
2.	2. FOR SELF DETERMINATION AND ADMINISTERING OF
3.	3. AFRICAS OWN CHURCH BUSINESS TO REFLECT THE
4.	4. ASPIRATIONS AND WISHES OF THE AME CHURCH IN
5.	5. AFRICA EXCLUSIVELY FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.
9.	9.
10.	10.
11.	11.
12.	12.
13.	13.
14.	14.
15.	15.
16.	16.
17.	17.
18.	18.
19.	19.
20.	20.
21.	21.
22.	22.
23.	23.
24.	24.
25.	25.
26.	26.
27.	27.
28.	28.
29.	29.
30.	30.
31.	31.
32.	32.
33.	33.
34.	34.
35.	35.
36.	36.
37.	37.
38.	38.
39.	39.
40.	40.
41.	41.
42.	42.
43.	43.
44.	44.
45.	45.
46.	46.
47.	47.
48.	48.
49.	49.

Bill Number: APP-07

Title: Transparency of the Connectional Budget for the African Methodist Episcopal Church



Submitted by: Bill Dickens

Contact: dickensb@comcast.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

There is no page reference in the 2016 Book of Doctrine and Discipline for this proposed legislation.

Intent

To restore the Church Finance Section to the 2020 Book of Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rationale

The 2016 Book of Doctrine and Discipline does not include a Church Finance Section as done in prior editions. The decision to delete the Church Finance Section from the 2016 Discipline out of concerns about legal risk promotes a burden of non-access to basic Connectional financial data. There is no evidence provided that inclusion of the Finance Section will result in litigation. Furthermore, charging members \$5.00 to purchase the financial booklet is inefficient and insulting. Why should a member have to pay to gain access to the financial status and budget projections for the General church? The decision to remove the Financial Section was not approved at the 2016 General Conference. The Compilation Committee had no authority apart from the General Conference to make such a fiat decision.

Current Text

1. N/A

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. There is no no amended text other than restoring Section IX

2. Church Financial Section back to the 2020 Book of Doctrine

3. and Discipline. This proposed legislation has no financial

4. impact on the General Church Budget.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number:

Title: Officer Retirement Age



Submitted by: Lillie Hill

Contact: Lil.hill@verizon.net

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

None

Intent

The appointment or election of members as officers must not exceed seventy-five years of age by his or her Annual Conference. It shall be mandatory that all officers of the African Methodist Episcopal Church who will become 75 years of age, either prior to or within a year following the adjournment of a General Conference be ineligible for re-election or appointment to office. The aforementioned officers may assist in their local church and in other capacities throughout the Connection as requested by the bishop, presiding elders, pastors and presiding officers of ministries [i.e. advise, train and

Rationale

The basis for this recommendation is two-fold and will justify the need for such a change. The additional legislation will require a mandatory age cap for elected officials just as with clergy. It makes sense for clergy and non-clergy to be measured equally in terms of age eligibility as it relates to fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of the church. Secondly, and most importantly; the proposed legislation would provide an opportunity for young adults to move copiously into leadership positions. The proposed legislation may have an adverse effect on seniors currently holding office and approaching seventy-five years of age (or may have passed that age), in which a grandfather clause would bridge the gap for the year or two needed for transition to complete their term.

Current Text

1. None
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. An elected officer or employed laity must retire by seventy-
2. five (75) years of age.
3. An elected officer or employed laity is not to be appointed
4. after age seventy-five (75).
5. The appointment or employment must be relieved by
6. Annual Conference
7. Prior to attaining age seventy-six (76)
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: JA-02

Title: Time of Meetings



Submitted by: Judicial Council

Contact: JCAMESecretary@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

363

Intent

To permit the Judicial Council to hold face to face meetings and to deliberate matters before the Council at times which may include connectional meetings of the AME Church, commensurate with its volume and complexity of cases

Rationale

Limiting Judicial Council face to face meetings to two times a year and the requirement that the meetings occur at non-connectional meetings of the AME Church is arbitrary, weakens the work of the Judicial Council and creates inefficiencies. At the heart of the work of the Judicial Council is the deliberative process. This process involves members of the Council discussing, debating and trying to correctly apply (sometimes ambiguous) law to matters of various levels of complexity. While the vast majority of these sessions occur via telephone, there is no substitute for face-to-face discussions. Hence, members should not be restricted from deliberating when they are attending a connectional meeting of the AME church, should the work of the Judicial Council so require.

Current Text

1. ..It shall also meet at such times and places as it may deem
2. necessary, but not more than twice a year in addition to the
3. meeting at the General ConferenceThe Judicial Council
4. shall not meet at a time and place designated for a meeting
5. of the Council of Bishops or of any other connectional
6. meeting of the AME Church, except the General
7. Conference

8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. Delete: but not more than twice a year in addition to the
2. General Conference and delete: The Judicial Council shall
3. not meet at a time and place designated for a meeting of
4. the Council of Bishops or of any other connectional meeting
5. of the AME Church, except the General Conference. the
6. new text reads It shall also meet at such times and places
7. as it many deem necessary.

8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: JA-03

Title: Voting Rights



Submitted by: Judicial Council

Contact: JCAMESecretary@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

NOT IN CURRENT DISCIPLINE

Intent

To allow the nine members of the Judicial Council, an entity required by the Doctrine and Discipline to be a part of the structure of AME Church to be permitted to vote as do the entities which constitute the executive and legislative branches, except on proposed legislation for reason that it might be required to later interpret or apply that legislation.

Rationale

Persons who serve the church in the highest judicial capacity should have the right to vote, as do members of the executive and legislative branches of the church.

Current Text

1. No current text
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Members of the Judicial Council shall have the right to vote
2. on all matters before the General Conference, except
3. proposed legislation.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: JA-04

Title: General Conference Composition



Submitted by: Judicial Council

Contact: JCAMESecretary@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

247

Intent

For the General Conference composition to include the Judicial Council, so as to reflect the Doctrine and Disciplines requirement that the AME Church structure include its highest judicial body and to reflect the role of the Judicial Council, who are elected by and amenable to the General Conference.

Rationale

The Judicial Council constitutes the highest judicial body of the AME Church. Like bishops and general officers, its members are elected by the General Conference, are accountable to the General Conference and must provide a report to the General Conference on the work of the Council for the preceding four years. The Judicial Council also hears cases during the General Conference. As such, the language regarding General Conference composition should include this important branch of the church's structure.

Current Text

1. The composition of the General Conference shall be the
2. bishops, general officers elected by the General Conference
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. The composition of the General Conference shall be the
2. bishops, general officers and members of the Judicial
3. Council elected by the General Conference
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number:

Title: Sultant de oral gnalogie



Submitted by: Ntumba Kadima Richard

Contact: Kadriche@live.fr

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Je travaille pour le sous-traitant de Family search internationale en Afrique centrale

Intent

Rejoindre votre organisation pour comparer les informations de gnalogie que nous possdons par apport a vos liens avec vos anctres de l'Afrique

Rationale

Francophone

Current Text

1. de Family search internationale en Afrique centrale
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Technologie et gnalogie
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number:

Title: Constitution and Bylaws of the Womens Missionary Society



Submitted by: Harriet Brown Birk, Esquire on behalf of Dr. Deborah Taylor King

Contact: hbirk125@aol.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, Part XVII, Connectional Organizations - Section I .pp. 369 46

Intent

To implement the amendments approved by delegates at the 2019 Quadrennial Convention of the WMS.

Rationale

To ensure that the approved legislation is included in the 2020-2024 Doctrine and Discipline and the Constitution and Bylaws of the WMS.

Current Text

1. Attachment 2 Charts of the 2019 Amendments
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Attachment 1 - Final Version of 2019 Amendments
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CM-05

Title: Local Church Organization



Submitted by: Sandrial Gray Mason, ANGC West District Lay President

Contact: sgraymason@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Business Page 99(d) and Commission on Stewardship and Finance Page 103 (5)

Intent

To ensure our local church mortgage and insurance is paid every month. To keep our churches from foreclosure, hold our local churches and pastors accountable, and prevent the Episcopal District from financial obligations.

Rationale

The mortgage and insurance should have priority over any budget items. When our churches face possible foreclosure, an episcopal district is forced to take on the debt. In addition, those churches that are in good and regular standing are asked to pay additional funds.

Current Text

1. Page 99 (d)
2. It shall see, at its sessions, that the pastor receives his or
3. her support, and it shall devise ways and means to pay him
4. or her and the presiding elder all that is due to them.
5. Page 103 Commission on Stewardship and Finance Section
6. 3.5
7. Funds received shall be disbursed as the Official Board
8. directs, subject to the approval of the pastor. The income
9. received each month shall have been shared proportionally
10. among the budgeted items after the pastors salary and that
11. of the entire church staff shall be given priority.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Page 99(d)
2. It shall see, at its sessions that the pastor receives his or
3. her support, and it shall devise ways and means to pay him
4. or her and the presiding elder all that is due them after
5. priority given to the church mortgage and insurance.
6. Page 103 Commission on Stewardship and Finance Section
7. 3.5
8. Funds received shall be disbursed as the Official Board
9. directs, subject to the approval of the pastor. The income
10. received each month shall have been shared
11. proportionately among the budgeted items with priority
12. given to the church mortgage and insurance if applicable,
13. the pastors salary and that of the entire church staff.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: MIN-21

Title: Pastoral Support Part VIII, Ministerial Classifications; Section II Ministerial/Pastoral Support; C. Classification of Itinerant Elders



Submitted by: Rev. Daniel Thomas, Augusta Conference Chair

Contact: dwthomasjr1@hotmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 139

Intent

The intent of this proposed legislation is to update and standardize the means by which travel expenses are computed for ministers under Part VIII, C, Note

Rationale

The current wording indicates that pastors are to be paid only 35 cents per mile one way. According to the IRS standard mileage rate for 2019 is 58 cents per mile. In order to keep pace with increasing gas costs, we recommend using the IRS standard rate for the appropriate year to calculate pastoral reimbursement.

Current Text

1. NOTE: In the case of circuits and Presiding Elders Districts,
2. the travel expenses of the minister, unless otherwise
3. provided for, shall be computed on the basis of thirty-five
4. (35) cents per mile one way, and these expenses shall be
5. an allowable deduction from the ministers income from the
6. pastoral charge.

7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. NOTE: In the case of circuits and Presiding Elders Districts,
2. the travel expenses of the minister, unless otherwise
3. provided for, shall be computed based on the current IRS
4. standard mileage rate(s) per mile one way for the
5. appropriate year. These expenses shall be an allowable
6. deduction from the ministers income from the pastoral
7. charge.

8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: Proposed

Title: Pastoral Support Part VIII, Ministerial Classifications; Section II Ministerial/Pastoral Support; D. Classifications of Churches for Pastoral Compensation



Submitted by: Rev. Daniel Thomas, Augusta Conference Chair

Contact: dwthomasjr1@hotmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 140

Intent

The intent of this change is to standardize the language between Part VIII, Section II D Note and Part VIII, Section III B2

Rationale

Part VIII, Section II D Note provides for a parsonage or living allowance for the pastor. This change will allow both sections to provide a living allowance in lieu of a parsonage.

Current Text

1. NOTE: Charges requiring full-time pastoral services shall be
2. urged to provide a parsonage (or living quarters) for the
3. pastor where the church is located. The bishop and Annual
4. Conference shall require the observance of this provision
5. wherever and whenever possible.

6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. NOTE: Charges requiring full-time pastoral service shall be
2. urged to provide a parsonage (or living quarters or living
3. allowance) where the church is located. The bishop and
4. Annual Conference shall require the observance of this
5. provision wherever and whenever possible.

6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CC-15

Title: Annual Conference Composition



Submitted by: Atlanta North Georgia Conference Legislative Team: Rev. Dr. Susan Buckson, Committee Chair, et al.

Contact: pastor.allentempleameatlanta@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 266-267

Intent

To include all elected and or appointed conference leaders among the listing of the Annual Conference composition.

Rationale

All Conference Coordinators, elected or appointed, are not listed within the text and as such are excluded from the composition noted in this section.

Current Text

1. The Annual Conference shall be composed of all traveling
2. elders and deacons, all local elders and deacons, and all
3. licentiates; the presidents of the Conference Lay
4. Organization and Missionary Society, and the Conference
5. directors of Christian Education, Music, and YPD, together
6. with (1) elected lay member and at least one (1) elected
7. layperson between the ages of eighteen to thirty-five (18-
8. 35), when possible, from each charge within its bounds.

9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. The Annual Conference shall be composed of all traveling
2. elders and deacons, all local elders and deacons, and all
3. licentiates; the presidents of the Conference Lay
4. Organization and Missionary Society, and the Conference
5. directors of the Christian Education, Music, Women in
6. Ministry, Sons of Allen, and YPD, together with one (1)
7. elected lay member and at least one (1) elected layperson
8. between the ages of eighteen of thirty-five (18-35), when
9. possible, from each charge within its bounds.

10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CC-16

Title: The District Conference Composition



Submitted by: Atlanta North Georgia Conference Legislative Team: Rev. Dr. Susan Buckson, Committee Chair, et al.

Contact: pastor.allentempleameatlanta@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Page 288

Intent

To clarify traveling ministers and preachers and to include all clergy who make up the composition of the District Conference.

Rationale

The current language ambiguously identifies ministers and does not include licentiates who are members of the District Conference once admitted. Furthermore, the reference to preachers does not actually reflect the nomenclature ascribed to ministerial orders.

Current Text

1. The District Conference shall be composed of all traveling
2. ministers, local preachers, evangelists, one (1) steward
3. from each quarterly conference, presidents of the local
4. Womens Ministry Society and Lay Organization, and a
5. young adult age eighteen to thirty-five (18-35) from each
6. church, circuit, or station. The steward shall be elected by
7. ballot at the first (1st) quarterly conference after the annual
8. conference session. The secretary of the Quarterly
9. Conference shall count the ballots, and the chairperson
10. shall declare the result.

11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. The District Conference shall be all itinerant elders and
2. deacons, all local elders and deacons, all licentiates, and
3. evangelists; one (1) steward from each quarterly
4. conference, presidents of the local Womens Missionary
5. Society and Lay Organization, and a young adult age
6. eighteen to thirty-five (18-35) from each church, circuit, or
7. station. The steward shall be elected by ballot at the first
8. (1st) quarterly conference after the annual conference
9. session. The secretary of the Quarterly Conference shall
10. count the ballots, and the chairperson shall declare the
11. result.

12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Bill Number: CC-17

Title: Connectional Institutions Archaic Reference(s)



Submitted by: Atlanta North Georgia Conference Legislative Team: Rev. Dr. Susan Buckson, Committee Chair, et al.

Contact: pastor.allentempleameatlanta@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Part XIV. Conferences. Section I. The General Conference. A. Composition, Page 247; Kindle Locations 5633-5634

Intent

To remove archaic reference(s)

Rationale

Douglas Hospital is no longer in existence

Current Text

1. annual conferences; the administrators of all Connectional
2. institutions (i.e. Douglas Hospital); the president of the
3. Connectional Presiding Elders Council, and elected clergy
4. and lay delegates from each annual conference.

- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. annual conferences; the administrators of all Connectional
2. Institutions (i.e. The Bishop Sarah Frances Davis
3. Connectional Womens Missionary Society Outpatient
4. Health Clinic); the president of the Connectional Presiding
5. Elders Council, and elected clergy and lay delegate from
6. each annual conference.

- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Bill Number: CC-18

Title: Definition of Mission Church



Submitted by: Atlanta North Georgia Conference Legislative Team: Rev. Dr. Susan Buckson, Committee Chair, et al.

Contact: pastor.allentempleameatlanta@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Part XIV, Section III G. 2c Pg. 291 Mission Churches

Intent

Define a mission church

Rationale

Definition of a mission church will help to resolve issues identifying mission churches.

Current Text

1. None

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Amended Text

1. Would be placed at the beginning of 2c. Mission Churches,

2. on page 291

3. A mission church is a congregation which does not have

4. enough members to have three stewards, three trustees,

5. stewardesses, or other officers. Mission churches should be

6. identified as such by the annual conference.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

47.

48.

49.

Bill Number: CO-41

Title: Connectional Societies and Organizations



Submitted by: Atlanta North Georgia Conference Legislative Team: Rev. Dr. Susan Buckson, Committee Chair, et al.

Contact: pastor.allentempleameatlanta@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

None

Intent

To establish as a Connectional Organization, a proven fellowship of women who live and serve in Africa, to bring that organization into compliance with the structure and governance of the African Methodist church, and to attach said organization to the Commission on Social action.

Rationale

Among the organizations on the African Continent that provide fellowship opportunities for Christian women, is the Charlotte Maxeke Ladies Fellowship. Although the Book of Discipline of the AME Church has made provision for an organization creating a fellowship of women known as, Womens Missionary Society on page 296-352, the AME Church female members of the 15th, 17th, 18th, and 19th Episcopal Districts have for a number of years been operating a similar organization. It is a ministry of women, aimed at conducting studies and recommend resolutions relating to the Christian social concerns which affect the members and neighbors of the church. It also aims to evangelize women for Christian fellowship, outreach and social action. Many of the other denominations in Southern Africa have their own versions of the organization. This legislation enables the episcopal Districts, Annual Conferences, and Presiding Elder Districts and local congregations to regulate, utilize and expect accountability at each level of governance in the denomination. The Bull also provides for its use outside of the African Continent wherever the African Methodist Episcopal Church has presence through the larger program of Church Growth and Evangelism.

Current Text

1. None

2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.
21.
22.
23.
24.
25.
26.
27.
28.
29.
30.
31.
32.
33.
34.
35.
36.
37.
38.
39.
40.
41.
42.
43.
44.
45.
46.
47.
48.
49.

Amended Text

1. New Text:
2. VISION, MISSION, AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CMLF
3. CMLF will recruit Christian women to be advocates for the
4. relevant global religious issues and will also provide support for
5. women.
6. CMLF will give each member an equal opportunity to optimally
7. utilize their god given qualities/skills to contribute to the church
8. and to the welfare of their congregation members, families,
9. neighbors, and communities.
10. Support and implement the programmes of the church.
11. Promote a positive team spirit and sisterhood within the church.
12. Do out-reach programmers such as spiritual revivals, seminars
13. and workshops.
14. Maintain and sustain the organization by working together as
15. members of the CMLF in the best interest of the church and its
16. communities.
17. Recognize, acknowledge, and support all ladies and women in
18. the church.
19. Create skills, development and training programmes to all
20. CMLF members by:
21. Providing education, training, and guidance in all areas of
22. church life; and promoting activities that develop unity,
23. togetherness and strength for all ladies.
24. OFFICERS
25. The elected Officers of the Connectional CMLF and its
26. Divisions shall be:
27. President
28. First Deputy President
29. Second Deputy President
30. Treasurer
31. Financial Secretary
32. Secretary
33. Assistant Secretary
34. Parliamentarian
35. Chaplain
36. Historiographer
37. Director of CMLF Activities
38. Public Relations Officer
39. IDENTITY
40. The colours of the CMLF shall be Black and White
41. Need to consider seasons
42. CMLF members shall wear the following gear:
43. In all Districts identify a childrens home for adoption through
44. Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the said
45. NGO/NPO for support with any means being required.
46. Commit our own professionals to draw a programme towards
47. empowerment of women and youth in our different Districts
48. addressing emotional and social needs. And should be an
49. ongoing program.
50. Build a relationship with the correctional center for rejected
51. children to reintegrate them in the community and unify them
52. with their families.

Bill Number: CP-3

Title: General Church Property



Submitted by: Terrence Evans

Contact: evans.terrence@gmail.com

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

72

Intent

1A: To set a reasonable time frame for communication of intent to mortgage or encumber the local church, by said local church, to the Annual Conference Board of Trustees.

1B: To correct a grammatical error.

Rationale

1A: Providing a reasonable time frame for the Board of Trustees and Incorporators of the local church to express intent to the mortgage or encumber the local church will aid with effective communication with the Annual Conference Board of Trustees. By reporting the intent to mortgage or encumber the local church, the Board of Trustees and Incorporators of the local church provides time for the Annual Conference Trustees to meet and review plans, documents, and financial obligations prior to approval and presentation to the organized Annual Conference.

1B: To correct a grammatical error at the end of the final sentence.

Current Text

1. Section C: Mortgaging Property
2. The Board of Trustees and Incorporators of the local
3. church, elected, and organized as prescribed in The
4. Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal
5. Church, shall have the power to mortgage or encumber the
6. property of the local church or corporation, PROVIDED
7. such action has been authorized by majority vote of the
8. membership present in a duly called Church Conference for
9. this specific purpose. It shall be required that NOTICE of
10. such meeting must be given fourteen (14) days previously,
11. including two (2) Sundays, and such action must be
12. approved by Resolution in a regular session of the Quarterly
13. Conference. When a local church complies with the
14. requirements set forth in this section, consent for the same
15. is not necessary to be obtained from the African Methodist
16. Episcopal Church Incorporated.
17. Wherever these laws conflict with the laws of the legal
18. jurisdiction (local, state/comparable division or national) in
19. which the property is located, the pastor and the Trustees
20. shall proceed in a manner to conform with these laws).

Amended Text

1. Section C: Mortgaging Property
2. The Board of Trustees and Incorporators of the local
3. church, elected, and organized as prescribed in The
4. Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal
5. Church, shall have the power to mortgage or encumber the
6. property of the local church or corporation, PROVIDED
7. such action has been authorized by a majority vote of the
8. membership present in a duly called Church Conference for
9. this specific purpose. It shall be required that NOTICE of
10. such meetings must be given fourteen (14) days previously,
11. including two (2) Sundays, and such action must be
12. approved by Resolution in a regular session of the Quarterly
13. Conference. The Board of Trustees and Incorporators of the
14. local church shall inform the Annual Conference Board of
15. Trustees of the intent to mortgage or encumber the property
16. of the local church within twenty-one (21) days of the
17. resolution approved by the Quarterly Conference. When a
18. local church complies with the requirements set forth in this
19. section, consent for the 11. same is not necessary to be
20. obtained from the African Methodist Episcopal Church,
21. Incorporated.
22. Wherever these laws conflict with the laws of the legal
23. jurisdiction (local, state, comparable division or national) in
24. which the property is located, the pastor and the Trustees
25. shall proceed in a manner to conform with these laws.
26. (Remove parentheses at the end of the final sentence)

Bill Number: CLO-6

Title: Extension of Episcopal Committee Authority



Submitted by:

Contact:

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Book of Discipline the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, Part XI, Section II, F, 169 Part XI Section III. D 171, E. 172, F. 172 Part VIII, Section I, pages 216-17; Part XI, Section V page 286

Intent

To authorize the Episcopal Committee to function in the interim of the General Conference

Rationale

Extending the authority of the Episcopal Committee beyond the General Conference when there is a vacancy establishes a process of fulfilling the vacancy in an equitable and democratic manner that is in line with the spirit of the General Conference.

Financial Implications: Potential impact for this 24 member Episcopal Committee's Executive Committee shall be only in the rare circumstances should a vacancy occur in the supervision of an Episcopal District.; and no more than the cost of the Council of Bishops when meeting for said purpose.

