



# **2024 General Conference Proposed Legislation Documents**

- 1. Proposed Legislation**
- 2. Lay Organization By-Laws**
- 3. Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society**

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**Title**

(New) The Local Church's Base Compensation Worksheet for Newly Appointed Pastors

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Mark Johnson and Penny Oliver

**Email**

mrkl9732000@yahoo.com

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021 Part VIII, Section II., B. (Page 152).

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Part V, Section I., A.,2., a.,2., b). (Page 96).

**Intent**

- Clarifying the pastor's compensation – base salary & benefits
- Establishing a uniform worksheet for documenting the local church's Base Pastor Compensation for newly appointed pastor
- Standardizing a method for comparing compensation of new pastoral appointments.

**Rationale**

The Pastor's Compensation should be determined after the stewards review of the specific needs of the pastor and congregation. The local church should form a compensation package that is the most generous and appropriate they can provide considering the adherence to the BODD regarding the applicable benefits to pastors who are full-time servants of the church.

Each church should annually review and report to the Annual Conference and the Presiding Bishop its Base Compensation Package (see Worksheet – Base Compensation Package). The base compensation shall reflect the congregation's determination of what they are able to pay and start negotiations with a newly appointed pastor. The negotiated compensation would consider the pastor's credentials, experience, full-time status, and the church's present financial condition.

The submitted base compensation worksheet would be used to compare churches' pastor compensation package to another church.

## **Current Text**

### Section II. Ministerial/Pastoral Support (Page 152)

#### A. Salary Guidelines

#### B. Salary of Ministers

The salary of a full-time minister shall be negotiated by the pastor and the steward board. The negotiated salary and benefit package shall be commensurate with the cost of living in the given

geographical area and the ability of the local congregation. The following benefits apply to those ministers who are full-time servants of the church. They shall be adhered to per the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and open to negotiations in all cases. The benefits include but are not limited to: pension or retirement insurance(s); health, disability, professional liability, key person life insurance\*; self-employment tax; parsonage or housing allowance; continuing education; travel: connectional, episcopal district, conference, inner parish and all other related to official duties.

## **Amended Text**

### Section II. Ministerial/Pastoral Support (Page 152)

#### A. Salary Guidelines

#### B. Salary of Ministers The Compensation of Pastors

1. Compensation: The compensation of a full-time minister pastor shall be negotiated by the pastor and the steward board. It shall include the negotiated salary and the benefit package. It shall be commensurate with the cost of living in the given geographical area and the ability of the local congregation. The benefits include but are not limited to: parsonage or housing allowance, pension or retirement\*; insurance(s) (health, disability, professional liability); key person life insurance I (benefactor inclusion), self-employment tax, continuing education allowance, and travel allowance (connectional, episcopal district, conference, inner parish, and all other related to official duties).

2. Base compensation of newly appointed pastor: Each church shall report to the Annual Conference and the Presiding Bishop its Base Compensation Package (see Worksheet –Base Compensation Package). The base compensation shall reflect the congregation's determination of what they are able to pay as the base of negotiations of a newly appointed pastor. The negotiated compensation of the new pastor shall consider the pastor's credentials, experience, full-time status, and the church's present financial condition.

The local church's Base Compensation Worksheet shall be used as a tool by the Presiding Bishop for comparing and determining new pastoral appointments.

## **Attachment**

### Base Compensation Worksheet

Use this worksheet to illustrate the pastor's annual base compensation plan agreed

84 upon by the church in cases of a newly appointed pastor. The local church shall submit  
85 to the annual conference the following worksheet:

86  
87 See addendum

88  
89 **Approved**

90 • No

91  
92 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

(New) Worksheet: Pastor Compensation – Salary and Benefits

**First and Last Name**

Mark Johnson & Penny Oliver

**Email**

[mrkl9732000@yahoo.com](mailto:mrkl9732000@yahoo.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (BODD) 2021 Part VIII, Section II., B. (Page 152).

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Part V, Section I., A.,2., a.,2., b). (Page 96).

