

51st Quadrennial Session
of the
GENERAL CONFERENCE
African Methodist Episcopal Church

**The Service of Retirement for
Bishops and General Officers**



Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield,
President, Council of Bishops

Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, Jr.
Senior and Host Bishop

Bishop John Franklin White
Chair, General Conference Commission

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie
Program Chair



The Service of Retirement for Bishops and General Officers

**IN OBSERVANCE OF
The Fifty-first Quadrennial Session
of the
General Conference
African Methodist Episcopal Church**

**Orange County Convention Center
Orlando, Florida**

**Friday, The Ninth Day of July
Two Thousand Twenty-One**

3:10 – 4:00 pm EDT

9:10 – 10:00 pm SAST

The Order of Service

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.
Worship Leader

The Moments of Praise

The Call to Worship

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.

Bishop: The Bible instructs us to give honor to those to whom honor is due. Today we gather to pay tribute to two Bishops and four General Officers for their years of service and labors of love in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. We salute them for a job well done.

People: **For them, O God, we give Thee thanks.**

Bishop: We thank you, O God, for their strength to bear burdens and their grace to share blessings.

People: **For them, O God, we give Thee thanks.**

Bishop: For their ministries, sacrifices, lives touched, services rendered, and sermons preached,

People: **For them, O God, we give Thee thanks.**

Bishop: For the sixty-nine collective years of Episcopal Service given by Bishops McKinley Young, Vashti Murphy McKenzie, and Gregory Gerald McKinley Ingram, we praise God for them.

People: **We affirm their ministries; thank them for lives touched, sermons preached, and churches dedicated all to the glory of God. The Lord's name be praised.**

Leader: For the eighty-four collective years of service as a General Officer given by Dr.'s Richard Allen Lewis, George F. Flowers. Jerome V. Harris and James C. Wade; the Lord's name be praised.

People: **For them, O God, we give Thee thanks.**

Leader: May Christ be honored and His name be praised, both now and forevermore. Let the Church say, Amen, Amen, and Amen.

The Hymn of Praise

Bishop Robert R. Webster

How Great the Wisdom

AME Hymnal No. 91

How great the wisdom, power and grace Which in redemption shine!
The heavenly host with joy confess
The work is all divine, The work is all divine,
The work is all divine.

Before His feet they cast their crowns, Those crowns which Jesus gave,
And, with ten thousand thousand tongues,
Proclaim His power to save, Proclaim His power to save,

Proclaim His power to save.

They tell the triumphs of His cross, The sufferings which He bore;
How low He stooped, how high He rose,
And rose to stoop no more, And rose to stoop no more,
And rose to stoop no more.

O let them still their voices raise, And still their song renew;
Salvation well deserves the praise
Of men, and angels, too, Of men, and angels, too,
Of men, and angels, too.

The Invocation

Bishop John R. Bryant

The Prayer Response

The Ecumenical Acknowledgments

Bishop Frank M. Reid III

The Statement Of Purpose

Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Jr.

We come now in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to give praise to God for the life and labors of the servants who are retiring from the offices of Bishop and General Officers in our church. We acknowledge with appreciation not only them, but their families who played a pivotal role in what they have been able to achieve.

The record of your active ministry is written not only in the Annals of African Methodism, but has also been etched and given to God. Your Church is deeply grateful for your ministry, the care, compassion, and commitment which you have faithfully displayed since taking your vows of installation and consecration. This Church has been made the better because of your years of sacrificial service and fruitful labor.

We pray God's blessing upon you as you begin a new season in your life as a retired servant of the church. Today, we say thank you for a job well done and may the Lord Jesus Christ be with you now and forever more. Amen.

The Presentation of Retirees

Reverend Dr. Jeffery Cooper

Members of the General Conference we have assembled for this hour of worship to formally recognize the completion of the active service of these leaders in the church. As General Secretary, I present unto you these faithful servant leaders for the recognition and honor due them for years of service, sacrifices given, visions cast, and untiring labors of love they rendered in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

*The General Secretary will then read the names of those to be retired,
pausing after each name while the person shall rise.*

THE GENERAL OFFICERS

Dr. Richard Allen Lewis

Dr. George F. Flowers

Dr. Jerome V. Harris

Dr. James C. Wade

THE BISHOPS

McKinley Young*

Vashti Murphy McKenzie

Gregory Gerald McKinley Ingram

The Presentation of the Messenger

Bishop E. Henning Byfield

The Ministry of Music

"I've Got A Testimony"

The Connectional Mass Choir

The Message of Tribute

Bishop James L. Davis

The Video Ministry Highlights

The Response

The Doxology

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

AME Hymnal No. 647

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, the Heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Benediction

Bishop Harry L. Seawright

***Posthumously**