Current Text

1. Part XI, Section II, F,169 — Based on Age
- 2.
3. 2. The Episcopal Committee, or the Council of Bishops,
4. shall not assign any bishop who has reached the age of
5. retirement to preside over or to supervise the work in any
6. episcopal district.
- 7.
8. Part XI Section III. D 171 - Authority
- 9.
10. 2. Should a vacancy occur in the supervision of an
11. Episcopal District by suspension, resignation, death or
12. otherwise, the Council of Bishops is authorized to assign
13. one of its number to the said district. No assignment shall
14. be made, however, until the members of the said episcopal
15. district shall have the opportunity to make a request to the
16. Council of Bishops regarding the assignment,
- 17.
18. Part XI Section III. E 172 - Restrictions
- 19.
20. 4. The Council of Bishops shall not change the Episcopal
21. Committee's assignments of Bishops, except as herein
22. provided in The Book of Discipline of the A&ican Methodist
23. Episcopal Church.
- 24.
25. Part XI Section III, F, — Duties and Responsibilities
- 26.
27. 3. The Council of Bishops shall hear complaints and
28. petitions against any one of its members, and shall have the
29. authority, by a two-thirds (2/ 3) vote of the Council of
30. Bishops, to remove or transfer a bishop from a district, or
31. give such directions as their judgment deems best for the
32. good of the Church.
- 33.
34. Part XIV, G, 1, Page 255 — Assignment of Bishops
- 35.
36. h. No Current Text
- 37.
38. Part XIV, I, Conferences, Post-General Conference
39. Committees/Commissions
- 40.
41. No Text
- 42.
43. Part XVI, V, D,3b Page 322 — Trial Committee
- 44.
45. 3. b. Removal from the said episcopal district and
46. reassignment by the Council of Bishops
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Part XI, Section II, F,169 — Based on Age
- 2.
3. 2. The Episcopal Committee shall not thereafter assign any bishop who has reached the
4. age of retirement to preside over or to supervise the work in any Episcopal district, for the
5. purposes of assignment, the Office of Ecumenical and Urban Affairs is considered an
6. Episcopal District.
- 7.
8. Part XI Section III. D 171 - Authority
- 9.
10. 2. Should a vacancy occur in the supervision of an Episcopal District by suspension,
11. resignation, death, or otherwise, then the Episcopal Committee's 24-member Executive
12. Committee [Chairperson, 1 Vice-Chairperson, Lay Vice Chairperson &, Youth Vice-
13. Chairperson; and one member of the Episcopal Committee from each Episcopal District,
14. one (1) minister from the even-numbered districts and one (1) layperson from the odd-
15. numbered districts, with the procedure alternating at each General Conference] is
16. authorized to reconvene to assign a Bishop to the Episcopal District affected and make
17. necessary reassignments of Bishops for the good of ' the AME Church within thirty (30)
18. calendar days of notification of said vacancy by the Council of Bishops. No assignment
19. shall be made, however, until the members of the affected Episcopal District shall have the
20. opportunity to make a request to the Episcopal Committee's Executive Committee
21. regarding the assignment. The Episcopal Committee's Executive Committee will begin its
22. work at the close of the 2020 General Conference.
- 23.
24. Part XI Section IH. E 172 — Restrictions
- 25.
26. 4. The Council of Bishops shall not change the Episcopal Committee's assignments of
27. Bishops
- 28.
29. Part XI Section III, F. — Duties and Responsibilities
- 30.
31. 3. The Council of Bishops shall hear complaints and petitions against any one of its
32. members and shall have the authority, by a two-thirds (2/ 3) vote of the Council of Bishops,
33. to remove or transfer a bishop from a district, or give such directions as their judgment
34. deems best for the good of the Church.
- 35.
36. 4. The Episcopal Committee's Executive Committee is authorized to assign a bishop to
37. said vacant Episcopal District within thirty (30) calendar days of notification by the Council
38. of Bishops.
- 39.
40. Page 255 Part XIV, G, 1, h. Page 255 Assignment of Bishops
- 41.
42. h. In the interim of the General Conference, the Episcopal Committee's 24-member
43. Executive Committee [Chairperson, 1 Vice-Chairperson, Lay Vice-Chairperson k Youth
44. Vice-Chairperson; and one member of the Episcopal Committee from each Episcopal
45. District, one (1) minister from the even-numbered districts and one (1) layperson from the
46. odd-numbered districts, with the procedure alternating at each General Conference] shall
47. constitute the continuing committee charged with the responsibilities of making Episcopal
48. assignments as required due to the death or incapacity of an active bishop(s). Expenses
49. for the 24 member Episcopal Committee's Executive Committee shall be provisioned by
50. the Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the AME Church from the General Budget
51. Fund in accordance with existing policies and procedures. The Episcopal Committee's 24-
52. member Executive Committee will begin its work at the close of the 2020 General
53. Conference.
- 54.
55. 3. Episcopal Committee's 24-member Executive Committee
- 56.
57. In the interim of the General Conferences, the Episcopal Committee's 24-member
58. Executive Committee [Chairperson, 1 Vice-Chairperson, Lay Vice Chairperson 4 Youth
59. Vice-Chairperson; and one member of the Episcopal Committee from each Episcopal
60. District, one (1) minister from the even-numbered districts and one (1) layperson from the
61. odd-numbered districts, with the procedure alternating at each General Conference] shall
62. constitute the continuing committee charged with the responsibilities of making Episcopal
63. assignments as required due to the death or incapacity of an active bishop(s). The
64. Episcopal Committee's Executive Committee will begin its work at the close of the 2020
65. General Conference.
- 66.
67. Part XVI, V, D,3b Page 322
- 68.
69. 3.b. Removal from the said episcopal district by the Council of Bishops.
- 70.
71. 3.c. The Episcopal Committee's Executive Committee will make the reassignment.
- 72.
- 73.
- 74.

Bill Number: UNSPECIFIED

Title: Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society



Submitted by: Submitted by Harriet Brown Birk, Esquire on behalf of Dr. Deborah Taylor King, Connectional President of the Women's Missionary Society, African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Contact: UNSPECIFIED

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016, Part XVII, Connectional Organizations - Section I .pp. 369 – 468

Intent

To implement the amendments approved by delegates at the 2019 Quadrennial Convention of the WMS.

Rationale

To ensure that the approved legislation is included in the 2020-2024 Doctrine and Discipline and the Constitution and Bylaws of the WMS.

Current Text

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Amended Text

1. Attachment 1 - Final Version of 2019 Amendments,
2. Attachment 2 – Charts of the 2019 Amendments
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27.
- 28.
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.
- 32.
- 33.
- 34.
- 35.
- 36.
- 37.
- 38.
- 39.
- 40.
- 41.
- 42.
- 43.
- 44.
- 45.
- 46.
- 47.
- 48.
- 49.

Table of Contents

Page

Constitution and Bylaws Women's Missionary Society African Methodist Episcopal Church Constitution

Article I - Name	1
Section 1. Name.	1
Section 2. Designations.	1
Article II - Mission Statement and Purpose	1
Section 1. Mission Statement	1
Section 2. Purpose	1
Article III - Authority	2
Section 1. Policies	2
Section 2. Responsibilities.	2
Article IV - Structure and Operational Framework	2
Section 1. Organizational Structure	2
Section 2. Quadrennial Convention.	2
Section 3. Executive Board	2
Section 4. Decision-making Bodies.	2
Section 5. Commissions; Committees.	3
Section 6. Connectional Treasury; Management of Funds.	3
Article V - Membership	3
Article VI - Quadrennial Convention	3
Section 1. Convention Authority	3
Section 2. Quadrennial and Special Conventions.	3
Section 3. Voting Members of the Quadrennial Convention.	3
Section 4. Committees of the Quadrennial Convention.	3
Article VII - Officers	3
Section 1. Elected Officers	3
Section 2. Terms; Qualifications; Limitations.	4
Article VIII - Headquarter Offices of The Women's Missionary Society	4
Article IX - Employment of Staff	4
Article X - Foundation of Women's Missionary Society	4
Section 1. Authorized	4
Section 2. Responsibilities.	4
Section 3. Board of Trustees	4
Section 4. Reports; Audits.	5
Article XI – Sojourner Global Ministry Board	5
Section 1. Authorized	5
Section 2. Responsibilities.	5
Section 3. Reports; Audits.	6

Article XII – Operative Laws	6
Article XIII - Amendments and Bylaws	6
Section 1. Amendments to Constitution	6
Section 2. Amendment of Bylaws	6
Section 3. Effective Date of Amendments	6
Section 4. Proposed Amendments	6
Article XIV – Correction of Scrivener's Errors	6

Women's Missionary Society African
Methodist Episcopal Church
Connectional Bylaws

Article I - Name	7
Article II – WMS as Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)	7
Section 1. Membership Status	7
Section 2. WMS Representatives	7
Section 3. Alternate/Youth Representatives	7
Section 4. Terms of Appointment	7
Section 5. Liaisons	7
Section 6. Responsibilities	7
Section 7. Episcopal District NGO Liaisons	8
Section 8. Annual NGO Conference	8
Section 9. Funds	8
Section 10. Office Maintenance	8
Article III - Membership	8
Section 1. Regular	8
Section 2. Associate	8
Section 3. Life	8
Article IV - Quadrennial Convention; Delegates; Special Convention	8
Section 1. Quadrennial Convention	8
Section 2. Convention Delegates	9
Section 3. Submission of Delegates	9
Section 4. Expenses of Delegates	9
Section 5. Committees of the Quadrennial Convention	9
Section 6. Special Quadrennial Convention	10
Section 7. Registered Participants	10
Article V - Executive Board	10
Section 1. Composition; Quorum	10
Section 2. Purpose; Duties	10
Section 3. Meetings; Expenses	11
Section 4. Special Meetings	11
Article VI - Elected Officers	11
Section 1. Election of Officers	11
Section 2. Elected Officers	11
Section 3. Prerequisites for Holding Office	11
Section 4. Term; Limitation	11
Section 5. Transitional Period	12

Section 6.	Vacancy in Office of the President	12
Section 7.	Vacancy in Elected Offices Other Than President.	12
Section 8.	Removal of Elected Officers.....	12
Section 9.	Salary of President.....	12
Article VII - Nominations and Election Process		12
Section 1.	Procedures	12
Section 2.	General Requirements and Considerations	12
Section 3.	The Nominating Committee	13
Article VIII - Life Memberships		13
Section 1.	Life Member	13
Section 2.	Continuous Meritorious Service	14
Section 3.	General Information	14
Section 4.	The Process.....	14
Section 5.	Recognition.....	15
Section 6.	Use of Application Funds	15
Section 7.	Other	15
Article IX - Duties and Qualifications of Officers		15
Section 1.	President.....	15
Section 2.	First Vice President	16
Section 3.	Second Vice President.....	16
Section 4.	Third Vice President.....	16
Section 5.	Recording Secretary	17
Section 6.	Assistant Recording Secretary.....	17
Section 7.	Corresponding Secretary.....	17
Section 8.	Treasurer	18
Section 9.	Financial Secretary.....	18
Section 10.	Director of the Young People's and Children's Division.....	18
Section 11.	Editor of the Missionary Magazine.....	19
Section 12.	Associate Editor	19
Section 13.	Promotion and Missionary Education Director.	20
Section 14.	Historiographer-Statistician.....	20
Section 15.	Worship Director	21
Section 16.	Member-At-Large.....	21
Section 17.	Parliamentarian.....	21
Article X - Episcopal Supervisors.....		22
Section 1.	Designation.....	22
Section 2.	Duties.....	22
Article XI - Commissions.....		22
Section 1.	Responsibilities Common to Commissions.....	22
Section 2.	Responsibilities Common to Commission Chair or Coordinator	23
Section 3.	Commission on Administration.....	23
Section 4.	Commission on Christian Social Action	24
Section 5.	Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation	24
Section 6.	Commission on Membership and Recruitment	25
Section 7.	Commission Meetings.....	25
Section 8.	Committees of Commissions	25
Section 9.	Telephone Conference Calls.....	26
Section 10.	Removal of Appointees.....	26
Article XII - General Fiscal Policies		26
Section 1.	Sources of Funds.....	26
Section 2.	Single Treasury	26

Section 3.	Financial Policies	26
Section 4.	Episcopal Assessments	26
Section 5.	Auditing of Books	26
Article XIII - Publications		26
Section 1.	Magazine	26
Section 2.	Mission Study Program	26
Section 3.	Other Publications	26
Article XIV - Office		26
Article XV - Amendments		27
Article XVI - Parliamentary Authorities		27
Article XVII - Application of Provisions		27
Article XVIII - Missionary Benediction		27

Women's Missionary Society African
Methodist Episcopal Church Episcopal
Bylaws

Article I - Name		28
Article II - Responsibilities		28
Article III - Voting Membership		29
Article IV - Elected and Appointed Officers; Duties		29
Section 1.	Elected Episcopal Officers	29
Section 2.	Appointed Episcopal Officers	29
Section 3.	Prerequisites and Qualifications to Hold Office	29
Section 4.	Attendance at Meetings	29
Section 5.	Term; Limitation	29
Section 6.	Outgoing Officers	29
Article V - Duties of Officers		29
Section 1.	Episcopal President	29
Section 2.	Episcopal Director of the Young People's and Children's Division	30
Section 3.	Duties and Responsibilities of Other Officers	30
Article VI - Executive Board		30
Section 1.	Composition	30
Section 2.	Meeting	31
Article VII - Commissions		31
Section 1.	Responsibilities of Commissions and Chairs	31
Section 2.	Commission on Administration	31
Section 3.	Commission on Christian Social Action	31
Section 4.	Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation	32
Section 5.	Commission on Membership and Recruitment	32
Section 6.	Commission Meetings	33
Section 7.	Telephone Conference Calls	33
Article VIII - Application of Connectional Bylaws		33
Article IX - Parliamentary Authorities		33
Article X - Amendments		33

Women's Missionary Society African Methodist Episcopal Church Conference
Bylaws

Article I - Name	34
Article II - Responsibilities of Conferences	34

Section 1.	Conference Responsibilities; Functions	34
Article III - Operational and Structural Framework		34
Section 1.	Relationships	34
Section 2.	Establishment of Areas	34
Section 3.	Local Presidents Council	34
Section 4.	Sustentation	34
Article IV - Membership		34
Section 1.	Members	34
Section 2.	Voting Membership	35
Section 3.	Prerequisites and Qualifications to Run for Office	35
Section 4.	Young Adults Transition	35
Section 5.	Transfer To Another Conference	35
Section 6.	Elected Delegates	35
Section 7.	Number of Delegates	35
Section 8.	Quadrennial Delegates	35
Article V - Conference Officers		35
Section 1.	Elected Officers	35
Section 2.	Term; Limitation	36
Section 3.	Time of Election	36
Section 4.	Vacant Office	36
Article VI - Conference Meetings		36
Section 1.	Annual Meeting	36
Section 2.	Executive Board	36
Article VII - Duties of Officers		36
Section 1.	Conference President	36
Section 2.	First Vice President	37
Section 3.	Second Vice President	37
Section 4.	Third Vice President	37
Section 5.	Recording Secretary	37
Section 6.	Assistant Recording Secretary	37
Section 7.	Corresponding Secretary	37
Section 8.	Treasurer	37
Section 9.	Financial Secretary	37
Section 10.	Director of the Young People's and Children's Division	38
Section 11.	Promotion and Missionary Education Director	38
Section 12.	Historiographer-Statistician	38
Section 13.	Worship Director	38
Section 13.	Member-At-Large	38
Section 14.	Parliamentarian	38
Article VIII - Conference Commissions		38
Section 1.	Commission on Administration	38
Section 2.	Commission on Christian Social Action	39
Section 3.	Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation	39
Section 4.	Commission on Membership and Recruitment	40
Section 5.	Commission Meetings	40
Article IX - Areas		40
Section 1.	Areas	40
Section 2.	Appointment of Area Chairpersons and Area Directors	40
Section 3.	Area Coordinating Council of Elected Officers	41
Section 4.	Area Meetings	41
Article X - Application of Connectional Bylaws		41

Article XI - Parliamentary Authorities	41
Article XII - Amendments	41

Women's Missionary Society African Methodist Episcopal Church Local Bylaws

Article I - Name	42
Section 1. Name; Limitation	42
Article II - Responsibilities of the Local Society	42
Article III - Organizational and Structural Framework	42
Section 1. Formation of Units	42
Section 2. Structural Determination	42
Section 3. Partnership with Conference	43
Article IV - Membership	43
Section 1. Membership	43
Section 2. Ex-Officio Member	43
Article V - Meetings	43
Section 1. Regular	43
Section 2. Special	43
Section 3. Sustentation	43
Article VI - Officers; Elections	43
Section 1. Team Leadership or Intercongregational Organization	43
Section 2. Traditional Leadership	43
Section 3. Election of Officers	43
Article VII - Duties of Officers	43
Section 1. President	43
Section 2. First Vice President	44
Section 3. Second Vice President	44
Section 4. Third Vice President	44
Section 5. Recording Secretary	44
Section 6. Assistant Recording Secretary	45
Section 7. Corresponding Secretary	45
Section 8. Treasurer	45
Section 9. Financial Secretary	45
Section 10. Promotion and Missionary Education Director	45
Section 11. Director of the Young People's and Children's Division	45
Section 12. Other Officers	45
Section 13. Annual Officer's Report	45
Article VIII - Executive Board	45
Section 1. Membership	45
Section 2. Purpose; Duties	46
Article IX - Commissions	46
Section 1. Commission on Administration	46
Section 2. Commission on Christian Social Action	46
Section 3. Commission on Education and Interpretation	46
Section 4. Commission on Membership and Recruitment	46
Article X - Application of Connectional Bylaws	46
Article XI - Amendments	46
Article XII - Parliamentary Authorities	47

Women's Missionary Society
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Connectional Bylaws

Article I - Name	48
Article II - Purpose	48
Article III - Operational and Structural Framework	48
Section 1. Review of Policies	48
Section 2. Connectional Finance	48
Section 3. Structure	48
Article IV - Membership	48
Section 1. Regular	49
Section 2. Associate	49
Section 3. Ex-Officio	49
Article V - Components of the Young People's and Children's Division	49
Section 1. Sunbeams	49
Section 2. Allen Stars	49
Section 3. Youth	49
Section 4. Young Adults	49
Section 5. Promotional Exercises	49
Article VI - Connectional Director	49
Section 1. Duties of Director	49
Section 2. Required Signature	49
Section 3. Financial Accountability	49
Article VII - Quadrennial Convention	50
Section 1. Authority	50
Section 2. Voting Membership	50
Section 3. Selection of Voting Delegates	50
Section 4. Duties of Delegates	50
Section 5. Registered Participants	50
Article VIII - Officers; Election Procedures	50
Section 1. Elected Officers	50
Section 2. Nominations for Elected Office	50
Section 3. Election of Officers; Ballots	50
Section 4. Term of Office	51
Section 5. Qualifications to Run for Office	51
Section 6. Appointed Officers	51
Section 7. Outgoing Officers	51
Section 8. Disqualification/Removal from Office	51
Article IX - Duties of Elected Officers	52
Section 1. President	52
Section 2. First Vice President	52
Section 3. Second Vice President	52
Section 4. Third Vice President	52
Section 5. Recording Secretary	52
Section 6. Assistant Recording Secretary	53
Section 7. Financial Secretary	53
Section 8. Communications Secretary	53
Section 9. Parliamentarian	53
Section 10. Historiographer-Statistician	53

Section 11.	Worship Director	53
Section 12.	Editor of YPD Newsletter	54
Section 13.	Associate Editor	54
Article X - Executive Board		54
Section 1.	Duties of the Board	54
Section 2.	Composition of Executive Board	54
Section 3.	Meetings	55
Article XI - Standing Committees		55
Section 1.	Program Planning	55
Section 2.	Membership Outreach	55
Section 3.	Christian Social Relations	55
Section 4.	Budget and Financial Estimates	56
Section 5.	Constitution and Bylaws.....	56
Section 6.	International Relations	56
Section 7.	Campus Ministry	56
Section 8.	Nominating.....	57
Section 9.	Evaluation Committee.....	57
Section 10.	Voter Registration	57
Section 11.	Monique Gonzales Memorial	57
Section 12.	Selection of Committee Members	58
Article XII - Leadership Training Institute		58
Article XIII - Self-Denial Week.....		58
Article XIV - Parliamentary Authorities		58
Article XV - Amendments		58
Article XVI - Organization Colors		58
Article XVII - Application of Connectional Bylaws to the Episcopal, Conference and Local Organizations		59

Young People's and Children's Division
 Women's Missionary Society
 African Methodist Episcopal Church
 Episcopal Bylaws

Article I - Name	60
Article II - Purpose.....	60
Article III - Operational and Structural Framework	60
Section 1. Connectionalism	60
Section 2. Reporting	60
Section 3. Evaluations	60
Article IV - Voting Members.....	60
Section 1. Members	60
Section 2. Ex-Officio Members.....	61
Article V - Episcopal Director	61
Section 1. Appointment.....	61
Section 2. Qualifications for Episcopal Director	61
Section 3. Duties of Episcopal Director	61
Article VI - Officers; Duties; Elections	61
Section 1. Requirements To Hold Office.....	61
Section 2. Elected Officers; Duties.....	61
Section 3. Appointed Officers; Duties.....	61
Section 4. Election of Officers; Terms.....	61
Section 5. Attendance at Meetings.....	61
Article VII - Executive Board	62
Section 1. Composition	62
Section 2. Meetings and Agendas	62
Article VIII - Standing Committees.....	62
Article IX - Leadership Training and Young People's Institute	62
Article X - Delegates	62
Article XI - Application of Connectional Young People's and Children's Division Bylaws	62

Young People's and Children's Division
 Women's Missionary Society
 African Methodist Episcopal Church
 Conference Bylaws

Article I - Name	63
Article II - Purpose.....	63
Article III - Operational and Structural Framework	63
Section 1. Connectionalism	63
Section 2. Determination of Need for Areas	63
Section 3. Organization of Areas.....	63
Article IV - Conference Director.....	63
Section 1. Election of Director; Term of Office	63
Section 2. Qualifications for Director	63
Section 3. Duties of Director	63
Article V - Officers in General; Elections.....	64
Section 1. Elected and Appointed Officers.....	64
Section 2. Election of Officers.....	64

Section 3.	Standing Committees.....	64
Section 4.	Disqualification/Removal	64
Article VI - Duties of Officers		64
Section 1.	Conference President	64
Section 2.	Historiographer-Statistician.....	65
Article VII - Standing Committees		65
Article VIII - Members; Voting Privileges		65
Section 1.	Members	65
Section 2.	Requirements to Vote or Hold Office.....	65
Section 3.	Voting Membership	65
Article IX - Delegates		65
Section 1.	Delegates and Alternates.....	65
Section 2.	Requirements for Delegates	65
Article X - Executive Board		65
Section 1.	Composition	65
Section 2.	Meetings and Agendas	66
Article XI - Meetings.....		66
Section 1.	In General	66
Section 2.	Timing of Annual Meeting.....	66
Section 3.	Council	66
Article XII - Conference Areas		66
Section 1.	Duties of the Area Director	66
Section 2.	Area Membership.....	66
Section 3.	Area Meetings.....	66
Section 4.	Area Officers.....	66
Section 5.	Finances	66
Article XIII - Application of Provisions		67

Young People's and Children's Division
Women's Missionary Society
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Local Bylaws

Article I - Name		68
Article II - Purpose		68
Article III - Operational and Structural Framework.....		68
Section 1.	Organizational Relationships	68
Section 2.	Intercongregational Local	68
Section 3.	Reports	68
Article IV - Local Director And Advisors.....		68
Section 1.	Election of Local Director	68
Section 2.	Selection of Local Advisors	69
Article V - Members; Voting Privileges; Dues.....		69
Section 1.	Member.....	69
Section 2.	Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office	69
Section 3.	Membership Dues.....	69
Article VI - Delegates		69
Section 1.	Number of Delegates	69
Article VII - Officers; Duties; Committees		69
Section 1.	Officers	69
Section 2.	Committees.....	69

Article VIII - Meetings.....	69
Article IX - Self - Denial Week.....	70
Section 1. Sponsorship.....	70
Section 2. Funds.....	70
Section 3. Essay Contest Emphasis.....	70
Article X - Offering.....	70
Article XI - Funds; Reports.....	70
Article XII - Annual Day.....	70
Article XIII - Application of Provisions.....	70
 Appendix A – WMS Colors and Attire.....	 71
Appendix B - Robing Ceremony.....	72
Appendix C- Y.P.D. Colors and Uniforms.....	74

**Constitution and Bylaws
Women's Missionary Society
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Constitution**

Article I - Name

Section 1. **Name.** The name of this organization shall be the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Section 2. **Designations.** For the purposes of this constitution and accompanying bylaws, the African Methodist Episcopal Church is designated as "A.M.E. Church" or the "church"; Women's Missionary Society as the "Connectional", "Connectional organization", or "Connectional Society"; Episcopal Women's Missionary Society as the "Episcopal", "Episcopal District", "Episcopal organization" or "Episcopal Level"; Conference Women's Missionary Society as the "Conference", "Conference organization" or "Conference Level"; Area Women's Missionary Society as the "Area Level", and Local Women's Missionary Society as the "Local", "Local Society", "Local organization" or "Local Level."

Article II - Mission Statement and Purpose

Section 1. **Mission Statement.** We are *called* to strengthen our faith and *sent* to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ by service and witness in the world.

Section 2. **Purpose.** As women *called* to discipleship to grow in knowledge and experience of God through Jesus Christ, *committed* to support the mission of the church, and, *empowered* by the Holy Spirit, we are *challenged* to help one another engage in ministry and action, and grow and respond in faith to God's redemptive plan for the church, the society, and the world. To accomplish our purpose, the organization shall:

- a. Coordinate and unify the work of our mission structure, by establishing and supporting organizations and units to carry out God's mission in the church, the society and the world;
- b. Build an intergenerational community of caring women *among* all levels of the WMS and other women's organizations that can work collaboratively, ecumenically, and globally on peace, justice, and human rights issues;
- c. Provide training and education that develop and inspire responsible and visionary leadership that is motivated to witness or advocate for the global mission community, and advocate for peace, justice, and human rights for women, children, elderly, and families;
- d. Provide for flexible structures, so that groups may determine the structure and programs most appropriate and workable in their church;
- e. Develop and distribute written, printed, and electronic resources and periodicals and maintain an archival database and repository of information for the organization;
- f. Develop networks for communication within the organization and among women ecumenically and globally; and
- g. Develop and maintain a comprehensive financial support system for the organization and administration of financial resources necessary for the fulfillment of the responsibilities and mission of the organization.