**Intent**

- Creating a uniform worksheet for developing and reporting the Pastor's Compensation
- Standardizing the reporting mechanism of the pastor's compensation

**Rationale**

The Pastor's Compensation should be determined after the stewards review of the specific needs of the pastor and congregation. The local church should form a compensation package that is the most generous and appropriate they can provide considering the adherence to the BODD regarding the applicable benefits to pastors who are full-time servants of the church. A worksheet will assist the stewards and the pastor by simplify a pastor's compensation presentation and assist in negotiations. The worksheet will provide as an alternative to deriving the pastor's support from the church's annual conference report.

**Current Text**

Section II. Ministerial/Pastoral Support (Page 152)

A. Salary Guidelines

B. Salary of Ministers

The salary of a full-time minister shall be negotiated by the pastor and the steward board. The negotiated salary and benefit package shall be commensurate with the cost of living in the given geographical area and the ability of the local congregation. The following benefits apply to those ministers who are full-time servants of the church. They shall be adhered to per the Doctrine and Discipline of the African

Methodist Episcopal Church and open to negotiations in all cases. The benefits include but are not limited to pension or retirement insurance(s): health, disability, professional liability, key person life insurance\*; self-employment tax; parsonage or housing allowance; continuing education; travel: connectional, episcopal district, conference, inner parish and all other related to official duties.

#### **Amended Text**

### **Section II. Ministerial/Pastoral Support (Page 152)**

#### **A. Salary Guidelines**

#### **B. Salary of Ministers**

The salary of a full-time minister shall be negotiated by the pastor and the steward board. The negotiated salary and benefit package shall be commensurate with the cost of living in the given geographical area and the ability of the local congregation. The following benefits apply to those ministers who are full-time servants of the church. They shall be adhered to per the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and open to negotiations in all cases. The benefits include but are not limited to pension or retirement insurance(s): health, disability, professional liability, key person life insurance\*; self-employment tax; parsonage or housing allowance; continuing education; travel: connectional, episcopal district, conference, inner parish and all other related to official duties.

Each local church shall report to the Annual Conference and the Presiding Bishop the Worksheet: Pastor Compensation – Salary and Benefits. The worksheet will illustrate the negotiated salary and benefits of the serving/current pastor agreed upon by the board of stewards. This confidential worksheet should be kept in the pastor's file (together with other important personnel documents) as well as the church's file of the annual conference.

#### **Attachment**

#### **Worksheet: Pastor Compensation – Salary and Benefits (Draft & Sample)**

Use this worksheet to illustrate the negotiated salary and benefits of the serving/current pastor agreed upon by the board of stewards. This confidential worksheet should be kept in the pastor's file (together with other important personnel documents) as well as the church's file of the annual conference.

See Addendum

#### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

: Standing Commission of the General Conference Board I. Duties

**First and Last Name**

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Six Episcopal District

**Email**

[Sbrown@ame6.Church](mailto:Sbrown@ame6.Church)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page Reference: 2021 AMEC Book of Discipline, Part X, Section VI. Organization, Standing Commissions, I. Duties, Pg. 217.218

**Intent**

Intent: To provide clear and specific duties of the Commissions of the General Board or ensure effective oversight and accountability so that the General Board will be thoroughly informed of the activities, plans, achievements, decisions, and standing of the Departments of the church.

Additionally, to provide options for a better, more convenient, and appropriate time for commissions to meet and do their work.

**Rationale**

Rationale: Currently there are no specific duties of the commissions of the General Board or responsibilities of the Departments of the church to the General Board. There is nothing to require Departments of the Church to inform or respond to their Commissions or authority of the Commissions to compel them to do so. Also, many of the Commissions do not have sufficient time to conduct their meetings.

**Current Text**

Current text:

1. b. Evaluate the performance of the Church Departments
2. 1.) The Standing Commissions shall review the audit, efficiency, and program of the
3. Department of the church.
4. 2.) They shall develop questionnaires and a check-dash list system for evaluating the
5. Effectiveness of the program in reference to the money allocated.
6. c. Submit reports to the General Board
7. The General Board shall receive the reports of the Standing Commissions.