Article III - Authority

Section 1. **Policies**. The organization shall take such steps as needed to realize its mission and purpose. It shall function within the policies of the A.M.E. Church and this constitution and bylaws.

Section 2. **Responsibilities**. The organization shall have and may exercise all powers assigned to nonprofit corporations by the District of Columbia except as limited by the constitution and bylaws of this organization and *The Book of Discipline of the A.M.E. Church*.

Article IV - Structure and Operational Framework

Section 1. **Organizational Structure**. This organization shall be a church wide organization that shall function through Connectional, Episcopal, Conference and Local bodies. Each group shall seek to function interdependently and shall recognize it is in a partnership relationship with the others to share in God's mission.

- a. The Episcopal organizations shall have numbers and boundaries that coincide with those established by the A.M.E. Church. Each Episcopal organization shall provide for Conferences consistent with those established by the A.M.E. Church.
- b. A Conference shall consist of all Local organizations within the boundaries of the Conference. Upon a determination by a Conference organization that Areas are necessary for the efficient conduct of its business, the Conference may establish Areas in accordance with the bylaws.
- c. A single congregation may establish a Local organization (Society), or two or more congregations without a Local organization may form an intercongregational Local organization. A single congregation with a Local organization (Society), but without a sufficient number of members to fully organize, may form an intercongregational Local organization with one or more other congregations.
- d. For each Women's Missionary Society organization created, there shall also be created and provided a Young People's and Children's Division.

Section 2. **Quadrennial Convention**. The Quadrennial Convention shall fulfill the legislative function of the organization as described in this organization's constitution, bylaws, and resolutions.

Section 3. **Executive Board**. There shall be established an Executive Board. The Executive Board shall exercise interim legislative authority during a quadrennial. The composition and duties of the Executive Board shall be set forth in the bylaws.

"*Interim Legislative Authority*" means that between meetings of the Quadrennial Convention, the Executive Board may exercise the authority of the Quadrennial Convention so long as:

- a. The actions of the Executive Board do not conflict with the actions of and policies established by the Quadrennial Convention; and
- b. The Quadrennial Convention is not precluded by constitutional provisions from taking action on the matter.

Section 4. **Decision-making Bodies**. The leadership of the organization shall be vested in the elected officers, members of the Quadrennial Convention and Executive Board, and members of the Commission on Administration.

Section 5. **Commissions: Committees**. The organization shall consist of commissions as set forth in the bylaws. The Young People's and Children's Division shall consist of standing committees as set forth in the bylaws of the Young People's and Children's Division. Each organization may establish such task forces or special committees as it deems necessary to carry out the purpose and functions of each organization.

Section 6. **Connectional Treasury: Management of Funds**. This organization shall be financed through a single treasury and the organization's fiscal year shall be in accordance with the fiscal year of the A.M.E. Church.

Article V - Membership

The membership of this organization shall be comprised of all women of the church, except women who are itinerant elders, who are in good and regular standing in their Local organizations. Voting and other memberships shall be as provided in Articles III and V of the bylaws, unless otherwise provided herein.

Article VI - Quadrennial Convention

Section 1. **Convention Authority**. The Quadrennial Convention shall be the highest legislative authority of the organization and shall deal with all matters that are necessary in the pursuit of the mission, purpose and functions of this organization. Powers of the Quadrennial Convention are only limited by the Quadrennial Convention's own resolutions and *The Book of Discipline of the A.M.E. Church*.

Section 2. **Quadrennial and Special Conventions**. The organization shall meet quadrennially the year preceding the General Conference of the A.M.E. Church, at such time and place to be recommended by the president and approved by the Executive Board. Special Conventions shall be called by the president of the organization at the written request of at least two-thirds of the Conferences.

Section 3. **Voting Members of the Quadrennial Convention**. The voting members of the Quadrennial Convention shall consist of the elected delegates, elected Connectional officers, past and present Episcopal Supervisors, past Connectional Presidents, Episcopal and Conference Presidents, Episcopal and Conference Directors of the Young People's and Children's Division and Life Members.

Section 4. **Committees of the Quadrennial Convention**. The committees of the Quadrennial Convention shall be the Program Committee, Rules Committee, Credentials Committee, Memorial Committee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and the Nominating Committee. Members of the committees shall be appointed by the President. The duties and description of the committees shall be provided for in the Connectional Bylaws. Other committees may be authorized as the President shall deem necessary.

Article VII - Officers

Section 1. **Elected Officers**. The elected officers of the organization shall be the: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Recording Secretary, Assistant

Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, **Financial Secretary**, Historiographer-Statistician, Editor of the Magazine, Associate Editor, Director of the Young People's and Children's Division, Promotion and Missionary Education Director, Parliamentarian, Worship Director and Member- At-Large.

The connectional officers shall be elected by the Quadrennial Convention, as provided by the bylaws.

Section 2. **Terms; Qualifications; Limitations.** The terms, qualifications to hold office and limitations of elected officers shall be provided for in the bylaws.

Article VIII - Headquarter Offices of The Women's Missionary Society

The organization shall establish and maintain an office designated as its headquarters office.

Article IX - Employment of Staff

This organization shall have the authority to employ staff and engage consultants in contractual arrangements in accordance with the constitution, bylaws and personnel practices of the organization.

Article X - Foundation of Women's Missionary Society

Section 1. **Authorized.** The organization may establish a Foundation to conduct and provide programs for major gifts, planned giving and deferred giving, investment opportunities and other means to create financial support for the organization to enhance and uphold its programs and ministries. The Foundation is a separate, private entity and shall be managed by a Board of Trustees.

- a. As a form of planned giving and to create consistent and sustaining financial support to the WMS Foundation, to expand and assist its various ministries, all members of the Women's Missionary Society shall be encouraged to pay annual WMS Foundation membership dues.
- b. Membership dues in the amount of \$5 (Districts 1-13) and \$1 (Districts 14-20) shall be paid by December 31 each year.
- c. Membership cards will be received by those who pay the membership dues.

Section 2. **Responsibilities.** The duties of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. Identify and cultivate prospective major and deferred gift donors;
- b. Initiate efforts to work in collaboration with other philanthropic organizations, nonprofits, the public sector and business;
- c. Seek gifts, bequests and investments for the organization;
- d. Preserve, manage and grow financial assets to provide a return and ongoing benefits to the organization; and
- e. Manage entrusted funds effectively and in socially responsible manner.

Section 3. **Board of Trustees.**

- a. *Composition of the Board.* The Foundation shall have a Board of Trustees consisting of at least twenty-five (25) but not more than thirty-six (36) members, and shall make every effort to compose the Board as follows:
 1. President of the organization;
 2. Treasurer of the organization;
 3. Three (3) Episcopal Supervisors, with at least one (1) of the Supervisors representing the 14th-20th Episcopal Districts;
 4. Members from the corporate or business community;
 5. Members with accounting backgrounds in non-profit corporations;
 6. Members with legal backgrounds in non-profit corporations;
 7. Members with investment expertise;
 8. Members with a public relations background;
 9. A representative of the Young Women, ages 18 -40 years; and
 10. Members-At-Large, consisting of an organizational member from each District, who has an interest and demonstrated abilities with foundations, grants, etc.
- b. *Election of Trustees; Terms.* The members of the Board who are Trustees by virtue of their being elected officers in the organization shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Executive Board of the Women's Missionary Society. Members of the Board who are Trustees nominated from the Districts shall be elected by the Executive Board of the Women's Missionary Society. Members of the Board who are Trustees nominated based upon the various categories denoted in subsections 4-9 of Section 3a herein, shall be from among the 20 Members-At-Large nominated by the Districts.
Any person conducting auditing and providing legal representation on behalf of the Board of Trustees shall not be a member of the Board.
Each member shall serve for a term of four (4) years, but no more than eight (8) years. Upon the confirmation or election of the first members to the Board of Trustees, the Executive Board of the Women's Missionary Society shall stagger the terms of such members.
- c. *Trustees Costs and Expenses.* The meeting expenses and costs of the Trustees shall be paid by the Women's Missionary Society.
- d. *Preparation of Bylaws.* The first task of the initial Board of Trustees will be the development of its bylaws, which must be approved by the Executive Board of the Women's Missionary Society.

Section 4. **Reports; Audits.** An audit of the financial records of the Foundation shall be made biennially by a certified public accounting firm. The Foundation shall provide an annual financial report and report of its work and activities to the Executive Board.

Article XI – Sojourner Global Ministry Board

Section 1. **Authorized.** The organization may establish a Sojourner Global Ministry Board of Directors to provide overall policy and direction of the SG Ministry Program and to create means of financial support to enhance the program.

Section 2. **Responsibilities.** The duties of the Board of Directors of the Sojourner Global Ministry Program shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. Set the overall policy and direction of the ministry;

- b. Initiate efforts to work through the WMS in collaboration with other non-profits, philanthropic organizations, and the public sector;
- c. Seek grant funds and donations for the Sojourner Global Ministry Program; and
- d. Manage entrusted funds effectively and in socially responsible manner.

Section 3. **Reports; Audits.** An audit of the financial records of the SGM Board shall be made biennially by a certified public accounting firm. The Board shall provide an annual financial report and report of its work and activities to the Executive Board.

Article XII – Operative Laws

The organization shall be governed by the *Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society, The Discipline of the A.M.E. Church* and *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, the latest Edition.

Article XIII - Amendments and Bylaws

Section 1. **Amendments to Constitution.** The constitution of this organization may be amended through either of the following procedures:

- a. All proposed constitutional amendments coming from the Episcopal Districts, Conferences, and or Local Societies shall be received by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee no later than six (6) months before a Quadrennial Convention. The adoption of such an amendment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those **delegates present and voting.**
- b. All proposed amendments shall be provided to the Episcopal Supervisors and voting members by the Connectional Constitution and Bylaws Committee no later than ninety (90) days before the Quadrennial Convention.

Section 2. **Amendment of Bylaws.**

- a. All proposed amendments of bylaws coming from the Episcopal Districts, Conferences, and or Local Societies shall be received by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee no later than six (6) months before a Quadrennial Convention. The adoption of such an amendment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those **delegates present and voting.**
- b. All proposed amendments shall be provided to the Episcopal Supervisors and voting members by the Connectional Constitution and Bylaws Committee no later than ninety (90) days before the Quadrennial Convention.

Section 3. **Effective Date of Amendments.** Any amendments to this constitution and bylaws shall become effective at the conclusion of the General Conference ratifying the amendments.

Section 4. **Proposed Amendments.** No amendment shall be proposed to the constitution or bylaws if such amendment is in conflict with *The Book of Discipline of the A.M.E. Church*.

Article XIV – Correction of Scrivener's Errors

Upon adoption of amendments to this constitution or bylaws, the Revisions and Compilation Committee may correct punctuation, grammar, or numbering when appropriate, if the correction(s) does not change the meaning of the amendments.

**Women's Missionary Society
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Connectional Bylaws**

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Article II – WMS as Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)

- Section 1. **Membership Status.** The representatives of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations in Non-Governmental Organization Category II Status shall be members of the Women's Missionary Society.
- Section 2. **WMS Representatives.** The Society representatives to the United Nations shall be: The Connectional President, one (1) Main Representative; two (2) Alternate Representatives and one (1) Youth Representative, eighteen (18) to twenty-four (24) years old. One (1) year grounds passes may be issued to no more than the stated 4+1 formula as determined by the United Nations in its procedures and policies relative to NGOs as stated by the United Nation effective January 2011.
- Section 3. **Alternate/Youth Representatives.** The second (2nd) Alternate Representative (appointed by the President) and the Youth Representative may reside outside the New York City area. The Youth Representative will be appointed by the President in consultation with the Director of the Young People's and Children's Division.
- Section 4. **Terms of Appointment.** The representatives' terms of appointment shall be for a period of four (4) years, and they shall be eligible for reappointment at the will of the Connectional President.
- Section 5. **Liaisons.** The representatives shall serve as liaisons between the Executive Board of the Women's Missionary Society and the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. They shall represent the Women's Missionary Society at the United Nations Non- Governmental Organizations meetings including relevant briefings and/or other conferences. The focus of the issues relevant to the Women's Missionary Society shall be women and children, health, human rights, peace, and justice and any other issues deemed relevant at the time.
- Section 6. **Responsibilities.** The representatives shall be responsible for gathering information from the briefings and conferences and forward such information to the Connectional President and in consultation, make decisions as to the dissemination of information and relevant programming and projects to be pursued. All required Annual and Quadrennial reports to ECOSOC and DPI will be prepared by the Representatives. Copies of the reports are to be forwarded to the Connectional President for signature. The representatives shall be responsible for maintaining public relations with other non-governmental organizations and affiliated agencies of the United Nations. Information shall be distributed to the Episcopal Districts through the Supervisor, Episcopal President, First Vice President and NGO District Liaison.

- Section 7. **Episcopal District NGO Liaisons.** Episcopal District NGO Liaisons shall be appointed by the Supervisor of each District. The Liaison shall be responsible for the dissemination of NGO information and spearhead NGO programming within their District to Local, Area, and Conference societies. Regular reports shall be prepared on all NGO related activities and programming in the District and shall be distributed to the Supervisor, Episcopal President, Connectional NGO Representatives and others as determined by the Supervisor.
- Section 8. **Annual NGO Conference.** An Annual NGO Conference will be held at the United Nations and/or surrounding area at which the written NGO reports from the Districts will be presented. The District reports shall also be used to compile the Annual and Quadrennial Reports to the Women's Missionary Society. The Conference is open to all Women's Missionary Society members.
- Section 9. **Funds.** Any funds collected specifically for NGO projects and programming shall be kept as designated funds, project specific by the Treasurer of the Women's Missionary Society, reported as same, and held for distribution at the determination of the President.
- Section 10. **Office Maintenance.** Non-Governmental Organization activities and general expenses as well as the maintenance of an office in New York at the United Nations Church Center shall be included in the Women's Missionary Society Budget.

Article III - Membership

- Section 1. **Regular.** Membership in this organization shall be comprised of all women of the church, upon payment of local dues, where applicable, except women who are Itinerant Elders, in good and regular standing in their Local organization. (Refer to the Glossary of *The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church* under the heading "good and regular standing.")
- Section 2. **Associate.** Any male in good and regular standing in the Local church may become an Associate member upon payment of dues. An Associate member is ineligible to vote except spouses of Bishops who are actively serving as Supervisors of Episcopal Districts. No male shall hold office in the Organization.
- Section 3. **Life.** Life membership shall be governed by the provisions in Article VIII herein. Life members are part of the voting delegation and shall receive sustentation.

Article IV - Quadrennial Convention; Delegates; Special Convention

- Section 1. **Quadrennial Convention.** In addition to its powers and duties as provided in the constitution of the organization, the Quadrennial Convention shall:
- Elect the officers as provided in the constitution and bylaws;
 - Review the work of Connectional officers and commissions and for this purpose require and receive reports from them;
 - Fulfill other functions as required by this constitution and bylaws;
 - Conduct such other business as necessary to further the mission, purpose and functions of the organization; and
 - Have the sole authority to amend the constitution and bylaws.

Section 2. **Convention Delegates.** By plurality vote, there shall be five (5) elected delegates from a Conference with a voting membership of three hundred fifty (350) or more; four (4) elected delegates from a Conference with a voting membership of two hundred fifty (250) to three hundred forty-nine (349); three (3) elected delegates from a Conference with a voting membership of one hundred fifty (150) to two hundred forty-nine (249); and two (2) elected delegates from a Conference with a voting membership of seventy-five (75) to one hundred forty-nine (149); and one (1) elected delegate from a Conference with a voting membership of less than seventy-five (75). Each Conference shall have at least one (1) elected delegate.

Alternates to the Quadrennial Convention shall be elected at the same time as the delegates. The number of alternates that a Conference may elect can be up to or equal to the number of delegates elected. The Conference President and Commission on Administration shall decide how many alternates will be elected. Each Conference must have at least one alternate. Alternates shall serve in the absence of delegates.

Section 3. **Submission of Delegates.** The Episcopal Supervisor shall submit to the Connectional President at least six (6) months before the Quadrennial Convention a certified listing of the total voting membership in the Quadrennial Convention, which listing will include the elected delegates and alternates from the conferences, the life members, Episcopal Presidents, past and present Episcopal Supervisors, Episcopal District YPD Directors, and the voting Connectional Officers from the District, Conference Presidents and Conference YPD Directors. Delegates elected to serve at the Quadrennial Convention shall continue to serve until delegates are elected for the next regular Quadrennial Convention, provided they have not ceased to be a member of the Conference from which they were elected or have not been superseded by the election of new delegates.

Section 4. **Expenses of Delegates.** The organization will be responsible for the reasonable travel costs and sustenance of the Episcopal Supervisors, Episcopal Presidents and Episcopal Directors of the Young People's and Children's Division from the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth Episcopal Districts.

For the First through Thirteenth Episcopal Districts, the organization will be responsible for the sustenance of the delegates, provided each Episcopal District has paid its yearly assessments during the Quadrennium.

Section 5. **Committees of the Quadrennial Convention.** Committees of the Quadrennial Convention shall be the Rules Committee, Credentials Committee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Memorial Committee, Nominating Committee and Program Committee. Members of these committees shall be appointed by the President:

- a. *Rules Committee.* The Rules Committee shall review the rules of the previous Quadrennial Convention and prepare proposed rules for the governance of the present Quadrennial Convention. On the opening day, the committee shall present such rules to the delegates of the Quadrennial Convention.
- b. *Credentials Committee.* The committee shall rule on matters of challenge to any elected delegate or Life Member from any Episcopal District.
- c. *Tanner Turner Memorial Committee.* The Tanner Turner Memorial Committee shall plan a creative Memorial Service for deceased members of the organization.

- d. *Constitution and Bylaws Committee.* The Revisions and Compilation Committee, consisting of three (3) persons, shall prepare a printed legislative package to be given to each voting member of the Quadrennial Convention immediately following the organization of the Quadrennial Convention. The Committee shall also collect, assemble and correct any scrivener's errors, duplications or contradictions in adopted legislation of the Quadrennial Convention and present the same.
- e. *Nominating Committee.* The Nominating Committee shall be governed by the provisions of Article VI herein.
- f. *Program Committee.* This committee shall be responsible for the planning, budgeting and coordinating of the Quadrennial Convention, in conjunction with the president.

Section 6. **Special Quadrennial Convention.** If a Special Quadrennial Convention is called, delegates in the preceding Quadrennial Convention shall be given written notice of the convention, as well as other voting members as provided in Article VI of the constitution, provided they have not ceased to be a member of the Conference from which they were elected or have not been superseded by election of new delegates.

Section 7. **Registered Participants.** Registered participants may attend the convention at no additional expense to the organization. They may participate in the programs and attend the sessions of the convention. They shall have no voice and no vote.

Article V - Executive Board

Section 1. **Composition: Quorum.** The Executive Board shall be comprised of the elected Connectional officers, past and present Episcopal Supervisors, past Connectional Presidents, Episcopal Presidents, and the Connectional Director and Episcopal Directors of the Young People's and Children's Division. The Chairperson and Secretary of the Commission on Global Witness and Ministry and the Bishops shall be ex-officio members. Each Episcopal District shall be represented on the Executive Board. A majority of the members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum to transact business and make decisions.

Section 2. **Purpose: Duties.** In accordance with the constitution, the Executive Board shall act during the interim of the Quadrennial Convention. The duties of the Executive Board shall be to:

- a. Receive and act upon the recommendations of the president;
- b. Approve or disapprove the actions of the Commission on Administration;
- c. Determine the time of the election of officers;
- d. Act on such matters as delegated to it by the Quadrennial Convention;
- e. Approve the assessments of the Episcopal Districts and an annual budget for the organization, upon recommendation from the Commission on Administration;
- f. Transact the necessary business and make programmatic decisions between Quadrennial Conventions;
- g. Determine the incapacity of an elected officer to perform her duties, or the non- performance of duties by an elected officer, and determine if she shall be removed from office. For the removal of an elected officer for incapacity or non-performance, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board shall be required;
- h. Fill vacancies in elected offices until the next Quadrennial Convention, as provided in Section 7 herein; and

- i. Act in accord with the actions of, and policies established by, the Quadrennial Convention and the constitution and bylaws of the organization.

Section 3. **Meetings: Expenses.** The Executive Board shall meet annually, except in the year of the Quadrennial Convention. The Connectional organization shall be responsible for the expenses, reasonable costs for travel and housing, for elected Connectional officers.

Section 4. **Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the president or, in the event of the president's death, resignation or incapacity, by the Commission on Administration. The notice of the special meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting.

Article VI - Elected Officers

Section 1. **Election of Officers.** Officers shall be elected at the Quadrennial Convention, unless otherwise provided for herein. All elections shall be by electronic or paper ballot, except when there is only one (1) candidate for an office. When there is only one (1) candidate for an office, voting may be by voice or hand vote. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect. Elected officers shall assume office immediately upon installation.

Section 2. **Elected Officers.** The elected officers shall be the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, **Financial Secretary**, Historiographer-Statistician, Editor of the Magazine, Associate Editor, Director of the Young People's and Children's Division, Promotion and Missionary Education Director, Parliamentarian, Worship Director and Member-At-Large.

Section 3. **Prerequisites for Holding Office.** Any person seeking an elected office must:

- a. Be a member in good and regular standing in the organization; "good and regular standing" in this organization means that the member regularly attends the meetings of the organization, is supportive of mission projects of the organization, participates in its activities and events, is current in payment of dues and other financial obligations;
- b. Demonstrate a Christian commitment;
- c. Demonstrate a high level of spiritual maturity;
- d. Possess good interpersonal and communication skills;
- e. Demonstrate a collaborative work style;
- f. Be sensitive to the tradition and culture of the A.M.E. Church; and
- g. Possess the qualifications required for the office as provided in Article IX of these bylaws.

Section 4. **Term: Limitation.** The term of elected officers shall be four (4) years. Elected officers may serve a maximum of two consecutive four (4) year terms or eight (8) consecutive years in the same office. Upon completion of an eight (8) year term, an officer shall be eligible to serve in other elected Connectional offices or appointed positions for a maximum of eight (8) consecutive years.

This provision shall operate for persons appointed to positions by the Connectional President.

A person's total years of service as an elected officer or appointed person, regardless of the number of elected or appointed positions held by the person, shall not exceed sixteen (16) years.

Section 5. **Transitional Period.** A transitional period of six (6) weeks upon the close of a Quadrennial Convention is hereby provided for outgoing officers to make inventories, reconcile files and records before turning them over to the incoming officers. Outgoing officers shall transfer all records, books, papers and property belonging to the organization to incoming officers on or before the end of the six (6) weeks.

Section 6. **Vacancy in Office of the President.** In the event of a vacancy in the office of President due to death, resignation, disability or temporary inability or other cause, the First Vice President shall immediately assume the office of President, until an election of a new President can be held or until the President is able to serve again. The new president shall be elected at the next Quadrennial Convention. Any person elected to fill an unexpired term of president shall subsequently be eligible to be elected to two (2) full four (4) year terms in accordance with this constitution and bylaws.

Section 7. **Vacancy in Elected Offices Other Than President.** In the event of a vacancy in an elected officer's position, other than the president, due to the death, resignation, disability or inability to serve, the President shall appoint an active member in good standing to fill the vacancy if the remainder of the term of office is less than two (2) years. The appointment shall be confirmed by the Executive Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting, said determination resulting by a majority vote of that body. If the remainder of the term of office is greater than two (2) years, a special election shall be held by the Executive Board within forty-five (45) days to fill the position. Any person appointed to fill an unexpired term shall subsequently be eligible to be elected to two full four (4) year terms in accordance with the provisions of this constitution and bylaws.

Section 8. **Removal of Elected Officers.** Any elected officer, not performing her duties shall be notified in writing by the president, with a copy to the Chairman of the Commission on Global Witness and Ministry and the Executive Board. If such failure to perform continues for a period of ninety (90) days after notification, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Board for action. The Executive Board may remove the elected officer from office for failure to execute her duties and responsibilities as provided in these constitution and bylaws.

Section 9. **Salary of President.** The President of the Women's Missionary Society shall receive a salary and benefits as provided to General Officers of the A.M.E. Church. The salary and benefits of the president shall be paid by the organization.

Article VII - Nominations and Election Process

Section 1. **Procedures.** The organization shall elect such officers as required by the constitution and bylaws.

Section 2. **General Requirements and Considerations.**

- a. Each nominee for an elected position in this organization shall be a member of the organization and shall possess the qualifications required for the position being sought.
- b. At least 10% of the nominees shall be persons who are members of Districts 14-20. For subsequent quadrennial elections, members from Districts 14-20 shall be encouraged to run for all positions.