8. d. Work Year Round

9. Commission members should work Year round.

10. 2. Meetings

11. a. The standing Commission shall meet at 9:00a.m. one (1)

day prior to the opening

12. of the General Board at the site of the

meeting. Each General Board member

13. should serve on no more than three (3) Commissions.

14. b. Commission meetings should not exceed

two (2) hours and devotions should

15. honor a fifteen minute (15) maximum length

of time. This is to ensure a proper

16. evaluation of the departments and

agencies of the church.

### **Amended Text**

New Legislation

### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

A Service of Ash Wednesday for the People Called Methodist

**First and Last Name**

Dr. Brandon A. A. J. Davis

**Email**

[baajdavis@me.com](mailto:baajdavis@me.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

None (Does Not Exist)

**Intent**

This ritual would provide an order of service for the observance of Ash Wednesday, a liturgical service observed by members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Our current order of service does not provide an example nor ritual for Lent, and this written ritual would suffice that absence of service, thus making our collective observances in line with our ritual practices as Methodists.

**Rationale**

This ritual would not incur any financial responsibility to the connectional church outside of printing to include it in our Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and our liturgy books.

**Current Text**

None

**Amended Text**

None

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts (AAMES)

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto: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 I , 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**

Article IV, Section I , pg. 578

The officers of the Association shall be a Connectional Director of Boy Scouts; a Connectional Director of Girl Scouts; a Secretary ; an Assistant Secretary; a Treasurer; a Financial Secretary; a Chaplain; a Historiographer; and a Parliamentarian. The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association.

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

- 42  
43 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto: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**

None

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto:gpierce@ameced.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church – 2016 Part Article VII - Section I. , 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**

Page 580

Article VII—The Executive Board, Section I. The Executive Secretary, the Connectional Director of Boy Scouts, The Connectional Director of Girl Scouts, and the Elected Officers of the Association shall constitute the Executive Board.

**Amended Text**

Page 580

Article VII-The Executive Board, Section I. The Executive Secretary, the Connectional Director of Boy Scouts, The Connectional Director of Girl Scouts, the Elected Officers of the Association and Past Connectional Directors of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts shall constitute the Executive Board.

(Adopted by AAMES on December 11, 2019)

- 42     **Approved**
- 43     • No
- 44
- 45     Read Full Amendment



**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouts

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto: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 I , 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**

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

**Amended Text**

The Connectional Director of Boy Scouts and the Connectional Director of Girl Scouts shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Board. The Associate Directors shall serve in the absence of the presiding Connectional Directors. The Directors shall be ex officio members of all committees. They shall plan, evaluate, and promote the program under the direction of the Executive Secretary.

(Adopted by AAMES on December 18, 2019)

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Abandoned Property

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Marvin Colbert

**Email**

[Marvinclub270@gmail.com](mailto:Marvinclub270@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

AMEC Book of Discipline, Section D. Abandoned Property, Pg. 72

**Intent**

Upon Annual Conference approval of a local church closure, the Connection and Episcopal assessments shall be referred to the Presiding Bishop for redistribution of assessment throughout the Episcopal District.

**Rationale**

“The African Methodist Episcopal Church, is organized and functions solely as a connectional church. The Title(s) to all real, personal, and mixed property held in General, Annual Conference level or by the local church shall be IN TRUST for the African Methodist Episcopal Church... demonstrated by any one, or several, of the following acts.

4. The payment of conference assessments or dues;”

African Methodist Episcopal Church Discipline, 2021; Section III, A, pages 70 & 71.

The redistribution of obligations among the Episcopal District will minimize financial stress on the annual conference and local district restoring confidence in leadership.

**Current Text**

1. If any church property is abandoned in consequence of the
2. disbanding of the society, the title of said property shall be vested
3. in the Annual Conference in which it is located. Said property
4. shall be sold by the Annual Conference Trustees and the proceeds
5. deposited in the Annual Conference treasury, to be used for
6. mission work and church extension in the conference in which
7. said property is located. The funds shall be disbursed by the
8. direction of the conference committee on church extension, with
9. the approval of the Annual Conference. A duplicate record of the
10. transaction shall be deposited with the General Secretary of
11. the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

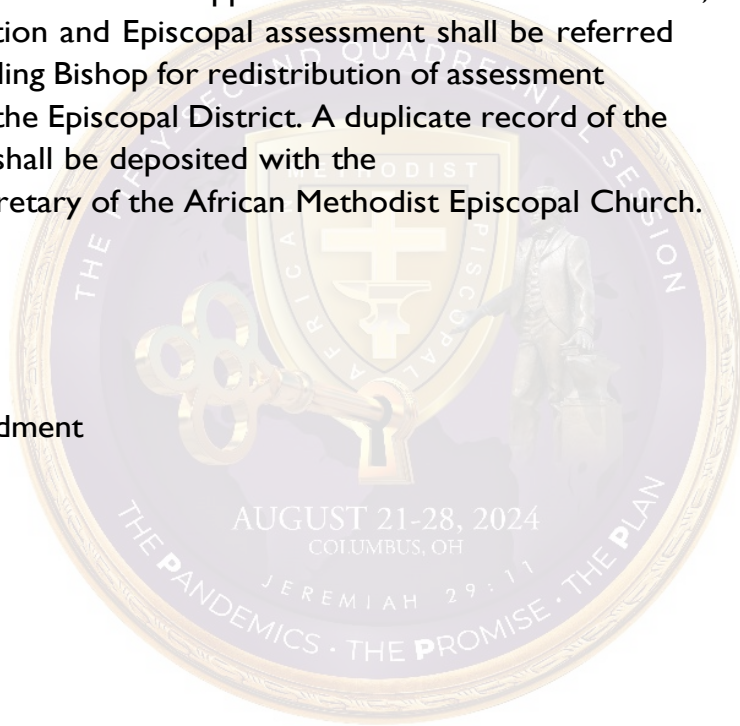
**Amended Text**

1. If any church property is abandoned in consequence of the
2. disbanding of the society, the title of said property shall be vested
3. in the Annual Conference in which it is located. Said property shall
4. be sold by the Annual Conference Trustees and the proceeds
5. deposited in the Annual Conference treasury, to be used for
6. mission work and church extension in the conference in which
7. said property is located. The funds shall be disbursed by the
8. direction of the conference committee on church extension, with
9. the approval of the Annual Conference. In addition; payment of
10. conference assessment and dues, Connection and Episcopal
11. Assessments will dissolve for the local district.
12. Upon Annual Conference approval of the local church closure,
13. the Connection and Episcopal assessment shall be referred
14. to the Presiding Bishop for redistribution of assessment
15. throughout the Episcopal District. A duplicate record of the
16. transaction shall be deposited with the
17. General Secretary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment





**Title**

Abandoned Property

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Marvin Colbert

**Email**

[Marvinclub270@gmail.com](mailto:Marvinclub270@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page Reference: 2021 AMEC Book of Discipline, Abandoned Property, Pg. 884

**Intent**

To add language payment of conference assessment and dues, including Connection and Episcopal assessments.

**Rationale**

Currently there is no language to specifically direct what happens to payment of conference assessment and dues including Connection and Episcopal assessments at the closure, dissolve, disbanded or abandonment of local church property.

**Current Text**

1. Abandon Property: When a congregation is dissolved, disbanded
2. or otherwise ceases to function as a church in the African
3. Methodist Episcopal Church, the rights to all real property,
4. personal property and fixtures are automatically transferred to
5. the Board of Trustees of the Annual Conference in which the
6. property is located.

**Amended Text**

1. Abandon Property: When a congregation is dissolved, disbanded
2. or otherwise ceases to function as a church in the African
3. Methodist Episcopal Church, the rights to all real property,
4. personal property and fixtures, payment of conference
5. assessment and dues, including Connection and Episcopal
6. assessments are automatically transferred to the Board of
7. Trustees of the Annual Conference in which the property is
8. Located.

**Approved**

- No

42

43 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Accessions

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto: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**

Accessions. The act of a person who unites with a congregation after meeting all requirements for full membership.

**Amended Text**

Accession: A person who unites with a local congregation.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Accountability in Reporting

**First and Last Name**

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

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto: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**

CURRENT TEXT: No current text.