- c. No elected officer shall hold two (2) positions of leadership simultaneously in the Connectional, Episcopal or Conference organizations. An elected officer may hold an elected office in a Local organization.
- d. The terms of office of persons elected shall begin at the conclusion of the Quadrennial Convention at which such persons were elected.
- e. All elections shall be by electronic or paper ballot, except when there is only one candidate for an office. When there is only one candidate for an office, voting may be by voice or hand vote.
- f. A majority of votes cast on the first ballot shall be necessary for the election of an officer. If an election does not occur on the first ballot, the names of the two (2) persons receiving the highest number of votes cast shall be placed on the second ballot. On the second ballot, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election.
- g. There shall be no nominations from the floor of a Quadrennial Convention.
- h. Members of the Nominating Committee shall be ineligible for nomination by the committee to any position to be filled.

Section 3. **The Nominating Committee.**

- a. *Committee appointments.* The Nominating Committee shall consist of nine (9) persons appointed by the president. The president in selecting committee members shall follow these guidelines:
 - a. No more than one person shall be appointed from an Episcopal District; and
 - b. Consideration shall be given to geographic location, variety of ages, and diversity of experiences.
- b. *Duties of the Committee.* The committee shall:
 - 1. At least nine (9) months prior to the Quadrennial Convention, call for nominations through a notice published in an official periodical of the Women's Missionary Society (and any other appropriate publication). Such notice shall also indicate how a nomination form may be obtained. Nomination forms shall be sent to Executive Board members and Episcopal Supervisors for distribution to interested persons. The nomination form shall request individuals to give biographical data and other information, which will aid in the selection of candidates. Such credential forms shall be returned by prospective nominees bearing the signature of the Episcopal President and Supervisor, no later than 180 days prior to the Quadrennial Convention; and
 - 2. Give considerations to the names submitted or recommended as nominees for offices, examining any and all necessary information regarding the persons to determine if the persons meet the prerequisites and qualifications for the offices being sought. For those persons found to meet the prerequisites and qualifications of the office being sought, the committee shall prepare a slate of nominees, listing the qualifications of the nominees for office to be elected at the Quadrennial Convention. The slate shall be provided to each Episcopal Nominating Committee Chairperson no later than ninety (90) days before the Quadrennial Convention.

Article VIII - Life Memberships

- Section 1. **Life Member.** After twenty-five (25) years of continuous meritorious service in the Women's Missionary Society, a member is eligible to apply for Life Membership. An applicant for Life Membership shall

- a. Be actively serving in the Local, Area (if applicable) Conference and Episcopal organizations at the time of submitting the application;
- b. Exemplify continuous meritorious service;
- c. Be recommended by the Local Women's Missionary Society; and
- d. Remain active at these levels of service as long as life and health permits.

Section 2. **Continuous Meritorious Service.**

- a. Meritorious service may be defined as continuous significant contributions through demonstrated leadership at the Local, Conference, Episcopal, and/or Connectional levels.
- b. Continuous meritorious service may include, yet not be limited to:
 1. Demonstrated continuous service at the Local level;
 2. Distinguished services as an officer (elected or appointed) at one or more levels (Conference, Episcopal, Connectional);
 3. Recruited and encouraged new members;
 4. Developed or initiated programs to promote missionary education; and
 5. Directed or chaired significant missionary programs at one or more levels of the Women's Missionary Society, etc.

Section 3. **General Information.**

- a. There shall be one Life Member per Conference in an Episcopal District per Quadrennium. Only deceased Life Members are to be replaced during a Quadrennium. A copy of the Obituary or Homegoing Service shall accompany the candidate's application for Life Membership.
- b. Annually, all applications for Life Membership shall be kept on the Conference roll and reported in the order submitted via postmarked date of the local church recommendation. This list remains current as the new names are added to it.
- c. A Life Member who transfers from one Conference to another Conference or from one District to another District shall be entitled to all rights and privileges afforded her during her previous affiliation, upon receipt of a "Letter of Transfer" from the sending Conference or District bearing the signatures of the Local President & Local Pastor, the Conference President, the Episcopal President, and the Episcopal Supervisor. The receiving Conference President or District president shall sign the "Letter of Transfer" and send it to the Episcopal Supervisor who will submit it to the Connectional President. A form letter should be provided by the Connectional WMS Office for this purpose.

Section 4. **The Process.**

The applicant must be recommended by certified letter from the Local society, after twenty-five (25) years of meritorious service in the Women's Missionary Society. The recommendation should be sent to the Episcopal Supervisor and copied to the Episcopal President, Episcopal 3rd Vice President and Conference President.

The following steps should be adhered to:

- a. At the start of a new Quadrennium, the Conference President notifies the next Life Member applicant, as determined by the process outlined in Section 3b above, that she is eligible for the Quadrennial Life Membership. The Life Member application shall be secured from the Headquarters Office of the Women's Missionary Society upon the request of the Conference President and the Episcopal Supervisor.
- b. Once completed by the Life Member applicant, a fee of Two Hundred Fifty dollars (\$250.00) for Districts 1-13 and One Hundred ¹⁴dollars (\$100.00) for Districts 14-20 shall be attached to the application.
- c. The application shall be signed by the Local President, the Pastor, the Conference President,

the Episcopal President, the Episcopal Supervisor, and the Bishop and the application is sent to the Connectional President with the fee attached.

Section 5. **Recognition.** Upon becoming a Life Member, the person shall receive the following:

- a. A Life Membership card;
- b. A Life Membership pin; and
- c. A Life Membership stole.

Section 6. **Use of Application Funds.** Funds received for Life Memberships shall be used for the printing and production costs associated with the Life Membership cards, pins and stoles, the Hughes-Smith Life Membership Booklet, as well as other Connectional contingencies.

Section 7. **Other.** The Commission on Membership and Recruitment shall create and publish a Life Membership booklet, after review and input from the Connectional President and Commission on Administration, which booklet shall contain the following: suggested Life Membership ceremony(ies); suggested activities for each level of the organization; information on the Connectional Women's Endowment Fund, legacy bequests and gifts; and an annual report form for the Local, Conference, Episcopal organizations.

Article IX - Duties and Qualifications of Officers

Section 1. **President.**

- a. **Qualifications.** Any candidate seeking the position of President must have:
 1. At least a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution or the equivalent in education and experience. A Master's or higher degree is preferred;
 2. Demonstrated prior service as an elected officer of the Connectional, Episcopal or Conference organization;
 3. At least five (5) years of administrative, supervisory or managerial experience; and
 4. An inspiring, encouraging and unifying leadership style.
- b. **Duties and Responsibilities.** The duties and responsibilities of the President shall be to:
 1. Preside at the Quadrennial Convention, Executive Board, the Commission on Administration and other official meetings of the organization;
 2. Have general supervision and direction over the work and activities of the organization;
 3. Appoint members to all Commissions and committees for which election or appointment procedures are not provided and make other appointments as necessary. In making appointments to the commissions, the President shall appoint young women ages 40 years and younger to at least 10% of the available positions on each commission and shall stagger the appointment of persons to the commissions from two (2) to four (4) years;

4. Chair the Commission on Administration and serve as an ex-officio member of all commissions and committees as may be necessary to the conduct and development of the organization;
5. Work with the Commission on Administration, actively seeking to advance all phases of the work of the organization;
6. Propose policy for review and action by the Commission on Administration and provide for the implementation, within such policies, of the financial, accounting, insurance, property management, investment and money management systems and related services for the organization;
7. Submit a report to each Quadrennial Convention and Executive Board concerning her work, with observations and recommendations affecting the organization as she may deem important;
8. Represent the organization at ecumenical associations, councils and organizations in which the organization participates;
9. Serve as a member of the General Conference by virtue of her office;
10. Ensure that the constitution and bylaws are duly observed and that the actions thereof are carried into effect; and
11. Sign all official and legal papers and vouchers or orders on the treasury.

Section 2. **First Vice President.**

- a. *Qualifications.* Any candidate seeking the position of First Vice President must possess the same qualifications as provided for the President.
- b. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The First Vice President shall:
 1. Serve in the absence, disability or resignation of the President;
 2. Serve as a member of the Commission on Administration;
 3. Serve as Coordinator of the Commission on Christian Social Action and its liaison to the Commission on Administration; and
 4. Facilitate the Commission on Christian Social Action's interaction and work with the Episcopal, Conference and Local Commissions on Christian Social Action.

Section 3. **Second Vice President.**

- a. *Qualifications.* Any candidate seeking the office of Second Vice President must possess the same qualifications as the President.
- b. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Second Vice President shall:
 1. Serve in the absence, disability or resignation of the President and First Vice President;
 2. Serve as a member of the Commission on Administration;
 3. Serve as Coordinator of the Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation and its liaison to the Commission on Administration; and
 4. Facilitate interaction and work with the Episcopal, Conference and Local Commissions on Mission Education and Interpretation.

Section 4. **Third Vice President**

- a. *Qualifications.* Any candidate for the position of Third Vice President must possess the same qualifications as the President.
- b. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Third Vice President shall:
 1. Serve in the absence, disability or resignation of the President and First and Second Vice Presidents;

2. Serve as a member of the Commission on Administration;
3. Serve as Coordinator of the Commission on Membership and Recruitment and its liaison to the Commission on Administration and keep the Commission on Administration informed about the needs and concerns of members and recommended plans for membership cultivation;
4. Coordinate the work of the Connectional membership and recruitment activities; and
5. Facilitate the interaction and work with the Episcopal, Conference and Local Commissions on Membership and Recruitment to determine the needs of the membership, to enlist new members, and to recommend ways for inactive members to participate.

Section 5. **Recording Secretary.**

- a. *Qualifications.* A candidate seeking the office of Recording Secretary must demonstrate:
 1. Experience and skills in word processing, computer technology or other technology available for recording or retrieving information;
 2. Prior secretarial experience or training; and
 3. An ability to prepare and present minutes and reports.
- b. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Recording Secretary shall:
 1. Be the secretary of the Quadrennial Convention, Executive Board and Commission on Administration;
 2. Be responsible for recording, keeping and distributing accurate minutes of the Quadrennial Convention, Executive Board and Commission on Administration. Keep an accurate record of all proceedings in a bound book, and under the direction of the President, perform all other duties common to such office;
 3. Make available copies for the delegates of each day's session of the Quadrennial Convention;
 4. Make available copies of minutes of the Quadrennial Convention within ninety (90) days of the close of the Quadrennial Convention;
 5. Maintain a Record Book in which the current constitution and bylaws, special rules of order, minutes are entered with any amendments to these documents properly recorded, and have the current Record Books on hand at every official meeting;
 6. Make available to officers copies of the minutes of all official meetings including the Executive Board within six (6) weeks of the date held;
 7. Keep an official roll of the Executive Board; and
 8. Serve as a member of the Commission on Administration.

Section 6. **Assistant Recording Secretary.**

- a. *Qualifications.* Any candidate for the position of Assistant Recording Secretary must possess the same qualifications as the Recording Secretary.
- b. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Assistant Recording Secretary shall:
 1. Assist the Recording Secretary in keeping all records;
 2. At the absence of the Secretary shall perform her duties; and
 3. Serve as a member of the Commission of Administration.

Section 7. **Corresponding Secretary.**

- a. *Qualifications.* Any candidate for the position of Corresponding Secretary must possess the same qualifications as the Recording Secretary.

- b. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Corresponding Secretary shall:
 1. Assist the Recording Secretary in preparing the minutes for official meetings of the Connectional Society;
 2. Prepare and send correspondence under the direction of the President;
 3. Perform such other secretarial duties as determined by the President; and
 4. Serve as a member of the Commission on Administration and the Commission on Membership and Recruitment.

Section 8: Treasurer.

- a. *Qualifications.* Any candidate for the position of Treasurer must have:
 1. At least a Bachelor's degree, or its equivalent, in business, accounting or finance; and
 2. At least five (5) years of experience in accounting, finance, or budgeting.
- b. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Treasurer shall:
 1. Provide for financial record keeping and, on behalf of the Executive Board, be accountable for all funds of the organization in accordance with the financial policies of the organization;
 2. Prepare an annual Executive Board and Quadrennial Convention budget for the approval of the Commission on Administration, in consultation with the President.
 3. Upon the request of the President, write and sign all checks, which shall be countersigned by the President;
 4. Interpret the financial condition of the organization for the Commission on Administration and the Executive Board;
 5. Be bonded in an amount as required by the Commission on Administration;
 6. Have the accounts audited by a Certified Public Accountant with a report submitted to the Quadrennial Convention during the first business session, and an interim report to the Executive Board and General Board of the A.M.E. Church; and
 7. Serve as a member of the Commission on Administration.

Section 9. Financial Secretary

- a. *Qualifications.* Any candidate for the position of Financial Secretary must have:
 1. At least a Bachelor's Degree, or its equivalent, in business, accounting or finance; and
 2. At least five (5) years of experience in accounting, finance or budgeting.
- b. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Financial Secretary shall:
 1. Maintain an independent set of records of all financial transactions;
 2. Assist with the work in concert with the Treasurer; and
 3. Serve as a member of the Commission on Administration.

Section 10. Director of the Young People's and Children's Division.

- a. *Qualifications.* Any candidate seeking the office of Director of the Young People's and Children's Division must have:
 1. At least a Bachelor's Degree or the equivalent in education and experience. A Master's or higher degree is preferred;
 2. Prior service as a Director of an Episcopal, a Conference (including Area) or a Local Young People's and Children's Division;
 3. Demonstrated, successful experiences working with and organizing young people, young adults and children;
 4. The ability to recognize, appreciate and channel energy and creativity of young people, young adults and children; and
 5. Prior administrative, supervisory or managerial experience with young people or children.
- b. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Director of the Young People's and Children's Division shall:
 1. Plan and direct a mission program for the young people within the framework of the

- purpose of the organization;
- 2. Perform such duties as provided for the Director in the Bylaws of the Connectional Young People's and Children's Division; and
- 3. Serve as a member of the Commission on Administration.

Section 11. **Editor of the Missionary Magazine.**

- a. *Qualifications.* Any candidate seeking the position of Editor of the Women's Missionary Society Magazine must have:
 - 1. At least a Bachelor's degree or the equivalent in education and experience. A Master's or higher degree is preferred;
 - 2. Extensive course work in English, Speech or Journalism;
 - 3. An understanding of the publication process; and
 - 4. At least five (5) years' experience in journalism; or in editing, developing and publishing educational materials.
- b. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Editor of the Women's Missionary Society Magazine duties and responsibilities shall be to:
 - 1. Oversee the production of the official magazine of the organization, editing and publishing a bi-monthly periodical containing news of general interest to church women and news regarding the organization, including news from all senior officers, commissions or committees and the Young People's and Children's Division;
 - 2. Solicit and edit articles for the publication on topics that will appeal to, inspire and motivate subscribers;
 - 3. Oversee the entire publication process, including seeking bids from publishers;
 - 4. Provide for promotion, circulation, subscription fulfillment, advertising solicitation, billing and collection of accounts, and other services, providing reports and records of such activities to the Commission on Administration;
 - 5. In collaboration with the Treasurer, prepare a yearly budget for the magazine's publication, monitor and report on the financial component of the Editor's office, for submission to the President and Commission on Administration;
 - 6. Through the Commission on Administration develop any editorial and advertising guidelines as needed; and
 - 7. Serve as the organization's representative to organizations which enhance the work of the Editor.
 - 8. Serve as a member of the Commission on Administration and the Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation which is responsible for the educational enterprise of the organization.

Section 12. **Associate Editor.**

- a. *Qualifications.* Any candidate seeking the position of Associate Editor shall possess the same qualifications as the Editor.
- b. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Associate Editor of the Missionary Magazine shall:
 - 1. Work in cooperation with the Editor in the editing and publishing of the Magazine;
 - 2. Assume the responsibilities of helping to promote and increase subscriptions to the Magazine; and
 - 3. Serve as a member of the Commission on Administration and the Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation.

Section 13. **Promotion and Missionary Education Director.**

- a. *Qualifications.* Any candidate seeking the position of Promotion and Missionary Education Director must have:
 - 1. At least a Bachelor's Degree or the equivalent in education and experience. A Master's or higher degree is preferred;

2. Extensive course work in research and writing, English, Speech or Journalism; and
 3. At least five (5) years' experience in journalism, editing, developing and publishing educational and research materials.
- b. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Promotion and Missionary Education Director duties and responsibilities shall be:
1. Developing, producing, promoting and circulating mission education materials, including but not limited to, compiling, editing, design work and meeting publication time periods; preparing and mailing introductory kits to Episcopal Directors of Promotion and Missionary Education and various other complimentary mailings; transmitting orders to the publisher; providing supplementary materials to members; and providing invoices and monitoring final payments;
 2. Recommending themes and curricula to the Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation for approval;
 3. Seeking talent from across the twenty Episcopal Districts of the organization to contribute to the mission education effort;
 4. Convening the Mission Education and Interpretation Dialogue annually;
 5. Developing continuing education programs for the organization's leaders;
 6. Assisting in the planning and developing of the Connectional training efforts for the Executive Board and Quadrennial Convention;
 7. Providing leadership in developing audio-visual and other resources to complement the Study Guide;
 8. Developing and overseeing a correspondence course or on-line education or training module;
 9. Compiling current bibliographies of books, tracts, etc., relating to religious education;
 10. Developing and overseeing the Connectional Book Club, and providing an on-line dialogue on current readings;
 11. In collaboration with the Treasurer, prepare a yearly budget for submission to the President and Commission on Administration, monitor and report on the financial aspects of her work; and
 12. Other duties as determined by the President or the Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation; and
 13. Serve as a member of the Commission on Administration and the Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation.

Section 14. **Historiographer-Statistician.**

- a. *Qualifications.* Any candidate seeking the position of Historiographer-Statistician must have:
1. At least a Bachelor's Degree or the equivalent in education and experience;
 2. Demonstrated prior experience in research, writing and publishing;
 3. Extensive course work in English;
 4. An ability to use technology for data gathering, organizing, record keeping and writing; and
 5. Demonstrated good sense of history and an appreciation for the need to maintain records.
- b. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Historiographer-Statistician shall:
1. Have full responsibility of assembling, gathering and maintaining the data pertaining to the history of the organization; including, but not limited to requesting all facts and figures relating to the Local, Conference and Episcopal membership, officers and mission work and activities;
 2. Compile a written Quadrennial History of the Women's Missionary Society and shall submit it as a report to the Quadrennial Convention; and
 3. Compile accurate and adequate data and information and publish the same under the

direction of the President and the Executive Board. This information shall be centered in the office of the Women's Missionary Society for reference when needed; and

4. Serve as a member of the Commission on Administration and the Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation.

Section 15. **Worship Director.**

- a. *Qualifications.* Any candidate seeking the position of Worship Director must have:
 1. Training and experience in Christian Education;
 2. Knowledge of the Bible and Hymnal;
 3. Training and/or knowledge of Worship, Liturgy and music;
 4. Experience in preparing and conducting Bible study and worship;
 5. Demonstrated capacity to work effectively with others.
- b. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Worship Director shall:
 1. Serve the organization by providing appropriate and creative styles and types of worship experiences/devotions.
 2. Maintain effective communication with the Episcopal District and Conference Worship Directors; and
 3. Serve as a member of the Commission on Administration and the Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation.

Section 16. **Member-At-Large.**

- a. *Qualifications.* Any candidate seeking the position of Member-At-Large must:
 1. Must be ages eighteen (18) to forty (40); and
 2. Have at least a Bachelor's degree or its equivalent in education or experience.
- b. *Duties and Responsibilities.* The Member-At-Large shall:
 1. Work with the Young Adult Members, ages eighteen (18) to forty (40), to facilitate the goals and objectives of the Commission on Membership and Recruitment relative to younger women; and
 2. Be responsible for promoting the Sojourner's Program and in cooperation with church leaders and Episcopal Districts recruit volunteers.
 3. Serve as a member of the Commission on Administration and the Commission on Membership and Recruitment.

Section 17. **Parliamentarian.** Any candidate seeking the position of Parliamentarian shall be certified in parliamentary procedures, at the time of her nomination. The Parliamentarian shall serve as a member of the Commission on Administration. Should nominations not be received from a person(s) certified in parliamentary procedures, the President, through the Commission on Administration, may contract for such services to be provided to the organization as needed

Article X - Episcopal Supervisors

Section 1. **Designation.** The Episcopal Supervisor shall be the spouse or the appointee of the Bishop of the Episcopal District.

Section 2. **Duties.** The Episcopal Supervisor shall:

- a. Have supervision of the work in the Episcopal District; Be the liaison between the Connectional and Episcopal organizations, and work cooperatively with the Connectional WMS to carry out the programmatic functions and responsibilities throughout the Episcopal District;
- b. Ensure the constitution and bylaws are duly observed and the actions thereof are carried into effect;

- c. Provide oversight for the fiscal and program operations of the Episcopal District;
- d. Facilitate and provide opportunities for the Episcopal, Conference and Local organizations' financial support of the organization;
- e. Prepare and submit a report to each Quadrennial Convention concerning the work of the Episcopal District;
- f. With the Episcopal President, plan and implement a comprehensive program that fosters cooperative and interdependent relationships among the Local, Conference, Episcopal and Connectional organizations, to implement the mission and purpose of the organization;
- g. With the Episcopal President, promote and facilitate the programs, goals and objectives of the organization; and
- h. Serve on the Executive Board and on at least one (1) of the Commissions.

Article XI - Commissions

Section 1. **Responsibilities Common to Commissions.** Each commission shall:

- a. Recommend policy, envision and develop strategic plans in its particular area of responsibility, after consultation with the commissions of the Episcopal, Conference and Local, as practicable as possible. All policies shall be submitted to the Commission on Administration for further consideration and action;
- b. Develop and implement programs and resources, and review and evaluate processes, to enable and assist members in facilitating and fulfilling the work of the Commission;
- c. Facilitate and coordinate with other Commissions of the organization, this organization's efforts in leadership development and leadership training;
- d. Develop and disseminate to members materials of significance for the work of the Commissions;
- e. Provide for the adequate keepings of records related to the activities and work of the Commission; and
- f. Cultivate a community of collaboration and outreach with other Connectional, Episcopal, Conference and Local Commissions.

Section 2. **Responsibilities Common to Commission Chair or Coordinator.** The Commission Chair or Coordinator shall:

- a. Provide leadership and facilitate the work of the Commission;
- b. Preside at meetings of the Commission;
- c. Serve as the liaison to the Commission on Administration and Executive Board;
- d. Monitor the progress of the Commission and provide reports to the President as needed; and
- e. Facilitate the setting of goals by the Commission, and a plan for the evaluation of the work and activities of the Commission.

Section 3. **Commission on Administration.**

- a. *Creation; Duties.* There is hereby created a Commission on Administration. The Commission shall be chaired by the President and shall:
 - 1. Be responsible for the business of the organization, including budget and finance decisions concerning the implementation of policy;
 - 2. Ensure that resolutions from the Quadrennial Convention and recommendations and policies from Executive Board are appropriately managed;
 - 3. Upon the advice and recommendations of the President, establish the assessments for Episcopal Districts for the Quadrennial and the time for paying such assessments each fiscal year. Any changes in such assessments between the Quadrennial Conventions shall be presented to the Executive Board for approval;

4. Maintain and distribute accurate records;
 5. Receive reports and monitor progress of the Commissions on Christian Social Action, Mission Education and Interpretation and Membership and Recruitment;
 6. Develop and recommend an annual budget to Executive Board;
 7. Review and modify, when necessary, financial policies of the organization;
 8. Provide for a comprehensive financial support system for the administration of financial resources necessary for fulfillment of the responsibilities of the Connectional organization;
 9. Review, analyze and be prepared to interpret the annual audit;
 10. Develop appropriate investment strategies for the organization;
 11. Oversee quadrennial review and revision of the organization's constitution and bylaws;
 12. Oversee the work of the Nominating Committee;
 13. Engage a licensed Parliamentarian, when necessary;
 14. Design programs and other activities providing for an improved image of the organization;
 15. Design and conduct training;
 16. Oversee the work of the Sojourner Global Program as outlined in Article XI of the Constitution; and
 17. Maintain an office and a continuing relationship with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations through such representatives as appointed by the President.
- b. *Commission Members.* The members of the Commission on Administration shall consist of: the President, the First, Second and Third Vice Presidents, the Recording Secretary, the Assistant Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary, the Treasurer, **the Financial Secretary**, the Director of the Young People's and Children's Division, the Editor of the Magazine, the Associate Editor, the Promotion and Missionary Education Director, the Historiographer- Statistician, the Worship Director, the Member-At-Large, the Parliamentarian, seven (7) Episcopal Supervisors, present or past, and four (4) At-Large-Members with expertise and skills in accounting, financial management, law, and administration appointed by the President.

Section 4. **Commission on Christian Social Action.**

- a. *Creation; Duties.* There is hereby created a Commission on Christian Social Action. The First Vice President shall serve as the coordinator of the commission whose duties and responsibilities shall be to:
1. Promote social action, which will engage women in addressing current critical issues; Identify and study issues affecting the family and develop appropriate educational programs and strategies to address these issues;
 2. Identify and plan educational activities to help families understand their responsibilities;
 3. Distribute pertinent information on global health and wellness;
 4. Partner with community agencies and organizations involved in eradicating poverty and hunger;
 5. Provide tangible help for persons in dire need;
 6. Provide opportunities for members of the organization to understand and work with organizations such as, Church Women United, Bread for the World, National Council of Negro Women, Black Women's Agenda, Religious Network for the Equality of Women, Children's Defense Fund, and the Balm in Gilead;
 7. Review and monitor the Missionaries on the Move Project and other volunteer mission programs of the organization; and
 8. Encourage and support current national programs such as, Church World Service Blanket, Tools of Hope Program, and Crop Walks.
- b. *Commission Members.* The members of the Commission on Christian Social Action shall be the First Vice President, two (2) Episcopal Presidents, three (3) Episcopal First Vice Presidents, two (2) Conference Presidents, three (3) Local Presidents, seven (7) Episcopal

Supervisors, and four (4) At-Large-Members, each appointed by the President to represent issues and interests of ecumenical relations, family life, global health and housing, rural and special missions.

Section 5. **Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation.**

- a. *Creation; Duties.* There is hereby created a Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation. The Second Vice President shall serve as the coordinator of the Commission whose duties and responsibilities shall be:
 1. Developing a strong faith base and develop members for ministry by planning and conducting annual institutes and other activities;
 2. Design, produce, print and circulate the Connectional organization's mission study program;
 3. Plan and conduct educational activities designed to create an awareness of the status of Black women and their contributions individually and collectively to life and society;
 4. Establish a central unit for researching, collecting, classifying, analyzing, interpreting and disseminating information about the progress and plight of Black people;
 5. Seek funding for educational pursuits of the organization;
 6. Improve Public Relations techniques and efforts and strengthen media coverage;
 7. Discover and develop ability of persons in the performing and creative arts;
 8. Promote the use of creative arts for enrichment and well-being;
 9. Sponsor an exhibit of art at the Quadrennial Convention;
 10. Raise visibility and awareness of the organization;
 11. Supervise the educational thrust of the organization; and
 12. Encourage and support bible studies and worship experiences at all gatherings.
- b. *Commission Members.* The members of the Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation shall be the following: the Second Vice President, the Historiographer-Statistician, the Editor of the Magazine, the Associate Editor, the Promotion and Missionary Education Director, the Worship Director, seven (7) Episcopal Supervisors and twenty (20) At-Large-Members. The twenty At-Large-Members shall consist of a representative from each of the twenty Episcopal Districts, and shall be appointed by the President, with at least three (3) of the At-Large-Members being Episcopal Second Vice Presidents.

Section 6. **Commission on Membership and Recruitment.**

- a. *Qualifications.* There is hereby created a Commission on Membership and Recruitment. The Third Vice President shall be the coordinator of the commission whose duties and responsibilities shall be:
 1. Plan strategies to reach out, nurture and affirm members and non-member women;
 2. Encourage and inspire Young Adult Members, ages eighteen (18) to forty (40), to join, participate actively and work in the organization;
 3. In collaboration with other commissions, develop programs and plan activities of special interest to younger women;
 4. Plan strategies designed to involve non-member women and younger women in training and enrichment activities;
 5. Develop a Skills Bank;
 6. Plan and conduct The Tanner Turner Memorial Services for deceased life members at the Quadrennial Convention;
 7. Prepare and circulate model programs of welcome for new members and awards for others, and prepare and circulate a Life Membership Booklet as provided within these bylaws;
 8. Prepare and distribute a Life Members Booklet, as provided in Article VIII of these bylaws;

9. Establish guidelines for the organization to recognize Associate members with twenty- five (25) years or more of continuous, meritorious service to the organization; and
 10. Select deserving students for scholarship aid.
- b. **Commission Members.** The members of the Commission on Membership and Recruitment shall consist of the Third Vice President, the Member-At-Large, the Corresponding Secretary, seven (7) Episcopal Supervisors and twenty (20) At-Large- Members appointed by the President. The twenty At-Large-Members shall consist of a representative from each of the twenty (20) Episcopal Districts, with at least three (3) of the At-Large-Members being Episcopal Third Vice Presidents.

Section 7. **Commission Meetings.** The commissions shall meet at least two (2) times per year, with at least one (1) of the meetings held at the site of the Executive Board. Additional meetings may be called by the President, as needed.

Section 8. **Committees of Commissions.** A commission may create committees or task forces consisting of its members to facilitate the commission's work.

Section 9. **Telephone Conference Calls.** Commissions may meet by telephone conference calls. However, the results of any action taken by telephone conference call shall be mailed within fifteen (15) days immediately to all Commission members and shall be made a part of the minutes of the next meeting of the Commission.

Section 10. **Removal of Appointees.** Any person appointed to a Commission by the President may be removed by the President for non-performance, upon the President's written notification to the person.

Article XII - General Fiscal Policies

Section 1. **Sources of Funds.** The sources of funds for the organization's fulfillment of its responsibilities shall be the general church budget, assessments of Episcopal Districts, monies received through special emphases and meetings, voluntary pledges, gifts, etc., annuities and other forms of investments, and offerings.

Section 2. **Single Treasury.** A single treasury shall be maintained for the receipt and disbursement of funds of the Connectional WMS.

Section 3. **Financial Policies.** The President shall propose policy for review and action by the Commission on Administration and provide for the implementation, within such policies, of the financial, accounting, insurance, property management, investment and money management systems and related services for the Connectional WMS.

Section 4. **Episcopal Assessments.** Each Episcopal District shall transmit its assessments to the Connectional organization in accordance with the procedures and policies established by the Commission on Administration and adopted by the Executive Board.

Section 5. **Auditing of Books.** Accounts of the organization shall be annually audited by a Certified Public Accountant as provided for herein under the duties of the Treasurer. This audit/audit renew shall be adopted at the subsequent Executive Board meeting.

Article XIII - Publications

Section 1. **Magazine.** A magazine, which shall be prepared and published by the Editor on behalf of the organization, shall be owned and published by the organization. All funds received from the

publication of the magazine shall belong to the organization.

Section 2. **Mission Study Program.** The *Yearbook* and accompanying study materials, prepared and published by the Promotion and Missionary Education Director on behalf of the organization, shall be owned and published by the organization. All funds received from the publication of the *Yearbook* and accompanying study materials shall belong to the organization.

Section 3. **Other Publications.** Any other publications, prepared and produced with funds of the organization, shall be owned and published by the organization. All funds received from such publications shall belong to the organization.

Article XIV - Office

The headquarters of the Women's Missionary Society shall be in Washington, D.C., or such other place as the Quadrennial Convention shall determine.

Article XV - Amendments

These bylaws may be amended as set forth in the *Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society*.

Article XVI - Parliamentary Authorities

The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, latest edition, shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable and to which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, the *Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society* and *The Book of Discipline of the A.M.E. Church*.

Article XVII - Application of Provisions

Unless otherwise provided in the Episcopal, Conference and Local Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society, the provisions herein shall apply to such organizations.

Article XVIII - Missionary Benediction

The Missionary Benediction shall be:

"In the Name of the Triune God, May the Spirit of Christian Missions Enter Every Heart. This We Ask in Jesus' Name. Amen."

**Women's Missionary Society
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Episcopal Bylaws**

Article I - Name

In each Episcopal District there shall be an organization known as the Episcopal Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Article II - Responsibilities

To fulfill the purpose of the organization, the responsibilities of the Episcopal District shall be to:

- a. Assist the Connectional in assuring that the plans, programs and objectives of the Women's Missionary Society are being fulfilled, through the programs, activities and initiatives of the Conference, or its Areas, and Local organizations;
- b. Serve as the liaison between the Connectional, Conference, and Local organizations, ensuring communications regarding programs and policies from the Connectional are disseminated in a timely and adequate manner;
- c. Facilitate the partnering of the Episcopal District with state and community agencies and resources;
- d. Coordinate, unify and harmonize the work of the Conferences, by receiving, compiling and forwarding reports between the Connectional and the Conferences;
- e. Develop and maintain cooperative relationships with the Connectional, Conference and Local organizations and the general church;
- f. Develop and implement a public policy advocacy program consistent with the Connectional, at the state and local levels, and coordinate the advocacy program for the Episcopal District;
- g. Cooperate with the Conference and Local organizations to respond financially in support of the organization;
- h. Develop and monitor annual budget and ensure financial policy is adequate and fair;
- i. Recommend to the Connectional the needs and goals of the Episcopal District, its Conference and Local Levels;
- j. Facilitate the Episcopal District's commitment to mission volunteers for work throughout the church, for short term or other assignments;
- k. Coordinate study programs and related events for the Episcopal District;
- l. Approve any Episcopal District-wide appeals;
- m. Develop materials, in cooperation with the Conference Levels, to assist Conferences, or their Areas, or Local Societies;
- n. Develop and conduct leadership training sessions for officers and others in leadership development, and produce related training materials;
- o. Develop forums and other sessions to support and strengthen the work of the Conference, or its Areas, and the Local Societies;
- p. Periodically monitor, review and evaluate programs, initiatives and other work of the Conference or its Areas, and the Local Societies;
- q. Propose to the Conferences a plan to review, monitor and report on implemented programs and activities and the progress toward meeting the goals of Connectional in the Episcopal District;

- r. Maintain accurate and adequate records;
- s. Make a report of its activities during the quadrennium to the Quadrennial Convention; and
- t. Sponsor special events for the Episcopal District, when appropriate.

Article III - Voting Membership

The voting membership of the Episcopal District shall consist of the past and present Episcopal Supervisors, the Episcopal President, the Episcopal Director of the Young People's and Children's Division, the elected Episcopal officers, the past Episcopal Presidents, the Conference Presidents, the Conference Directors of the Young People's and Children's Division, Life Members, any Connectional officer residing in the Episcopal District and at least three (3) delegates from each Conference as determined by the Conference.

Article IV - Elected and Appointed Officers; Duties

- Section 1. **Elected Episcopal Officers.** The Episcopal organization shall elect the First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, **Financial Secretary**, Historiographer-Statistician, Director of Promotion and Missionary Education, Parliamentarian, Worship Director and Member-At- Large. Elected officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual Episcopal Meeting.
- Section 2. **Appointed Episcopal Officers.** The Bishop of the Episcopal District shall appoint the Episcopal President and Episcopal Director of the Young People's and Children's Division.
- Section 3. **Prerequisites and Qualifications to Hold Office.** All officers must be in good and regular standing in her Local Society.
- Section 4. **Attendance at Meetings.** All elected and appointed officers are expected to attend all meetings of which they are a part by virtue of their office.
- Section 5. **Term: Limitation.** Each elected and appointed officer shall serve a term of one (1) year and not more than eight (8) years in the same office. Any person serving as an elected or appointed Episcopal officer for sixteen (16) years, regardless of the number of elected or appointed offices held, shall be ineligible to hold another elected or appointed Episcopal office.
- Section 6. **Outgoing Officers.** Outgoing officers shall arrange for the transfer of records, books, papers and property belonging to the Episcopal organization within a month of leaving office.

Article V- Duties of Officers

- Section 1. **Episcopal President.** The Episcopal President shall:
- a. In cooperation with the Episcopal Supervisor establish partnerships with Conference Presidents to accomplish the mission and purpose of the Connectional and Episcopal District, to carry out the programmatic functions and responsibilities throughout the Episcopal District and to facilitate the financial support for the Connectional, Episcopal and Conference organizations;
 - b. In conjunction with the Episcopal Supervisor, submit a report for each Connectional Executive Board Meeting concerning the work of the Episcopal District;

- c. Plan and conduct an Annual Mission Institute designed and developed to:
 - 1. Meet the needs of the membership of the Episcopal District and is in harmony with the purpose, plans and objectives of the Connectional;
 - 2. Encourage women to participate in the total life and work of the Women's Missionary Society and support them in assuming positions of responsibility and leadership; and
 - 3. Meet the needs and interests of women, encourage and support spiritual growth, mission outreach, and social action; promote the purpose of the Connectional.
- d. Schedule periodic meetings with Conference Presidents to ensure programmatic and financial functions and responsibilities of the Conference are being carried out, and communicate the same to the Episcopal Supervisor;
- e. Work with the Episcopal Supervisor to establish financial policies, build budgets and encourage the support of the financial objectives of the Connectional by the Conference and Local Levels;
- f. Preside over the Episcopal Executive Board Meetings; and
- g. Perform other duties and responsibilities appropriate for the Episcopal Level, as provided for by the Connectional President.

Section 2. **Episcopal Director of the Young People's and Children's Division.** The duties and responsibilities of the Episcopal Director of the Young People's and Children's Division shall be to:

- a. Unify, in cooperation with the Episcopal Supervisor and Episcopal President of the Young People's and Children's Division, the mission program of the Episcopal District with the cooperation of the Conference Directors and Conference Presidents of the Young People's and Children's Division; and
- b. Perform other duties, as appropriate for the Episcopal District, as provided for the Connectional Director of the Young People's and Children's Division.

Section 3. **Duties and Responsibilities of Other Officers.** The duties of the First, Second and Third Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, **Financial Secretary**, Promotion and Missionary Education Director, Historiographer-Statistician, Member-At-Large, Parliamentarian and Worship Director shall be as provided, and appropriate for the Episcopal Level, for the designated Connectional Officers.

Article VI- Executive Board

Section 1. **Composition.** The Episcopal Executive Board shall be composed of the past and present Episcopal Supervisors, the Episcopal President, past Episcopal Presidents, elected Episcopal officers, the Episcopal Director and President of the Young People's and Children's Division, any Connectional officers residing in the Episcopal District, one Life Member, and the Conference Presidents and Conference Directors of the Young People's and Children's Division, and two (2) or three (3) At-Large-Members elected from each Conference. At least one of the At-Large-Members per conference must be a Life Member. The terms of the At-Large- Members from each Conference shall be staggered with one member serving a one (1) year term and the other member serving a two (2) year term (if three, provide for a three-year term). The At-Large-Members may be re-elected by their conference; however, no At-Large- Member shall serve for more than four (4) years. Conferences shall elect the At-Large- Members during the Conference Annual Meeting.

Section 2. **Meeting.** The Executive Board shall meet at least annually. Its duties shall be as provided, and appropriate for the Episcopal Level, for the Connectional Executive Board. The actions of the Executive Board shall be in accordance with the policies of the Quadrennial Convention, the Connectional Executive Board and organization and the constitution and bylaws of the organization.

Article VII- Commissions

Section 1. **Responsibilities of Commissions and Chairs.** The responsibilities of the commissions and chairs or coordinators of the commissions shall be as provided in the Connectional Bylaws, but as appropriate for the Episcopal Level.

Section 2. **Commission on Administration.**

- a. **Duties.** The Commission on Administration shall be chaired by the Episcopal President and its duties shall be to:
 1. Ensure communications regarding programs and policies from the Connectional are disseminated timely and adequately;
 2. Maintain accurate and adequate records;
 3. Receive reports and monitor progress of other Episcopal Commissions;
 4. Receive recommendations for programming and policies from the Connectional and coordinate appropriate program activities;
 5. Develop and monitor annual budget;
 6. Ensure financial policy is adequate and fair;
 7. Establish program initiatives;
 8. Set guidelines for programs;
 9. Respond to Connectional requests, as needed or required;
 10. Oversee any proposed amendments or revisions of the constitution and bylaws, and report any proposed amendments or revisions to the Connectional as provided in Article XIII of the Constitution and Article XV of the Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society;
 11. Establish a Nominating Committee and oversee its work; and
 12. Design and conduct training for officers and others, and develop related training materials.
- b. **Members.** The members of the Commission on Administration shall be the Episcopal President, the First Vice President, the Second Vice President, the Third Vice President, the Recording Secretary, the Assistant Recording Secretary, the Corresponding Secretary, the Treasurer, the Financial Secretary, the Episcopal Director of the Young People's and Children's Division, Episcopal Director of Promotion and Missionary Education, the Historiographer- Statistician, the Worship Director, the Member-At-Large, the Parliamentarian, Conference Presidents, and a Local President from each Conference appointed by the Episcopal President. The Episcopal Supervisor shall serve as an ex-officio member.

Section 3. **Commission on Christian Social Action.**

- a. **Duties.** The Commission on Christian Social Action shall:
 1. Review, adopt and sponsor social action programs recommended by the Connectional organization;
 2. Identify, study and address issues affecting communities in the Episcopal District;

3. Plan educational activities to help families improve family life;
 4. Partner with community agencies and organizations involved in eradicating poverty and hunger;
 5. Plan opportunities for engagement in the struggles and challenges of people of the world;
 6. Encourage advocacy for improving the quality of life, especially for women and children; and
 7. Provide opportunities for members to understand, work with and become members of organizations as Church Women United, Bread for the World, National Council of Negro Women, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church, Black Women's Agenda, Religious Network for the Equality of Women, Children's Defense Fund, Balm in Gilead and the United Nations.
- b. *Members.* The members of the Commission on Christian Social Action shall be the First Vice President, Coordinator; a Local President from each Conference; and five (5) At- Large-Members with experience and expertise in legislation or public affairs, rural or special missions, health and housing, family life; affiliated and ecumenical groups. The Local Presidents and the At-Large-Members shall be appointed by the Episcopal President.

Section 4. **Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation.**

- a. *Duties.* The Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation shall:
1. Encourage and support spiritual formation and development;
 2. Develop resource material and design activities for spiritual growth and enrichment;
 3. Conduct annual institutes;
 4. Discover and develop ability of persons in the performing and creative arts;
 5. Promote the use of creative arts for enrichment and well-being;
 6. Raise visibility and awareness of the organization;
 7. Create awareness of the responsibilities of Christians, corporate and individual, for peace and justice; and
 8. Encourage advocacy for improving quality of life, especially for women and children.
- b. *Members.* The members of the Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation shall be the following: the Second Vice President, Coordinator, the Historiographer-Statistician, the Director of Promotion and Missionary Education, the Worship Director, Chair of the Missionary Magazine and a Local President from each Conference appointed by the Episcopal President.

Section 5. **Commission on Membership and Recruitment.**

- a. *Duties.* The Commission on Membership and Recruitment shall:
1. Plan strategies designed to involve non-member women and Young Adult Members, ages eighteen (18) to forty (40), in training and enrichment activities;
 2. Develop programs and plan activities of special interest to Young Adult Members;
 3. Maintain a Skills Bank developed by the Conferences;
 4. Prepare and conduct memorial services (The Tanner Turner Memorial Service for deceased members of the Episcopal District);
 5. Seek deserving students for scholarship aid; and

6. Prepare and circulate model programs of welcome for new members and awards for others.
- b. *Members.* The members of the Commission on Membership and Recruitment shall consist of the Third Vice President, Coordinator, Member-At-Large, Corresponding Secretary, a Local President from each Conference appointed by the President and three (3) At-Large- Members, appointed by the President, with skills and expertise in public relations, marketing and computer technology.

Section 6. **Commission Meetings.** The commissions shall meet at the call of the Commission Chair or Coordinator and the Episcopal Leadership.

Section 7. **Telephone Conference Calls.** Commissions may meet by telephone conference calls. However, the results of any action taken by telephone conference call shall be mailed immediately to all commission members and shall be made a part of the minutes of the next meeting of the commission.

Article VIII- Application of Connectional Bylaws

Unless otherwise provided in the Episcopal Bylaws, the provisions of the Connectional Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society shall be applicable.

Article IX - Parliamentary Authorities

The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, latest edition, shall govern the proceedings of the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and bylaws and *The Book of Discipline of the A.M.E. Church*.

Article X - Amendments

These bylaws may be amended as set forth in the *Constitution of the Women's Missionary Society*.

**Women's Missionary Society African
Methodist Episcopal Church
Conference Bylaws**

Article I - Name

In each Conference there shall be an organization named the Conference Women's Missionary Society, a component of the Episcopal Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Article II - Responsibilities of Conferences

- Section 1. **Conference Responsibilities: Functions.** The responsibilities of the Conference organizations shall be to:
- a. Work with the Local Societies, through Areas if so determined as provided herein, in developing programs to meet the needs and interests of women and the concerns and responsibilities of the Women's Missionary Society and the church;
 - b. Promote the plans and responsibilities of the Connectional and Episcopal Women's Missionary Society;
 - c. Encourage working partnerships with the church, other organizations and agencies to address community issues and struggles;
 - d. Act as liaison between Episcopal organizations, Areas where they exist and Local Societies.
 - e. Develop appropriate and useful networks with women's organization; and
 - f. Respond promptly to requests from the Connectional and Episcopal Women's Missionary Society.

Article III - Operational and Structural Framework

- Section 1. **Relationships.** The Conference organization is directly related to the Connectional Women's Missionary Society, Episcopal organizations and Local organizations.
- Section 2. **Establishment of Areas.** A Conference may establish Areas, after a determination by the Conference, that Areas would promote a more efficient and effective method for the Conference to conduct its business. Any established Area is a unit of the Conference organization, and is not a separate and distinct organization of the Women's Missionary Society. Areas shall be governed by the provisions in Article IX of these bylaws.
- Section 3. **Local Presidents Council.** A Conference without Areas may establish a Local Presidents Council. The Conference President shall serve as the chair of the council.

Section 4: **Sustentation.** The expenses of the Conference President are to be paid by the Conference Level.
The expenses of the Area Chairpersons are to be paid by the Area Level.

Article IV - Membership

- Section 1. **Members.** Members shall be as defined in the *Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society* and whose Local Societies are within the geographical boundary of the Conference.

Section 2. **Voting Membership.** All elected Conference officers, elected delegates, Life Members, Local Presidents, Local and Area Directors of the Young People's and Children's Division, Area Chairpersons, if they exist, and all other members enrolled and presenting credentials properly signed are eligible to vote. The Recording Secretary of the Conference shall keep an accurate roll of members.

A member may become enrolled and eligible to vote by:

1. Registering with the Conference;
2. The individual's name appears on the roll for one (1) year and the presentation to the Conference credentials certified by the Local Pastor and Local President; and
3. **Paying Local, Area and Conference dues, where it applies.**

Section 3. **Prerequisites and Qualifications to Run for Office.** All members must attend at least one (1) Annual Conference Meeting during a quadrennium to run for a Conference office, and shall be in good and regular standing in her local organization.

Section 4. **Young Adults Transition.** Persons at age eighteen (18), who are no longer a member of the Young People's and Children's Division, may become a member of the Conference Women's Missionary Society.

Section 5. **Transfer To Another Conference.** A member in good and regular standing on the Conference Level, upon moving to another locality and presenting a letter of recommendation from the Conference President, is entitled to full membership in the Conference into which she is moving.

Section 6. **Elected Delegates.** Elected Delegates from each Local Society shall become members immediately following their approval by the Conference Credentials Committee and added annually to the Conference roll.

Section 7. **Number of Delegates.** Each Local Society is entitled to one (1) delegate for every fifteen (15) members or a fraction thereof to the Annual Conference Meeting.

Section 8. **Quadrennial Delegates.** The Recording Secretary of the Conference shall keep an accurate roll of members. Only those who have been members for four (4) or more consecutive years shall be eligible to be elected delegates to the Quadrennial Convention. Persons who transition to the WMS with uninterrupted time as a YPDer shall be eligible to be elected delegate to the Quadrennial Convention after two (2) consecutive years as active WMS members. They shall be active participants on **all levels and have attended** at least two (2) Annual Conference Meetings.

Article V - Conference Officers

Section 1. **Elected Officers.** The elected officers of the Conference shall be the Conference President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, **Financial Secretary**, Historiographer-Statistician, Director of the Young People's and Children's Division, Promotion and Missionary Education Director, Parliamentarian, Worship Director and Member-At-Large.

Section 2. **Term: Limitation.** All Conference officers shall be elected for a one (1) year term. The officer may be re-elected and hold office for eight (8) years in the same office. Any person serving as an elected Conference officer for a total of sixteen (16) years, regardless of the number of Conference offices held, shall be ineligible to hold another elected Conference office.

Section 3. **Time of Election.** The Conference officers shall be elected by ballot at each Annual Conference Meeting except in the fourth year of the Quadrennium. They shall assume their duties immediately after installation.

Section 4. **Vacant Office.** If a Conference office becomes vacant by reason of death or resignation or removal, the Conference President shall appoint a qualified replacement (after consulting with the Episcopal Supervisor and Episcopal President). If the office of Conference President becomes vacant and neither the First, Second or Third Vice Presidents are willing to step up to the office of Conference President, the Episcopal Supervisor shall appoint a qualified replacement (in consultation with the Episcopal President); officers appointed as replacements shall serve until elections at the next Annual Conference Meeting.

Article VI - Conference Meetings

Section 1. **Annual Meeting.** There shall be an Annual Conference Meeting at which Conference officers are elected. There shall be no election or appointment of officers at the Annual Conference Meeting preceding the Quadrennial Convention, unless as provided in this Section 1.

Conferences holding their Annual Meeting during the year of, but preceding the Quadrennial Convention, shall elect delegates during the third year of the quadrennium and elect officers during the Annual Conference Meeting of the fourth year of the quadrennium. Officers elected in these Conferences shall assume their offices immediately after the Quadrennial Convention. The Conference President shall serve as leader of the Conference delegation.

Section 2. **Executive Board.** The Executive Board shall meet at least twice a year, and be composed of the elected Conference officers, Life Members, Local Presidents, Connectional and Episcopal officers residing in the Conference, three (3), five (5), or seven (7) At-Large-Members elected at the Annual Meeting, and the Area Chairpersons, if any.

Article VII - Duties of Officers

Section 1. **Conference President.** The Conference President shall:

- a. Preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and other official meetings of the Conference;
- b. Be an ex-officio member of all commissions and such other committees as may be necessary to the conduct and development of the organization;
- c. Have supervision and direction of the work of the Conference Level;
- d. Chair the Commission on Administration;
- e. Have the authority to fill all vacancies occurring in all offices during the interim of the Conference Convention subject to the approval of the Episcopal Supervisor and the Executive Board;
- f. Appoint members to the Conference Commissions, providing for the appointment of at least 10% of the positions to be filled by young women ages 40 and younger;

- g. Supervise the work of the Areas; and
- h. Make a report to the Episcopal Convention.

Section 2. **First Vice President.** The First Vice President shall:

- a. Perform the duties of the President in the absence or disability of the President;
- b. Serve as Coordinator of the Commission on Christian Social Action; and
- c. Serve as Chair of the Program Committee in Consultation with the President.

Section 3. **Second Vice President.** The Second Vice President shall:

- a. Perform the duties of the Conference President, in the absence, disability or resignation of the Conference President and First Vice President; and
- b. Serve as the Coordinator of the Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation.

Section 4. **Third Vice President.** The Third Vice President shall:

- a. Perform the duties of the Conference President, in the absence, disability or resignation of the Conference President, First Vice President and Second Vice President; and
- b. Serve as the Coordinator of the Commission on Membership and Recruitment.

Section 5. **Recording Secretary.** The Recording Secretary shall:

- a. Maintain accurate minutes and records of all proceedings of the official meetings of the Conference, its Conference Convention and its Executive Board;
- b. Keep an accurate, updated roll of the membership of the Conference, and provide such information to the Episcopal and Connectional organizations; and
- c. Send names of conference elected officers (including addresses, zip codes and telephone numbers) to the Episcopal and Connectional organizations.

Section 6. **Assistant Recording Secretary.** The Assistant Recording Secretary shall assist the Recording Secretary in the keeping of all records and in the absence of the Secretary shall perform her duties.

Section 7. **Corresponding Secretary.** The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the necessary correspondence and send quarterly and annual blanks (including statistics) to the Local Level.

Section 8. **Treasurer.** The Treasurer, who shall be bonded in an amount as determined by the Commission on Administration, shall:

- a. Receive the funds from Local Societies and from the Areas as the Conference shall determine;
- b. Write, sign and mail checks countersigned by the President or write, sign and mail checks authorized for payment by voucher signed by the President; and
- c. Submit itemized statements of all finances to the Commission on Administration, the Conference Convention and to the Executive Board and signed vouchers by the President and Treasurer for all issued checks.

Section 9. **Financial Secretary.** The Financial Secretary shall:

- a. Maintain an independent set of records of all financial transactions and
- b. Assist with the work in concert with the Treasurer.

Section 10. **Director of the Young People's and Children's Division.** The Director of the Young People's and Children's Division shall:

- a. Plan and supervise the work of the Conference Young People's and Children's Division;

- b. Provide regular reports to the Conference regarding the work and activities of the Conference Young People's and Children's Division.

Section 11. **Promotion and Missionary Education Director.** The Promotion and Missionary Education

Director shall;

- a. Promote and interpret the work of the Connectional that the Episcopal organization supports;
- b. Promote mission education opportunities, including but not limited to mission studies, Area and Local mission opportunities and encounters;
- c. Promote and distribute mission education literature, including the *Yearbook* and related study materials;
- d. Plan Mission and Training Institutes;
- e. Promote, utilize and select audio visual materials to aid in the interpretation of the mission work; and
- f. Serve as the Conference contact person for Area, if any, and Local Directors of Promotion and Missionary Education.

Section 12. **Historiographer-Statistician.** The Historiographer-Statistician shall:

- a. Have full responsibility of gathering the data pertaining to the history of the Local organizations;
- b. Request all facts and figures relating to the Local and Conference Levels and compile them; and
- c. Report such historical data to the Episcopal and Connectional organizations.

Section 13. **Worship Director.** The Worship Director shall serve the Conference by providing appropriate and creative styles and types of worship experiences/devotions and assist in planning worship experiences for the Conference.

Section 14. **Member-At-Large.** The Member-At-Large shall serve on the Commission on Membership and Recruitment, work with the Young Adult Members, ages eighteen (18) to forty (40), and be responsible for promoting volunteer mission programs.

Section 15. **Parliamentarian.** The Parliamentarian shall give advice to the Conference President on the proceedings, during a meeting, and when requested, to another member.

Article VIII - Conference Commissions

Section 1. **Commission on Administration.** The Commission on Administration shall:

- a. Ensure that communication regarding programs and policies from the Connectional and Episcopal Levels is appropriately and adequately distributed;
- b. Maintain accurate and adequate records of its program and financial activities;
- c. Receive reports from and monitor the progress of other conference commissions;
- d. Receive recommendations for programming and policies from the Connectional and Episcopal Levels and coordinate appropriate program activities;
- e. Develop and monitor the annual budget of the Conference;
- f. Ensure financial policy is adequate and fair;
- g. Respond to Connectional and Episcopal requests, as needed or required;
- h. Oversee the work of a Nominating Committee; and
- i. Serve as the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

The members of the Conference Commission on Administration shall be the Conference President, as Chair, First Vice President,³³ Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, **Financial Secretary**, Director of the Young People's and Children's Division, Promotion and Missionary

Education Director, Historiographer-Statistician, Worship Director, Member-At-Large, Parliamentarian, the Local President and any Area Chairpersons, where they exist.

Section 2. **Commission on Christian Social Action.** The Commission on Christian Social Action shall:

- a. Review, adopt and sponsor social action programs recommended by the Connectional and Episcopal organizations;
- b. Study issues affecting communities in the Conference and develop appropriate strategies to address the issues;
- c. Plan educational activities to help families improve family life;
- d. Partner with community agencies and organizations involved in eradicating poverty and hunger; and
- e. Encourage membership and partnership with organizations as: Church Women United, National Council of Negro Women, Black Women's Agenda, etc.

The members of the Conference Commission on Christian Social Action shall be the First Vice President, as Coordinator, five (5) to fifteen (15) Local Presidents appointed by the Conference President, three (3) At-Large-Members representing family life issues, three (3) At-Large-Members representing global health and housing issues, three (3) At-Large-Members representing legislative or public affairs issues, three (3) At-Large-Members representing rural and special missions issues, and three (3) At-Large-Members representing affiliated and ecumenical group issues. The At-Large-Members shall be appointed by the Conference President.

Section 3. **Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation.** The Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation shall:

- a. Encourage and support spiritual formation and development;
- b. Develop resource material and design activities for spiritual growth and enrichment;
- c. Conduct annual mission and training institutes;
- d. Discover and develop activities in the performing and creative arts;
- e. Promote the use of the arts for enrichment and well-being;
- f. Focus on improving school performance of young people;
- g. Raise visibility and awareness of the Women's Missionary Society;
- h. Create awareness of the responsibilities of Christians, corporate and individual, for peace and justice; and
- i. Encourage advocacy for improving quality of life, especially for women and children.

The members of the Conference Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation shall include the Second Vice President, as Coordinator, the Promotion and Missionary Education Director, the Historiographer-Statistician, the Worship Director, five (5) to fifteen (15) Local Presidents, and five (5) to fifteen (15) At-Large-Members, with expertise in writing, resource development, computer technology, and education library science. The Local Presidents and At-Large-Members shall be appointed by the Conference President.

Section 4. **Commission on Membership and Recruitment.** The Commission on Membership and Recruitment shall:

- a. In collaboration with other commissions, develop programs and plan activities of special interest to Young Adult Members, ages eighteen (18) to forty (40);
- b. Plan strategies designed to involve both women in the church who are not members and Young Adult Members in training and enrichment activities;
- c. Develop a Skills Bank of its members;
- d. Provide advice, training and program models for Conference and Local Levels;
- e. Provide for membership nurture and outreach; and
- f. Plan and conduct the Tanner Turner Memorial Services for all deceased members who

remained on the Conference roll until their demise.

The members of the Conference Commission on Membership and Recruitment shall be the Third Vice President, as Coordinator, the Corresponding Secretary, the Director of the Young People's and Children's Division, Member-At-Large, five (5) to fifteen (15) Local Presidents and two (2) At-Large-Members with expertise in public relations and computer technology. The Local Presidents and At-Large-Members shall be appointed by the Conference Presidents.

Section 5. **Commission Meetings**. The Conference Commissions shall meet at least twice annually, with one (1) of the meetings being held at the site of the first Executive Board Meeting of the Conference year. Special Meetings of a Conference Commission may be called by the President, as needed.

Article IX - Areas

Section 1. **Areas**. If a Conference determines the establishment of Areas will assist in the effective and efficient conduct of its business, the Conference may establish Areas which shall:

- a. Be organized as geographical divisions of the Conference for the purpose of giving information, assistance and providing inspiration to the Local Societies within its boundaries;
- b. Serve as a liaison between the Local and Conference Level;
- c. Stimulate the work of the Local Societies through workshops, panels, institutes, dialogues, discussion groups, visual aids, etc. under the direction of the Conference Commissions; and
- d. Assure that monies raised shall be utilized for the cause of missions. Pay assessments at such time and in such amount as determined by the Conference.

Section 2. **Appointment of Area Chairpersons and Area Directors**. The Conference President shall appoint and supervise all Area Chairpersons. The Conference Director of the Young People's and Children's Division shall, in consultation with the Conference President, appoint all Area Directors of the Young People's and Children's Division.

Area Chairpersons and Area Directors shall act as an interface between the Conference leadership and Local Societies. For this purpose, each Area Chairperson and Area Director shall be assigned a geographical area, as determined by the Conference President, and shall relate to the Local Society leadership in that area. **Area Chairpersons** and Area Directors shall have the specific responsibility of promoting the program goals and objectives of the Women's Missionary Society, within their area of responsibility.

Section 3. **Area Coordinating Council or Elected Officers**. At the first call of an Area Meeting, the Area Chairperson shall hold an election for the election of ten (10) persons to serve on the Area Coordinating Council, or shall hold elections for the election of officers consistent with the Conference elected offices. The Coordinating Council shall oversee the planning and coordination of the work for the Area and fulfill other duties as provided herein.

Section 4. **Area Meetings**. Meetings of the Area shall be held quarterly per year, or at such other times as agreed upon by its members.

Article X - Application of Connectional Bylaws

Unless otherwise provided in the Conference Bylaws, the provisions of the Connectional Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society shall be applicable.

Article XI - Parliamentary Authorities

The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, latest edition, shall govern the proceedings of the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and bylaws and *The Book of Discipline of the A.M.E. Church*.

Article XII - Amendments

These bylaws may be amended as set forth in the *Constitution of the Women's Missionary Society*.

**Women's Missionary Society
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Local Bylaws**

Article I – Name

Section 1. Name; Limitation

- a. **Congregational Organization.** In each local church there may be a Local organization known as the (_____) Women's Missionary Society of (____) African Methodist Episcopal Church, a part of the Conference Level. There shall be only one (1) Local Society in each church.
- b. **Intercongregational Organization.** There may be a Local organization formed for women from two or more congregations, which are too small to form a congregational organization and have no congregational organization. The organization shall be known as the (_____) Women's Missionary Society of (_____) African Methodist Episcopal Churches, a part of the Conference Level. The name of a Local Society should be one that reflects the faithful and dedicated work of a female Supervisor, or Local Society member, living or deceased. No Local Society shall be named for an associate member or Itinerant Elder, living or deceased.

Article II - Responsibilities of the Local Society

To accomplish the mission and purpose of the Women's Missionary Society, the Local Society shall commit to:

- a. **Witness.** Participate in the ministry of the organization beyond its congregation(s), know its community and partner with agencies to provide needed service to the community;
- b. **Advocate.** Urge change in systems and structures which exclude and alienate, and work for peace and justice in the community;
- c. **Membership.** Encourage, recruit, affirm and motivate non-member women, of all ages, to participate in its Unit, providing an intergeneration of caring women;
- d. **Educate.** Provide opportunities to worship and study; and share yearly Study-book curriculum beyond its membership and congregation;
- e. **Stewardship.** Support financially the total program of the Women's Missionary Society.

Article III - Organizational and Structural Framework

Section 1. **Formation of Units.** Each Local Society may divide into Units according to age groups, local interest, or geographical location, for the efficient conduct of its business. Units shall be a component of, not a separate and distinct organization from, the Local Society.

Unit Chairperson. When a Local Society forms a unit, the Local President shall appoint a chairperson of each Unit. A single congregation may establish a Local organization, or two (2) or more congregations may form an intercongregational Local organization.

Section 2. **Structural Determination.** One of the following structural models may be used by a Local Society, so as to provide flexible and alternative structures to meet the needs of the Local church community.

- a. **Team Leadership.** Elected officers shall be the President, Secretary-Treasurer, Promotion and Missionary Education Director, and Director of the Young People's and Children's

Division. Members shall work together to develop programs for Mission Education and Interpretation, Christian Social Action and Membership and Recruitment.

- b. *Traditional Leadership*. The organizational structure and elected officers shall be as the Conference and Episcopal organizations.

Section 3. **Partnership with Conference**. The Local Society shall participate in the meetings, work and activities of **the Episcopal District**, the Conference and the Area, if applicable, to which it is assigned.

Article IV - Membership

Section 1. **Membership**. The provisions in the Connectional Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society shall govern membership in the Local Society.

Section 2. **Ex-Officio Member**. The Pastor(s) shall be an ex-officio member(s) of the Local Society.

Article V - Meetings

Section 1. **Regular**. The Local Society shall hold at least eight (8) meetings per year or more if necessary to transact the business of the society.

Section 2. **Special**. The President upon the request of five (5) members may call special Meetings. Notice of such meetings shall be sent to each member with a statement of the business to be transacted.

Section 3. **Sustentation**. The expenses of the Local President are to be paid by the Local Level of which that officer is a member.

Article VI - Officers; Elections

Section 1. **Team Leadership or Intercongregational Organization**. This Local Society shall have [Name of Officer Positions] elected for a term of one (1) year, but may be re-elected for up to eight (8) years in the same office.

Section 2. **Traditional Leadership**. The elected officers of the Society shall be the same as for the Conference and Episcopal Levels, and shall be elected for one (1) year, but may be re-elected for up to eight (8) years in the same office.

Section 3. **Election of Officers**. All officers shall be elected by ballot, except when there is only one candidate for an office. Voting may be by a voice or hand vote, when there is one candidate for an office. A majority vote shall elect. Elections shall be held following the Annual Conference Meeting.

Article VII - Duties of Officers

Section 1. **President**. The President, working with the Executive Board, shall actively seek to advance all aspects of the work of Women's Missionary Society. She shall:

1. Preside at all meetings of the Local Society, its Executive Board and serve as ex-officio member of all commissions or committees, where they exist;

2. Prepare reports as necessary with other elected officers;
3. Develop, with the Executive Board, a plan to assure the Local Society's fulfillment of its responsibilities as a part of Women's Missionary Society;
4. Represent the Local Society in all meetings;
5. Ensure the constitution and bylaws of the organization are duly observed and the actions are carried into effect;
6. Appoint all committees not provided for;
7. Sign all orders drawn on the treasury for the disbursement of funds;
8. Serve as liaison and communicate with the Conference organization and Area, if applicable; and
9. Chair the Commission on Administration, where one exists.

Section 2. **First Vice President.** The First Vice President, working cooperatively with the President shall:

1. Perform the duties of the President, in her absence or disability;
2. Become President, upon the resignation or death of the President;
3. Chair the Program Committee, where there is one;
4. Plan, evaluate and promote the programs of the organization, in conjunction with the President;
5. Coordinate the public policy and legislative action of the Local Society;
6. Perform such other duties as requested by the President; and
7. Serve as Coordinator for the Commission on Christian Social Action, where one exists.

Section 3. **Second Vice President.** The Second Vice President, where one exists, shall:

1. Perform the duties of the President, in the absence of the President and First Vice President; and
2. Serve as Coordinator for the Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation, where one exists.

Section 4. **Third Vice President.** The Third Vice President, where one exists, shall:

1. Preside, in the absence of the President, First and Second Vice Presidents;
2. Work with the President and Executive Board to determine the needs of the membership, to enlist new members and recommend ways for inactive members to participate;
3. Nurture the current membership, and
4. Serve as Coordinator for the Commission on Membership and Recruitment.

Section 5. **Recording Secretary.** The Secretary shall:

1. Keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the Local Society and its Executive Board and give notice of the meetings;
2. Serve as custodian of all records and official papers;
3. Sign, with the President, all official papers;
4. Keep an accurate up-to-date roll of the Local Society's membership, along with the names of officers;
5. Perform such other duties as the President may assign from time to time;
6. Serve on the Commission on Administration, where one exists;

7. Provide for the gathering and preserving of historical records and documents, where there is no Historiographer-Statistician.

Section 6. **Assistant Recording Secretary**. The Assistant Recording Secretary shall assist the Recording Secretary in performing her duties and in the absence of the Recording Secretary shall perform her duties.

Section 7. **Corresponding Secretary**. The Corresponding Secretary shall prepare and conduct correspondence with members under the direction of the President.

Section 8. **Treasurer**. The Treasurer shall:

1. Become informed concerning the financial responsibility of the Local Society;
2. Disburse funds on order signed by the President;
3. Account for all funds of the Local Society, and work with the Executive Board to develop a plan for receiving funds from individuals or Units on a regular basis;
4. In consultation with the President, establish a budget for the Local Society;
5. Make itemized financial reports to the Society at its regularly scheduled meetings; and
6. Serve on the Commission on Administration, where one exists.

Section 9. **Financial Secretary**. The Financial Secretary shall:

1. Maintain an independent set of records of all financial transactions and
2. Assist with the work in concert with the Treasurer.

Section 10. **Promotion and Missionary Education Director**. The Promotion and Missionary Education Director shall:

1. Present and carry out the Connectional programs and study programs as directed by the Conference organization;
2. Promote mission education opportunities: mission studies, local mission opportunities, and supply material and educational resources for mission programs and projects;
3. Promote and interpret the work of the Connectional, Episcopal and Conference Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation supports; and
4. Serve on the Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation, where one exists.

Section 11. **Director of the Young People's and Children's Division**. The Director of the Young People's and Children's Division shall plan and supervise the work of the young people under the Local Society. She shall provide a report of the young people's work at the regularly scheduled meetings of the Local Society.

Section 12. **Other Officers**. The Local Society may designate other Local officers as the officers provided for on the Connectional, Episcopal and Conference Levels. Such officers' duties shall be as provided in Article VII of the Conference Bylaws, but as applicable to the Local Society.

Section 13. **Annual Officer's Report**. Each elected officer shall report annually at the Local meeting prior to the Annual Conference Meeting and more often if provided in these bylaws or requested by the Local Society.

Article VIII - Executive Board

Section 1. **Membership**. The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers, Life Members, Chairpersons of the Units, three (3) elected At-Large Members, annually by ballot, and any Connectional, Episcopal or Conference Officer, who is member of the congregation. The President shall preside over the meetings of the Executive Board.

Section 2. **Purpose; Duties.** The Executive Board shall set policies required for the effective and efficient functioning of the Local Society, act as the Constitution and Bylaws committee to review and propose amendments to the constitution or bylaws, and plan and facilitate programmatic activities of the Local Society. A Local Society operating under a Team Leadership structure is not required to have an Executive Board, but may as an entire organization or as part of the organization fulfill the functions of the Executive Board.

Article IX - Commissions

For any Local Society operating under the Traditional Leadership structure, the Local Society may establish the same Commissions as provided for on the Connectional, Episcopal and Conference Levels.

Section 1. **Commission on Administration.** The duties of the Commission shall be the same as for the Connectional, Episcopal and Conference Levels, but as applicable to the Local Society. Members of the Commission on Administration shall be the President, serving as chair, First Vice President, Second Vice Presidents, Third Vice President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, **Financial Secretary**, Local Director of the Young People's and Children's Division, Promotion and Missionary Education Director, any other elected officers of the Local Society and Commission Coordinators.

Section 2. **Commission on Christian Social Action.** The duties of the Commission shall be the same as the duties for the commission at the Connectional, Episcopal and Conference Levels but as applicable to the Local Society. The members of the Commission on Christian Social Action shall be At-Large-Members, appointed by the President representing interests in family life, housing, affiliated groups, rural and special missions and legislation.

Section 3. **Commission on Education and Interpretation.** This Commission shall have the same duties as the commission of the Connectional, Episcopal or Conference Levels. Members of the relations, computer technology and education library science, Promotion and Missionary Education Director, Worship Director, and the Historiographer-Statistician

Section 4. **Commission on Membership and Recruitment.** The Membership and Recruitment Commission shall have the same duties as the committee on the Connectional, Episcopal, and Conference Levels. At-Large-Members shall be appointed by the President and possess skills and experience relative to public relations, computer technology and banking

Article X – Application of Connectional Bylaws

Unless otherwise provided in the Local Bylaws, the provisions of the Connectional Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society shall be applicable.

Article XI - Amendments

These bylaws may be amended as set forth in the Constitution of the Women's Missionary Society.

Article XII - Parliamentary Authorities

The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, latest edition, shall govern the proceedings of the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and bylaws and *The Book of Discipline of the A.M.E. Church*.

**Young People's and Children's Division
Women's Missionary Society
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Connectional Bylaws**

Article I - Name

There shall be an organization named the Connectional Young People's and Children's Division, a division of the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of the organization shall be to:

- a. Provide meaningful resources, training and guidance in all areas of church life which encourage full participation in the mission programs and activities of the entire church and this organization;
- b. Provide specific training in Evangelism, Christian Social Relations and Education programs designed to increase knowledge of the African Methodist Episcopal Church History and the Scriptures;
- c. Facilitate and support opportunities for leadership experiences in the church and society;
- d. Enable growth in stewardship in the church;
- e. Advocate for the integrity of childhood and the dignity of all children and youth in our religious, civic and political structures;
- f. Create linkages, establish work synergies and devise schedules to effectively implement and administer meaningful programs and activities for all levels and units of the organization; and
- g. Foster a community, in which children, youth and young adults know each other by name, minister to each other and partner in servicing and witnessing for Jesus Christ.

Article III - Operational and Structural Framework

Section 1. **Review of Policies.** Policies of the organization shall be subject to the review and approval of the Commission on Administration of the Women's Missionary Society.

Section 2. **Connectional Finance.** This organization shall be financed through the Women's Missionary Society and the organization's fiscal year shall be in accordance with the fiscal year of the Women's Missionary Society. All monies shall be deposited with, and budget requests shall be submitted to, the connectional treasury of the Women's Missionary Society.

Section 3. **Structure.** This organization shall be composed of the Episcopal, Conference, and Local Young People's and Children's Division of the Women's Missionary Society, and such Areas as determined by a Conference. The organizations shall be grouped on a territorial basis, with the same boundaries established for the Episcopal, Conference and Local Women's Missionary Society, and such boundaries established by a Conference for its Areas.

Article IV - Membership

Membership shall consist of the following:

Section 1. **Regular**. Any young person of the church **ages** two (2) to twenty-six (26) years of age, who is active and in good and regular standing in their Local organization.

Section 2. **Associate**. Any young men or women who become Itinerant Deacons shall be associate members. Associate members shall be without voting privileges and ineligible to hold office.

Section 3. **Ex-Officio**. Ex-officio members shall be the Bishops, Episcopal Supervisors, Secretary of the Department of Missions, President of the Connectional Women's Missionary Society, and the Connectional, Episcopal and Conference Directors.

Article V - Components of the Young People's and Children's Division

The organization shall consist of:

Section 1. **Sunbeams**. The Sunbeams shall consist of children ages two (2) to six (6) years of age, preschool to primary.

Section 2. **Allen Stars**. The Allen Stars shall consist of Children ages seven (7) to twelve (12).

Section 3. **Youth**. The Youth shall consist of females and males of the ages of thirteen (13) through seventeen (17) years of age.

Section 4. **Young Adults**. Young Adults shall consist of females and males of the ages of eighteen (18) years to twenty-six (26) years.

Section 5. **Promotional Exercises**. Any component may provide for promotional exercises for its members.

Article VI - Connectional Director

Section 1. **Duties of Director**. The Connectional Director shall have supervision over and direct the work of the organization. She shall have on file in her office the names and addresses of Connectional Officers and Connectional Committee Chairpersons, Episcopal Directors and Episcopal Presidents, Conference Directors and Officers to implement the programs of the organization and, in consultation with the Women's Missionary Society, strive to have an organized Young People's and Children's Division in every church where there is a Women's Missionary Society. The Connectional Director shall plan and direct mission programs for children, youth and young adults within the framework of the purpose of the Women's Missionary Society.

Section 2. **Required Signature**. The signature of the Connectional Director shall be affixed to all correspondence of the organization.

Section 3. **Financial Accountability**. The Connectional Director shall receive all monies designated for the organization and account for such monies with the assistance of the Financial Secretary. Upon the accounting for such funds, the Connectional Director shall transfer all such monies and copies of supporting documentation to the connectional treasury housed with the Women's Missionary Society. The Connectional Director shall be responsible for disbursements for the organization, upon the presentation of vouchers to the connectional treasury.

Article VII - Quadrennial Convention

Section 1. **Authority.** The Quadrennial Convention of the Women's Missionary Society shall convene every four (4) years, and shall include the Young People's and Children's Division. The Quadrennial Convention shall be the highest legislative authority of Women's Missionary Society and shall deal with all matters which are necessary in the pursuit of the purpose, goals and objectives of the organization. All amendments to these bylaws shall be approved by the Quadrennial Convention.

The time and place of the Quadrennial Convention shall be determined in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society.

Section 2. **Voting Membership.** The voting members of the Quadrennial Convention, all of which shall be in good and regular standing in their Local organizations, shall consist of:

- a. Elected and appointed officers;
- b. Chairpersons of the Standing Committees;
- c. Episcopal and Conference Presidents; and
- d. Two (2) voting delegates (ages thirteen (13) to twenty-six (26)) from each Conference.

Section 3. **Selection of Voting Delegates.** Delegates to the Quadrennial Convention shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of the Conference Bylaws.

Section 4. **Duties of Delegates.** The duties of delegates shall be to:

- a. Attend all sessions of the convention (if for a serious reason a voting delegate is unable to attend, the alternate delegate shall serve in his or her place); and
- b. Prepare a report on the actions of the convention to be presented to constituencies he or she represents.

Section 5. **Registered Participants.** Registered participants may attend the convention at no additional expenses to the organization. They may participate in the programs and attend the sessions of the convention. They shall have no voice and no vote.

Article VIII - Officers; Election Procedures

Section 1. **Elected Officers.** The elected officers of the Connectional shall be: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Communications Secretary, Parliamentarian, Historiographer-Statistician, Worship Director, Editor of YPD Newsletter, and Associate Editor.

Section 2. **Nominations for Elected Office.** All nominations for elected offices shall be conducted as provided in Article XI, Section 8 of these bylaws. No person shall be listed on the slate of nominees who fails to meet the qualifications as provided by Section 5 herein.

Section 3. **Election of Officers; Ballots.** Officers shall be elected at the Quadrennial Convention by a majority of votes cast. No person shall be permitted to hold more than one elected or appointed office beyond the Local Young People's and Children's Division. No person shall be permitted to hold the same office for more than two (2) consecutive quadrennials (eight (8) years).

All elections shall be by electronic or paper ballot except when there is only one candidate for an office. When there is only one candidate for an office, the vote for that office may be by a show of hands or voice vote.

Section 4. **Term of Office.** The officers shall be elected to serve for a term of four (4) years or until their successors are elected. Their terms of office shall begin immediately following the adjournment of the Quadrennial Convention at which they are elected.

Section 5. **Qualifications to Run for Office.** Any person seeking an elected office shall:

- a. Be active, and in good and regular standing, in his or her Local organization;
- b. Have registered and participated in a Connectional training institute or retreat, or served as a delegate to a Quadrennial Convention prior to the time in which he or she runs;
- c. Be active on and support the Episcopal, Conference, and Area, if applicable;
- d. Be at least 13 years of age, but not older than 22 years of age **at the time of election**; and
- e. Present credentials, as required by the Nominating Committee, bearing the signature of the Episcopal Director and Episcopal Supervisor.

Section 6. **Appointed Officers.** Appointed officers shall be chairpersons of standing committees of the organization. Such officers shall be appointed by the Connectional President in consultation and agreement with the Connectional Director and Episcopal Districts in which the officers hold membership. Anyone appointed chairperson of a standing committee shall be at least thirteen (13) years of age and active on all levels of the organization.

Section 7. **Outgoing Officers.** Outgoing officers shall transfer all records, books, papers and property belonging to the organization to incoming officers within one (1) month of the Quadrennial Convention. Under the direction of the Director, outgoing officers shall communicate with incoming officers within six (6) weeks of the transfer of the organization's records, books, papers and property.

A transition meeting shall be held within six (6) months of the Quadrennial Convention to provide an opportunity for the Director and elected officers to communicate their shared vision.

Section 8. **Disqualification/Removal from Office.** Any officer, elected or appointed, not performing his or her duties may be subject to removal from office.

Any elected officer not performing his or her duties shall be notified in writing by the Connectional Director, with a copy to the Connectional President and the President of the Women's Missionary Society. If such failure to perform continues for a period of ninety (90) days after notification, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Board for action. The Executive Board may remove the elected officer from office for failure to execute her duties and responsibilities as provided in Article X, Section 1.

Any appointed officer not performing his or her duties may be removed by the Connectional President, in consultation and agreement with the Connectional Director, upon the written notification from the Connectional President and Director.

Article IX - Duties of Elected Officers

The elected officers of the organization shall perform the duties prescribed herein.

Section 1. **President**. The President shall:

- a. Preside over Executive Board Meetings and the Quadrennial Convention;
- b. Prepare the agenda, in consultation and agreement with the Connectional Director, for the Executive Board Meetings, Quadrennial Conventions and other official meetings of the organization;
- c. Submit reports to the Quadrennial Convention;
- d. Represent the organization at functions and meetings of the African Methodist Episcopal Church;
- e. Serve as an ex-officio member of Women's Missionary Society;
- f. With the Connectional Director, appoint task forces or committees for necessary duties to carry on the work of the organization which are not otherwise assigned in these bylaws;
- g. Serve as ex-officio member of all committees as may be necessary for the conduct and development of the organization; and
- h. Be at least 18 years of age. One needs to be at least eighteen (18) years of age to be a voting member of the General Board.

Section 2. **First Vice President**. The First Vice President shall:

- a. Serve in the absence of the President, assuming the responsibilities of the same;
- b. Support the President by accepting, when possible, duties and responsibilities assigned by the same; and
- c. Serve as Chairperson of the Program and Planning Committee.

Section 3. **Second Vice President**. The Second Vice President shall:

- a. Serve in the absence of the President and First Vice President;
- b. Coordinate, with the Program and Planning Committee, the yearly activities for Self-Denial Week; and
- c. Serve as Coordinator of the Standing Committees.

Section 4. **Third Vice President**. The Third Vice President shall:

- a. Serve in the absence of the President, First Vice President and Second Vice President.
- b. Serve as the chairperson of the International Relations Committee;
- c. Represent Districts 14-20 when a representative is unable to attend Connectional YPD functions;
- d. Work with the Episcopal District YPD Presidents and Directors from Districts 14-20 to coordinate Connectional YPD projects and activities; and
- e. Be a member in good and regular standing of the organization in Districts 14-20.

Section 5. **Recording Secretary**. The Recording Secretary shall:

- a. Record and keep accurate minutes of all Executive Board Meetings, Quadrennial Conventions and other official meetings of the organization;
- b. Be responsible for all official correspondence for the Executive Board Meetings and Quadrennial Conventions; and

- c. Under the direction of the Connectional President and Connectional Director, perform all other duties common to the office.

Section 6. **Assistant Recording Secretary**. The Assistant Recording Secretary shall:

- a. Assist the Recording Secretary in keeping all records; and
- b. In the absence of the Recording Secretary shall perform such duties.

Section 7. **Financial Secretary**. The Financial Secretary shall:

- a. Keep an accurate record of all monies received and disbursed by the organization;
- b. Serve as Chairperson of the Budget and Financial Estimate Committee and Finance Chair at official meetings of the organization; and
- c. With the Connectional Director, transfer monies received to the connectional treasury and submit vouchers for disbursement to the same.

Section 8. **Communications Secretary**. The Communications Secretary shall:

- a. Be responsible for the youth section of the Women's Missionary Magazine and all other A.M.E. Church publications such as *The Christian Recorder* and *Journal of Religious Education*;
- b. Stimulate interest for subscriptions to periodicals of the African Methodist Episcopal Church;
- c. Correspond with the members of the Connectional Executive Board in the interim of board meetings.

Section 9. **Parliamentarian**. The Parliamentarian shall:

- a. Ensure that the Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society and the Bylaws of the Young People's and Children's Division, the current Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, are followed at all meetings;
- b. Serve as Vice Chairperson of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee; and
- c. Interpret any rules during the course of meetings.

Section 10. **Historiographer-Statistician**. The Historiographer-Statistician shall:

- a. Have responsibility for gathering data pertaining to the history of the organization;
- b. Conduct a census each Quadrennial;
- c. Keep an accurate enrollment of the members of the organization; and
- d. Through the Director, provide such historical data and membership enrollment to the Historiographer-Statistician of the Connectional Women's Missionary Society.

Section 11. **Worship Director**. The Worship Director shall:

- a. Coordinate the planning of worship services for the Executive Board Meetings and Quadrennial Conventions with the members of the Program Planning Committee;
- b. Serve as a member of the Program Planning Committee; and
- c. Promote special times and events for meditations and devotions/worship experiences at meetings.

Section 12. **Editor of YPD Newsletter**. The Editor of the YPD Newsletter shall:

- a. Receive and edit the news for the organization's newsletter under the supervision of the Connectional Director; and
- b. Communicate with the Episcopal District Presidents and Directors.

Section 13. **Associate Editor**. The Associate Editor of the Newsletter shall:

- a. Work in cooperation with the Editor in receiving and editing news and articles from Districts 14-20 for the organization's newsletter, under the supervision of the Connectional Director;
- b. Communicate with the Episcopal District Presidents and Directors from Districts 14-20.

Article X - Executive Board

Section 1. **Duties of the Board**. The duties of the Executive Board shall be to:

- a. Serve as the interim governing body of the organization between Quadrennial Conventions by carrying on the business of the organization, within the policies of the convention and reporting its actions to the subsequent Quadrennial Convention; except that it may not take any action that is reserved exclusively for the Quadrennial Convention or that is in conflict with the Quadrennial Convention;
- b. Perform the duties prescribed by the constitution and bylaws;
- c. Periodically review the work of the organization, and through the Director and President, make such recommendations to the Commission on Administration of the Connectional Women's Missionary Society as it deems wise;
- d. Review such reports as prepared by various officers, committees and the Episcopal, Conference, or Local organizations;
- e. Determine whether any elected officer is unable or unwilling to serve;
- f. Fill vacancies occurring for elected officers: Should an elected officer become unable or unwilling to fulfill his or her respective duties, the board shall be empowered to declare said office vacant and to elect a successor to complete the unexpired term. Such successor may be eligible for election to the same office at the next Quadrennial Convention if he or she is within the proper guidelines established by these bylaws. To choose a successor, the Board shall use the following guidelines:
 - i. The nominee(s) must meet age limits as required by the bylaws;
 - ii. The first runner-up from the Quadrennial Convention for the vacated position will be invited to run for said office;
 - iii. The vacant position will be publicized through the periodicals and communications networks of the Women's Missionary Society and the organization; and
 - iv. The Executive Board will elect the replacement with a simple majority vote.
- g. Approve and prepare a yearly budget for the organization, under the direction of the Connectional Director and President, for transmittal to the Commission on Administration of the Women's Missionary Society.

Section 2. **Composition of Executive Board**. The Executive Board shall be composed of:

- a. Elected officers;
- b. Chairpersons of the standing committees;
- c. Episcopal presidents;
- d. Immediate past president of the organization, as an ex-officio member; and

- e. The director, Episcopal directors and the president of the women's missionary society, in an advisory capacity.

Section 3. **Meetings**. The Executive Board shall meet annually, or at such other specially called meetings as determined by the Connectional president or Connectional director, in consultation and agreement with each other. A majority of the members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

Article XI - Standing Committees

The following committees are established to implement and facilitate the goals, objectives, programs and projects of the organization.

Section 1. **Program Planning**. This committee, consisting of all standing committee chairpersons, shall be responsible for:

- a. Planning and implementing study courses on the Bible, the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Black Studies and current mission study themes;
- b. Developing programs and courses which enhance leadership skills to prepare children, youths and young adults for leadership roles;
- c. Providing creative opportunities on all levels for children, youths and young adults to experience the awareness of God's presence in their midst and respond to that presence with devotion and commitment; and
- d. Sponsoring programs and activities which help members transition from the organization to the larger community of organizations in the Women's Missionary Society and the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Section 2. **Membership Outreach**. The duties of the Membership Outreach Committee shall be to:

- a. Plan strategies to reach out, nurture and affirm members and other children, youths and young adults to join and actively participate in the organization;
- b. Develop programs and other events to motivate members and other young people to be a strong witness in Christian faith by participating in mission endeavors, Evangelistic Crusades and other ministries;
- c. Prepare and circulate model programs of welcome for new members and awards for others; and
- d. Plan Self Denial-Week and implement the Young People's and Children's Division on the Field (YPDOTF), in conjunction with the Christian Social Relations Committee, Second Vice-President and Director, in all areas.

Section 3. **Christian Social Relations**. This Committee shall:

- a. Help children, youth and young adults understand community and social needs and, on the basis of Christian conviction, work to meet those needs through personal influence and group action;
- b. Plan supervised forums, educational activities, programs and discussions on vital subjects pertaining to family life, including but not limited to inviting speakers who are specialists in such fields as dating, courtship, choosing a career, financial management, marriage, parenting, and geriatrics;

- c. Bridge the gap between the church and the community on political and social issues (children and senior advocacy), juvenile delinquency, prison reform, migrant ministries, drugs, alcohol, HIV/Aids and other social diseases;
- d. Involve children, youth and young adults in community activities and churchmanship (participation in the life of the local church) and stewardship (time, talent, and material possessions); and
- e. Work in cooperation with the Membership Outreach Committee in planning Self-Denial Week and implementing the Young People's and Children's Division on the Field (YPDOTF).

Section 4. **Budget and Financial Estimates**. This committee shall be chaired by the Financial Secretary and shall:

- a. Study the complete financial picture of the organization, organizational needs and interpret the same to the Districts and the Conferences;
- b. Suggest financial resources and help plan projects to raise the finances needed by the organization; and
- c. Prepare a yearly budget request for transmittal to the Executive Board of the organization, at such time as to permit the Executive Board's review and approval of the budget request prior to transmittal to the Commission on Administration of the Connectional Women's Missionary Society.

Section 5. **Constitution and Bylaws**. This committee shall:

- a. Study, analyze and revise suggested recommendations for changes to the constitution and bylaws received from the Conferences through the Episcopal Districts with the signature of the Episcopal Supervisor, and/or President, Director; and
- b. Submit recommendations for revisions of the constitution and bylaws to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee of the Connectional Women's Missionary Society, at such times and in such time periods as provided in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society.

Section 6. **International Relations**. The International Relations Committee shall:

- a. Provide opportunities for children, youth and young adults to exchange ideas, programs, and objectives for **Districts 1 - 20**;
- b. Facilitate and encourage through intercultural exchange and understanding via pen pals;
- c. Encourage participation in the Sojourners Program and other mission programs of the Women's Missionary Society and the African Methodist Episcopal Church; and
- d. Keep up and facilitate the organization's work, by providing study materials, funds for specific projects and other scholarship assistance for members.

Section 7. **Campus Ministry**. This committee shall:

- a. Enhance the religious life and spiritual values on campuses and clarify moral and ethical concerns;
- b. Nurture the spiritual values of students by commitment to Bible study and emphasis on critical thinking, learning how to interpret and understand the Bible properly;

- c. Emphasize the traditions of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and provide opportunities for the involvement of African Methodist Episcopal Church students on college/university campuses;
- d. Counsel with and/or direct persons to the appropriate agencies when they are faced with personal challenges;
- e. Provide a place for students to gather for Christian fellowship, Bible Study, prayer, discussions and other activities;
- f. Obtain the names of organizational members on college campuses, to share with members attending the college/university and to facilitate units on campuses to affiliate with local churches, the Conference and the Episcopal District in which the college/university is located; and
- g. Secure the names and learn about the needs of overseas students of the church in schools in the United States and attempt to meet and interact with them, thereby making their educational stay in the United States more enlightening, enriching and productive. Names of such students shall be shared with the Episcopal Districts and Conferences.

Section 8. **Nominating**. The Nominating Committee shall:

- a. Select and present nominees and report these nominees to the Quadrennial Convention;
- b. At least seven (7) months prior to the Quadrennial Convention call for nominations through a notice published in an official periodical of the Women's Missionary Society (and any other appropriate publication). Such notice shall also indicate how a nomination form may be obtained. Nomination forms shall be sent to Executive Board members and Episcopal Supervisors for distribution to interested persons. The nomination form shall request individuals to give biographical data and other information which will aid in the selection of candidates. On receipt of all information the Nominating Committee shall meet and select final candidates meeting the qualifications herein and whose names will be placed on the ballot according to the procedures within these bylaws;
- c. Create and provide the necessary credential forms to all prospective nominees for office. Such credential forms shall be returned by prospective nominees, bearing the signature of the Episcopal Director and Supervisor, no later than ninety (90) days prior to the Quadrennial Convention; and
- d. Prepare a ballot of nominees for office to be presented at the Quadrennial Convention. Nominations shall not be accepted from the floor of the Quadrennial Convention. Members of the committee shall be ineligible for nomination to any position to be filled.

Section 9. **Evaluation Committee**. This committee shall survey the strengths and weaknesses of each meeting, make recommendations for improvement, and provide recommendations for meeting topics. This committee shall distribute and utilize evaluation sheets for this purpose.

Section 10. **Voter Registration**. The Voter Registration Committee shall develop a program that promotes and encourages young people to register to vote and actively participate in the democratic process.

Section 11. **Monique Gonzales Memorial**. This committee shall plan and conduct a memorial service, during each Quadrennial Convention, for deceased members of the organization.

Section 12. **Selection of Committee Members**. Each Episcopal District shall be represented on each standing committee. No Episcopal District shall have more than one member, and the terms of the members' appointments shall be consistent with the terms of office of the elected and appointed officers as provided in Article VII, Section 4 of these bylaws.

Article XII - Leadership Training Institute

The Executive Board shall plan an annual Leadership Institute designed to:

- a. Provide experiences for learning and leadership development;
- b. Equip participants to grow as whole persons, develop their potential and prepare them for leadership in missions and ministry;
- c. Establish a network for preparing and supporting youths and young adult leaders in the African Methodist Episcopal Church; and
- d. Motivate participants to practice interdependence and teamwork, returning to their church communities assisting with leadership development.

Article XIII - Self-Denial Week

The week of May 7-14, known as the Founder's Week of the organization, shall be observed as Self-Denial Week and carried out in local churches through the organization. Throughout the week, the members of the Local organization may sponsor essay contests, worship programs, community service projects and other similar activities.

Section 1. Every Self-Denial Week shall be featured with one or more service projects and a Self-Denial Offering.

Section 2. The Self-Denial Offering shall be used annually for a scholarship and other awards.

Article XIV - Parliamentary Authorities

The current Constitution and Bylaws of Women's Missionary Society, the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern the proceedings of the organization.

Article XV - Amendments

These bylaws may be amended only as provided in Article XIII, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and shall not be in conflict with Bylaws of the Connectional Women's Missionary Society or the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Article XVI - Organization Colors

The colors shall be forest green and white or black and white. Green is symbolic of growth and Christian vitality, white represents purity, light and faith, and black is symbolic of the strength of our African heritage.

**Article XVII - Application of Connectional Bylaws to the
Episcopal, Conference and Local Organizations**

Unless otherwise provided in the Episcopal, Conference and Local Bylaws, the provisions herein shall apply to such organizations of the Young People's and Children's Division.

**Young People's and Children's Division
Women's Missionary Society
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Episcopal Bylaws**

Article I - Name

In each Episcopal District, there shall be an organization known as the Episcopal Young People's and Children's Division of the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Article II - Purpose

To accomplish the purposes of the organization, each Episcopal organization shall:

- a. Coordinate and unify the work of the Conference organization, including the receiving and compiling of reports from the Conferences and providing necessary reports to the Connectional organization;
- b. Develop responsible and visionary leadership through training and experience;
- c. In partnership with the Connectional and Conferences organizations, develop networks for timely and effective communication among all levels and units;
- d. Foster cooperative and interdependent relationships among the Connectional, Episcopal, Conference and Local organizations; and
- e. Provide opportunities for the financial support of the total program of the organization.

Article III - Operational and Structural Framework

Section 1. **Connectionalism**. This organization shall be the liaison between the Connectional, Conference and Local Young People's and Children's Divisions, providing a means by which to foster relationships and encounters of the organization to enhance the accomplishments of the purposes of the organization.

Section 2. **Reporting**. All reports required by the Connectional organization shall be provided to the Episcopal Director and President for review and transmission to the Connectional Director.

Section 3. **Evaluations**. The Episcopal Director, in conjunction with the Episcopal Supervisor and Episcopal President, shall establish a process for a periodic evaluation of current mission programs being carried out in the Episcopal District in light of the changing needs of children, youths and young adults in our church and society.

Article IV - Voting Members

Section 1. **Members**. Members of the Episcopal organization shall be:

- a. Episcopal Officers;
- b. Chairpersons of Episcopal Standing Committees;
- c. Connectional Officers, elected or appointed, who reside in the Episcopal District;
- d. Conference Presidents; and
- e. All elected delegates.

Section 2. **Ex-Officio Members.** The Episcopal Supervisor, Episcopal President, Episcopal Director and Conference Directors of the Young People's and Children's Division, who are members of the Women's Missionary Society, shall be ex-officio members of the Episcopal organization.

Article V - Episcopal Director

Section 1. **Appointment.** The Episcopal Director shall be appointed by the presiding bishop. Her name must be registered in the office of the Connectional Young People's and Children's Division no later than thirty (30) days after her appointment has been certified.

Section 2. **Qualifications for Episcopal Director.** The Episcopal Director shall demonstrate experience with, and a commitment to, children, young people and young adults and their challenges.

Section 3. **Duties of Episcopal Director.** The Episcopal Director shall:

- a. Have supervision and direction of the work of the Episcopal Young People's and Children's Division;
- b. Work with the Conference Directors and keep in close communication with all Episcopal officers to implement the total program of the organization;
- c. Receive and deposit Episcopal funds in the name of the organization and submit regular reports to the Episcopal Level;
- d. Be responsible for preparing and issuing reports annually, after the Annual Meeting, to the Episcopal Supervisor. The Episcopal Supervisor shall forward any required reports to the Office of the Connectional Director; and
- e. Keep in close communication with the Connectional Director and maintain close relations with the Episcopal Supervisor and Episcopal President.

Article VI - Officers; Duties; Elections

Section 1. **Requirements To Hold Office.** Any member of the Episcopal organization, who is also active in the Conference, Local and Area organizations, if any, may hold office if he or she is at least thirteen (13) years, but not older than twenty-five (25) years of age.

Section 2. **Elected Officers; Duties.** The elected Episcopal officers, and their respective duties, shall be the same as for the Connectional Young People's and Children's division. No person shall be permitted to hold more than one elected or appointed office beyond the Local level.

Section 3. **Appointed Officers; Duties.** The Episcopal President in consultation with the Episcopal Director shall appoint the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees, whose duties shall be the same as the Connectional Chairpersons.

Section 4. **Election of Officers; Terms.** Officers shall be elected annually at the Episcopal Meeting, except for the year preceding the Quadrennial Convention in which there shall be no election. No person, elected or appointed, shall be permitted to hold the same office more than two (2) consecutive quadrennials.

Section 5. **Attendance at Meetings.** All elected and appointed officers are expected to attend all Episcopal and Connectional meetings whenever possible. An officer's local church shall be responsible for the expense of such officer's attendance at meetings of the Episcopal and Connectional organizations.

Section 1. **Composition**. The Episcopal Executive Board shall be composed of:

- a. Elected Episcopal Officers;
- b. Chairpersons of Standing Committees;
- c. Conference Presidents;
- d. Connectional Officers, elected or appointed, who reside in the **Episcopal District**;
- e. The Episcopal Director and Conference **Directors**, in an advisory capacity; and
- f. The immediate past Episcopal President, as an ex-officio member.

Section 2. **Meetings and Agendas**. The Episcopal President, in consultation with the Episcopal Director, shall determine the agenda of Executive Board Meetings. The Episcopal President shall preside over the Executive Board Meeting.

Article VIII - Standing Committees

The Standing Committees, including committee duties, of the Episcopal organization shall be the same as the Connectional Young People's and Children's Division.

Article IX - Leadership Training and Young People's Institute

The Episcopal organization shall hold an annual Leadership Training and Young People's Institute. Said institute shall be planned by the Executive Board under the chairmanship of the First Vice President.

Article X - Delegates

The Episcopal President, by virtue of the office held, shall be the only Episcopal delegate to the Quadrennial Convention.

Article XI - Application of Connectional Young People's and Children's Division Bylaws

Unless otherwise provided herein, the Connectional Young People's and Children's Division Bylaws shall be applicable.

**Young People's and Children's Division
Women's Missionary Society
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Conference Bylaws**

Article I - Name

In each conference there shall be an organization named the Conference Young People's and Children's Division of the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Article II - Purpose

Each Conference organization, including any Areas established, in partnership with the Connectional and Episcopal organizations shall assist the Local Level to fulfill the purposes of the organization.

Article III - Operational and Structural Framework

Section 1. **Connectionalism**. The Conference, with the assistance of its Areas, shall be the connecting link between the Episcopal, Local and the Connectional organizations.

Section 2. **Determination of Need for Areas**. In consultation with the Local Directors, the Conference Director shall make a determination of a need for Areas. If its determined that Areas are needed, the Conference Director, with the assistance of Local Directors, may organize Areas which shall be governed by Article XII of these bylaws.

Section 3. **Organization of Areas**. Areas shall be organized by a Conference to help unify the work of the Local and Conference organizations and to stimulate the same through workshops, seminars and other activities and media, so as to be a connecting link for a Local to the Conference organizations. A Conference shall organize an Area as geographically practical as possible. Areas shall work interdependently with the Local and Conference Levels to fulfill the purpose of the organization.

Article IV - Conference Director

Section 1. **Election of Director; Term of Office**. The Conference Director shall be elected by the organization yearly at its annual meeting, except in the year of the Quadrennial Convention, in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws of the Conference Women's Missionary Society. However, any person elected Conference Director shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive quadrennials, or eight (8) years.

Section 2. **Qualifications for Director**. Anyone who is elected Conference Director shall demonstrate experience with, and a commitment to, children, young people and young adults and their challenges. In determining the qualifications of any person seeking this office, the Conference Women's Missionary Society may obtain comments from young persons.

Section 3. **Duties of Director**. The duties and responsibilities of the Conference Director shall be to:

- a. Oversee and direct the work of the Conference;
- b. Ensure accurate accounts and statistics are maintained on behalf of the Conference and timely provided to the Episcopal;
- c. Receive and deposit funds in the name of the Conference;
- d. Make regular reports to the Conference organization concerning the work of the Conference, with observations and recommendations affecting the organization; and
- e. Appoint, after consultation with the Conference President, the **Area Directors**.

Article V - Officers in General; Elections

Section 1. **Elected and Appointed Officers**. The officers of this organization shall be, and their duties, the same as for the Connectional and Episcopal organizations, unless otherwise provided herein. No person shall be permitted to hold more than one (1) elected or appointed office beyond the Local Level or to hold the same office more than two (2) consecutive quadrennials, or eight (8) years.

Section 2. **Election of Officers**. Officers shall be elected annually, except for the year preceding the Quadrennial Convention in which there shall be no election. In order to serve as an officer in the Conference, a person must meet the qualifications provided in Article VIII, Section 5 of the *Bylaws of the Connectional Young People's and Children's Division*.

Section 3. **Standing Committees**. Standing Committees of the Conference organization shall be the same as the Standing Committees of the Connectional and Episcopal Levels, with the same duties as provided for such Standing Committees. Committee Chairpersons will work interdependently with their Episcopal and Connectional counterparts to fulfill the duties of chairpersons and to carry out the programmatic functions and responsibilities of the Standing Committees.

Section 4. **Disqualification/Removal**. Any Conference officer, elected or appointed, not performing his or her duties, including but not limited to, a failure to attend Annual and Quarterly Meetings or to keep in close communications with the Conference Director, may be subject to removal from office.

An elected officer not performing his or her duties shall be notified in writing by the Conference Director, with a copy to the Conference President. If such failure to perform continues for a period of **sixty (60) days** after notification, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Board for action. The Executive Board may remove the elected officer from office for failure to execute her duties and responsibilities as provided in these bylaws.

Any appointed officer not performing his or her duties may be removed by the Conference President, in consultation and agreement with the Conference Director, upon the written notification from the Conference President and Conference Director.

Article VI - Duties of Officers

Section 1. **Conference President**. In addition to his or her other duties, the Conference President shall preside at all meetings and keep in close communication with the Conference Director, Episcopal Director and Connectional President.

Section 2. **Historiographer-Statistician.** The Historiographer-Statistician shall keep an accurate record of all new and old members and shall keep account of all members and persons registering and attending each Quarterly Meeting and Annual Meeting. She or he shall make a list and record of local churches in the Conference and the members of the Local organizations, and shall be responsible for making a statistical report to the Episcopal Director for the Conference.

Article VII - Standing Committees

The Standing Committees of the Conference shall be the same, and their respective duties the same, as the Standing Committees of the Connectional Young People's and Children's Division, as provided in Article XI of the Connectional Bylaws.

Article VIII - Members; Voting Privileges

Section 1. **Members.** Members of the Conference are as provided in Article IV of the Connectional Bylaws of the Young People's and Children's Division.

Section 2. **Requirements to Vote or Hold Office.** Any member, active in the local organization, and who is at least 13-25 years of age, shall be allowed to hold office and to vote.

Section 3. **Voting Membership.** Voting members of the Conference shall be Elected Officers of the Conference, Connectional and Episcopal Officers residing within the Conference, Area, Local Presidents and delegates who have registered and attended at least one (1) annual convention of the Conference and are active in the local organization.

Article IX - Delegates

Section 1. **Delegates and Alternates.** There shall be two (2) elected delegates and two (2) alternates from each Conference to the Quadrennial Convention. The Conference President shall be the leader of the Conference delegation.

Section 2. **Requirements for Delegates.** Members of the Conference who wish to become a delegate or an alternate to a Quadrennial Convention must be active in their Local organizations, and their Area organizations if applicable, and present credentials bearing the signature of their Local Director and Area Director, if applicable.

Article X - Executive Board

Section 1. **Composition.** The Conference Executive Board shall be composed of:

- a. Elected Officers of the Conference;
- b. Chairpersons of Standing Committees of the Conference;
- c. Area Chairpersons;
- d. Connectional and Episcopal Officers, elected or appointed, residing in the Conference;
- e. Conference Director, Area Directors and the Conference President of the Women's Missionary Society, sitting in an advisory capacity; and
- f. The immediate past president of the Conference, as an ex-officio member.

Section 2. **Meetings and Agendas**. The Conference President, in consultation with the Conference Director, shall prepare and determine the agenda of Executive Board Meetings.

Article XI - Meetings

Section 1. **In General**. Meetings of the Conference shall be held under the direction and supervision of the Conference Director and presided over by the Conference President.

Section 2. **Timing of Annual Meeting**. The annual meeting of the Conference shall be held at the time and place separate and distinct from the annual meeting of the Conference Women's Missionary Society, so the Conference Directors may participate in sessions of the Conference Women's Missionary Society.

Section 3. **Council**. The organization may hold a council to devise plans to meet the needs of the Conference. Such council shall be called by the Conference Director and presided over by the Conference President.

Article XII - Conference Areas

If a Conference organizes an Area, the Area unit shall be governed by applicable provisions of the bylaws and as provided herein.

Section 1. **Duties of the Area Director**. The Area Director shall:

- a. Meet with the Local Directors to discuss means and ways of improving the overall work of the Local and Area Levels and means of facilitating programs and activities of the Local Level; and
- b. Report to and keep the Conference Director informed of the activities, finances, recommendations and needs of the Area.

Section 2. **Area Membership**. Area membership shall consist of members as defined by the Conference Bylaws, provided such persons are members of a Local organization within the designated boundaries of such Area.

Section 3. **Area Meetings**. Meetings of the Area shall be held quarterly per year, or at such other times as agreed upon by its members, for the purpose of mission education work and/or other projects under the supervision of the Area President. Local Directors may assist in the planning and holding of such meetings.

Section 4. **Area Officers**. An Area may have the same, or fewer, elected officers as the Connectional, Episcopal and Conference. If an Area decides to have less elected officers, the Area may combine the duties of two (2) or more closely related offices. Any changes to achieve fewer elected officers shall be provided in writing to the Conference Director and the Conference President.

Section 5. **Finances**. All monies collected by an Area shall be reported and provided to the Conference.

Article XIII - Application of Provisions

Unless otherwise provided herein, the Connectional Bylaws of the Young People's and Children's Division shall be applicable.

**Young People's and Children's Division
Women's Missionary Society
African Methodist Episcopal Church
Local Bylaws**

Article I - Name

There shall be an organization named the Young People's and Children's Division, in every local church where there is a Women's Missionary Society.

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to implement mission programs and activities in local communities to fulfill the purpose of the organization, by providing a training ground for later Christian service to the Women's Missionary Society and the African Methodist Episcopal Church. To accomplish the purpose, the Young People's and Children's Division commits to:

- a. Come together to study the Bible, the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society and Bylaws of the Young People's and Children's Division;
- b. Perform service projects in the community;
- c. Conduct and participate in workshops on Christian Social Relations and Family Life dealing with such topics as drugs and alcohol abuse, personal development, juvenile delinquency, teenage sexuality, communication, social morals, etc.;
- d. Pursue experiences for leadership development in the church and community; and
- e. Build a community of children, youth and young adults that strengthen the organization and church.

Article III - Operational and Structural Framework

Section 1. **Organizational Relationships.** A Young People's and Children's Division established under these provisions shall be amenable to the Local Women's Missionary Society.

Section 2. **Intercongregational Local.** A Local Women's Missionary Society organized as an intercongregational organization, in accordance with the *Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society*, shall establish an intercongregational Young People's and Children's Division. When an intercongregational Young People's and Children's Division is formed, the Local Women's Missionary Society shall provide such information through the Conference Level to the Episcopal organization. The Episcopal organization shall transmit such information to the Connectional organization.

Section 3. **Reports.** The organization shall provide yearly to the Conference Level a list of its members, the Local Director and Local Advisors.

Article IV - Local Director and Advisors

Section 1. **Election of Local Director.** The Local Director of the Young People's and Children's Division shall be elected by the Local Women's Missionary Society. The Local Director shall be an active member of the Local Women's Missionary Society. The local Pastor shall certify that a background check has been completed within the last two (2) years as required by the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church under the Sexual Misconduct Section (page 274 of the 2012 Discipline). Local Pastor shall be the custodian of record.

Section 2. **Selection of Local Advisors.** The Sunbeams, Allen Stars and Youth and Young Adult Auxiliary shall have youth or young adult Advisors. The Advisors shall be selected by the Local Director and approved by the Local Women's Missionary Society. Advisors must be members of the Local Women's Missionary Society, Youth and Young Adult Auxiliary or Young Adult Members, ages eighteen (18) - forty (40) years of age, of the Local Women's Missionary Society. The local Pastor shall certify that a background check has been completed within the last two (2) years as required by the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church under the Sexual Misconduct Section (page 274 of the 2012 Discipline). Local Pastor shall be the custodian of record.

Article V - Members; Voting Privileges; Dues

Section 1. **Member.** Members and classification of members shall be as provided in Article IV of the Bylaws of the Connectional Young People's and Children's Division.

Section 2. **Eligibility to Vote and Hold Office.** Any member who is at least thirteen (13) to twenty-five (25) years of age is eligible to vote and hold office.

Section 3. **Membership Dues.** The payment of dues and the time for such payment shall be determined by the organization.

Article VI - Delegates

Section 1. **Number of Delegates.** Each Local Society is entitled to one (1) delegate for every fifteen (15) members or a fraction thereof to the Annual Conference Meeting.

Article VII - Officers; Duties; Committees

Section 1. **Officers.** Officers and their duties may be the same as for the Connectional, Episcopal, and Conference officers of the Young People's and Children's Division. Officers shall be elected annually.

The organization may limit its number of elected and appointed officers, due to its size or other reasons, or use a team leadership approach permitting leadership to be shared and decisions to generally be made by consensus.

Section 2. **Committees.** Standing Committees and their duties may be the same as the Connectional, Episcopal and Conference Levels, or they may be combined or limited as appropriate. In making a decision regarding Standing Committees, the organization is encouraged to determine the committees and programs most appropriate and workable in their church community.

Article VIII - Meetings

Local meetings shall be held once a month, or at such time as determined by the members of the organization.

Article IX - Self - Denial Week

Section 1. **Sponsorship.** The organization shall sponsor Self-Denial programs during the week of May 7- 14 for the purpose of encouraging commitment to Christ and assisting in the financial support of the Connectional Christian Social Outreach.

Section 2. **Funds**. All monies raised during Self-Denial Week shall be sent through the Area and/or Conference Levels to the Episcopal Director who shall forward such monies to the Connectional Director.

Section 3. **Essay Contest Emphasis**. Members of the organization should be encouraged to participate in the Essay Contest which is part of the Self-Denial program.

Article X - Offering

The organization may ask for and receive the Missionary Offering of its church on each fourth Sunday. This money is to be used for mission activities and programs.

Article XI - Funds; Reports

The organization may, with the assistance of the Local Women's Missionary Society, raise their own funds and disburse the same. They shall submit, on a regular basis, such reports as required to the Local Women's Missionary Society.

Article XII - Annual Day

The organization shall sponsor an Annual Young People's and Children's Day. The program shall be educational, with the purpose of stimulating the work and increasing the membership of the organization.

Article XIII - Application of Provisions

Unless otherwise provided herein, the Connectional Bylaws of the Young People's and Children's Division shall be applicable.

APPENDIX A

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORDER OF THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

WMS Colors and Attire

- I. The colors of the Women's Missionary Society shall be white with a touch of royal blue.
- II. The Attire shall be one of the following:
 - A. All white – appropriate length suits or dresses, pant suits, white jewelry, WMS pin
 - B. White with touch of royal blue accessories, WMS pin
 - C. Life Members – all white with Life Member Stole, WMS pin
 - D. Associate Members – white or black suits with white/blue tie
- III. The colors and attire of the WMS for Districts 14 – 20 may include the leopard attire uniform – black robe, white collar and leopard skin cap. *This does not apply to District 16.*

Color Symbolism

White – symbolic of purity of life and conversation; light that shines more and more, and faith.

Royal Blue – symbolic of peace and healing Power of God; it has positive effects on the mind and body; it represents trust, loyalty, sincerity, wisdom, confidence and faith.

Leopard Skin or Leopard Skin Design Material – symbolic of grace, quickness, determination and endurance to fight sin and to defend righteousness.

APPENDIX B
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ORDER OF THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

ROBING CEREMONY

THE PROCESSIONAL

Persons to be inducted, program participants, Episcopal, and
Conference Officers

THE DOXOLOGY

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

THE OPENING HYMN THE

PRAYER

THE SELECTION THE

SCRIPTURE

THE ADDRESS (On Being a Good Missionary)

THE HYMN

THE EXAMINATION OF INDUCTEES (The persons to be inducted shall be brought forward to the designated place, facing those persons who will perform the ceremony during the singing of the last verse of the hymn.) Then shall the following be said:

SPEAKER #1: It is fit and proper that we address these questions to you who desire membership in this Society. It was established in the United States of America by our illustrious founder and in this country by a group of noble Christian women.

QUESTIONER #1: Do you believe in your heart that the step you are about to take will be pleasing in the sight of God?

ANSWER: I do so believe, the Lord being my helper.

QUESTIONER #2: Do you entertain friendly feelings towards the members of the Women's Missionary Society?

ANSWER: Yes, I do, the Lord being my helper.

QUESTIONER #3: Are you prepared to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, as well as those which govern the Women's Missionary Society?

ANSWER: Yes, I am prepared, the Lord being my helper.

QUESTIONER #1: The uniform we wear is not for outward show; each part of it has a special meaning in our society. We will ask you two more questions after the explanation of the uniform is explained to you.

EXPLAINER #2: The Robe—black in color, it is a symbol of the strength of our African heritage of mourning for those who persist in their rebellion against God, and who commit acts displeasing in the sight of God. (The first verse of suitable hymn is sung while a robe is displayed to the inductees.)

EXPLAINER #2: The Collar—in its whiteness symbolizes purity in life and conversation, and the whiteness of the light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The "V" shape of the collar represent victory over sin and confusion. The Badge—which joins them together—is an emblem of the tie which binds together the determination in the leopard, a common grief for those who offend God (The second verse of same hymn is sung while the collar and badge is displayed to the inductees.)

EXPLAINER #3: The Cap—made of the skin of a leopard and/or leopard skin design material remarkable for its grace, quickness, and endurance—is for us a symbol of determination to fight sin and to defend righteousness. (The third verse of same hymn is sung while the cap is displayed to the inductees.)

QUESTIONER #1: Do you faithfully promise to wear this uniform with honor and integrity to the Glory of God of His church, as well as for the promotion of the cause of mission?

ANSWER: This I faithfully promise, the Lord being my helper.

QUESTIONER #2: Do you promise that you will give with a willing heart and hand to the financial and spiritual welfare of the Society?

ANSWER: This I faithfully promise, the Lord being my helper.

SPEAKER #1: If you are determined by God's help to fulfill these promises which you have undertaken to observe, we shall robe you now. *(Here the robe, collar, badge, and cap shall be placed on the inductees. Each shall be robed together, then comes the collar to each, then the badge to each, finally, the cap to each. These items should be presented/placed on each by their Local or Area or Conference or Episcopal heads or a combination of the same.)*

THE OFFERING FOR MISSIONS

(During the offering for missions the inductees shall be placed in a suitable area so that those giving in the offering may congratulate them as they pass the offering table.)

THE CLOSING HYMN: (Audience forms a circle and joins hands) THE

DOXOLOGY - MISSIONARY BENEDICTION:

"In the Name of the Triune God
May the Spirit of Christian Missions
Enter Every Heart
This We Ask in Jesus' Name" Amen

NOTE: The missionary uniform should be worn at all regular meetings of the Society, on special days, i.e., Good Friday and Easter; at the funeral of a member of the Society and other official occasions or when so directed by responsible officers of the Society.

APPENDIX C

Y.P.D. Colors and Uniforms

- I. The Uniforms of the Young People's and Children's Division shall be:
 - A. Forest Green and White
 1. Young Ladies
 - a. Forest Green Skirt
 - b. Forest Green / White Blazer or Jersey
 - c. White Skirt
 - d. Y.P.D. Badge/Pin
 2. Young Men
 - a. Forest Green / Khaki Trousers
 - b. Forest Green / White Blazer or Jersey
 - c. White shirt
 - d. Forest Green Tie
 - e. Y.P.D. Badge/Pin
 - B. Black and White
 1. Young Ladies
 - a. Black Skirt
 - b. White Blouse/Blazer
 - c. Black "V" Shaped Collar
 - d. Black Cap with 3 Leopard and/or leopard skin design material Triangular Shaped Patches Attached
 - e. Y.P.D. Badge/Pin
 2. Young Men
 - a. Black Pants
 - b. Black/White Blazer
 - c. White shirt with "V" shaped Leopard and/or leopard skin design material Triangular Patches Attached
 - d. Black Tie
 - e. Y.P.D. Badge/Pin

II. Uniform and Color Symbolism

Forest Green—is symbolic of growth and Christian vitality.

White—is symbolic of purity of life and conversation; light that shineth more and more, and faith. Black—is symbolic of mourning for those who persist in their rebellion against God and who commit acts displeasing in His sight.

Collar's "V" Shape—symbolic of victory over sin and confusion.

Leopard and/or leopard skin design material Patch—symbolic of grace, quickness, determination and endurance to fight sin and to defend righteousness (Triangular in shape, symbolic of the Trinity and strength).

Badge—symbolic of the tie which binds together the determination to endure till the end.

III. Uniform Combinations

The outfits are only worn as uniforms in the combinations as listed in II. They are not to be mixed up.
"Suggest that the home districts wear one leopard patch, triangular in shape representing the Holy Trinity, symbolic of the beginning of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Women's Missionary Society in America."

Revisions to the WMS Constitution & Bylaws 2020-2024 based on the 2019 American						
Women's Missionary Society						
		<u>The Constitution</u>	Pages 1-6			
Page 4		Article VII -Section 1				Add Financ
Page 6		Article XIII - Section 1a, 2a				Reword <u>tho</u>
						to delegat
		<u>Connectional Bylaws</u>	Pages 7 - 27			
Page 9		Article IV - Section 2				Add By plu
Page 11		Article VI - Section 2				Add Financ
Page 18		Article IX - Section 8-16				Insert # 9 to
						remaining #
Page 23		Article XI - Section 3				Add Financ
		<u>Episcopal Bylaws</u>	Pages 28 - 33			
Page 29		Article IV - Section 1				Add Financ
Page 30		Article V - Section 3				Add Financ
Page 31		Article VII - Section 2				Add Financ
	WMS	<u>Conference Bylaws</u>	Pages 34 - 41			

Page 34		Article III, Section 4			Add Section
					are to be p
					Chairperso
Page 35		Article IV, Section 2			Add #3 Pay
Page 35		Article IV - Section 8			Reword to c
Page 35		Article V - Section 1			Add Financ
Page 37		Article VII, Section 9			Insert #9 - t
Page 39		Article VIII - Conference Commission			Add Financ
Page 40		Article IX - Areas			Changed Pr
		<u>Local Bylaws</u>	Pages 42 - 47		
Page 42		Article II d			Reword Edu
					curriculum
Page 43		Article III, Section 3			Add Episco
Page 43		Article V, Section 3			Reword lan
					the Local L
Page 45		Article VII, Section 8			Insert #9 -
					#s 10 - 13.
Page 46		Article IX, Section 1			Add Financ
Young People's Division of the Women's Missionary Society					

		<u>Connectional Bylaws</u>	Pages 48 - 59	
Page 49		Article IV, Section 1		Change bet
Page 51		Article VIII, Section 5d		Add at the
Page 52		Article IX, Section 4b		Change Aw
Page 56		Article XI, Section 6a		Delete in th
		<u>Episcopal Bylaws</u>	Pages 60 - 62	
Page 62		Article VII, Section 1d, e		Change Cor
Page 62		Article VII - Section 1e		Change Pre
		<u>Conference Bylaws</u>	Pages 63 - 67	
Page 64		Article IV, Section 3e		Change Are
Page 64		Article V, Section 4, Paragraph 2		Change 90
Page 65		Article VIII, Section 3		Change me
		<u>Local Bylaws</u>	Pages 68 - 70	No Change
Appendices				

Bill Number: CLO-2

Title: Adjusting Denominational per diem/mileage allocations



Submitted by:

Contact:

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline

Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2016; Part VIII, Section II, Part VI, Section III

Intent

To provide fair compensation for travel in connection with official denominational duties

Rationale

The current 35 cents per mile reimbursement rate in the Discipline was taken originally from the US federal government and is decades out of date. The current rate is 56 cents per mile and is periodically adjusted.

Current Text

1. Part VIII, Section II, Subsection C, 139 –Ministerial
2. Classifications, Rules and Support Note: It shall be
3. understood that the term “pastoral charge” shall be
4. interpreted to mean an individual church or group of
5. churches (circuit) that a pastor serves on a Presiding
6. Elder’s District. In the case of circuits and Presiding Elder’s
7. Districts, the travel expenses of the minister, unless
8. otherwise provided for, shall be computed on the basis of
9. thirty-five (35) cents per mile one way, and these expenses
10. shall be an allowable deduction from the minister’s income
11. from the pastoral charge. Part XVI, Section XVI., F., 363
12. The treasurer of the AME Church is hereby authorized to
13. pay each member of the Judicial Council a per-diem
14. sustentation of sixty dollars (\$ 60.00) and travel expense at
15. the rate of thirty-five cents (\$. 35) per mile one way in the
16. continental United States.

Amended Text

1. Part VIII, Section II, C, 139 – Ministerial Classifications,
2. Rules and Support Note: In the case of circuits and
3. presiding elder’s districts, the travel expenses of the
4. minister, unless otherwise provided for, shall be computed
5. on the basis of the current United States Internal Revenue
6. Service standard mileage rate used to calculate the
7. deductible costs of operating an automobile for business,
8. charitable, medical or moving purposes. These expenses
9. shall be an allowable deduction from the ministers’ income
10. from the pastoral charge. Part XVI, Section XVI., F., 363
11. The treasurer of the AME Church is hereby authorized to
12. pay each member of the Judicial Council a per-diem
13. sustentation of sixty dollars (\$ 60.00) and travel expense at
14. the current United States Internal Revenue Service
15. standard mileage rate used to calculate the deductible costs
16. of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical
17. or moving purposes.