**Amended Text**

AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to Part V Local Church Organization, Section I. Local Church Organization – Required, Subsection B. The Official Board, 4. Business  
4 4. Business

5 a. The secretary shall keep a strict record of the proceedings. All official reports

6 called for in The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

7 from the local church must include a signed affidavit as a part of each report

8 including the financial report, which is included in the report from the Steward

9 Board. The signature page of each report now serves as the affidavit attesting to the

42 I0 accuracy of the report and must be signed by pastor and the chairperson of the  
43 I1 Organization. Copies of these reports must be maintained in the official files of the  
44 I2 church and when necessary copies should be given to the  
45 Presiding Elder. I3

46 I4 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

47  
48 **Approved**

49 • No

50  
51 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Accountability in Reporting

**First and Last Name**

Angela Pettis

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021, page 112.

**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**

CURRENT TEXT: No current text.

**Amended Text**

AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to Part V Local Church Organization, Section 1. Local Church Organization – Required, Subsection B. The Official Board, 4. Business, page 112

**4. Business**

a. The secretary shall keep a strict record of the proceedings. All official reports called for in The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church from the local church must include a signed affidavit as a part of each report including the financial report, which is included in the report from the Steward Board. The signature page of each report now serves as the affidavit attesting to the accuracy of the report and must be signed by pastor and the chairperson of the Organization. Copies of these reports must be maintained in the official files of the church and when necessary copies should be given to the Presiding Elder.

42 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

43

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

45

46 **Approved**

• 47 No

48

49 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

1 Accountability of Optional Commissions

2  
3 **First and Last Name**

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

5  
6 **Email**

7 [tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

8  
9 **Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

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

13  
14 **Intent**

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

18  
19 **Rationale**

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

24  
25 **Current Text**

26 CURRENT TEXT: Section II, A. Guidelines for Establishing Commissions, page 99

27 2 I. Types

28 3 There may be constituted in each local church the following commissions, whose  
29 respective

30 4 duties are hereinafter defined: a) The Commission on Membership, Evangelism and  
31 5 Discipleship b) The Commission on Christian Education, c) The Commission on Missions  
32 6 and Welfare, d) The Commission on Stewardship and Finance, e) The Commission on  
33 Public

34 7 Relations, f) The Commission on Christian Social Action and g) The Commission on  
35 Health.

36  
37 **Amended Text**

38 8 AMENDED/NEW TEXT: page 99, Section II LOCAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION –  
39 9 OPTIONAL COMMISSIONS A. Guidelines for Establishing Commissions

40 10 I. Types: There may be constituted in each local church the following commissions,  
41 that are

42 11 accountable to the Official Board and Quarterly Conference, whose respective duties

**Title**

43 are  
 44 12 hereinafter defined: a) The Commission on Membership, Evangelism and Discipleship  
 45 13 b) The Commission on Christian Education c) The Commission on Missions and  
 46 Welfare  
 47 14 d) The Commission on Public Relations e) The Commission on Christian Social Action  
 48 and  
 49 15 f) The  
 50 Commission on  
 51 Health. 16  
 52 17 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

- 53 No

54  
 55 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

Accountability of Optional Commissions

**First and Last Name**

Angela Pettis

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021, Section II  
Local Church Organization – Optional Commissions A. Guidelines for Establishing  
Commissions, I. Types, page 113

**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**

CURRENT TEXT: Section II. A. Guidelines for Establishing Commissions, page 113

**I. Types**

There may be constituted in each local church the following commissions, whose  
respective duties are hereinafter defined: a) The Commission on Membership,  
Evangelism and Discipleship b) The Commission on Christian Education, c) The  
Commission on Missions and Welfare, d) The Commission on Stewardship and Finance,  
e) The Commission on Public  
Relations, f) The Commission on Christian Social Action and g) The Commission on  
Health.

**Amended Text**

AMENDED/NEW TEXT: page 113, Section II. LOCAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION – OPTIONAL  
COMMISSIONS

**A. Guidelines for Establishing Commissions**

I. Types: There may be constituted in each local church the following commissions, that

are accountable to the Official Board and Quarterly Conference, whose respective duties are hereinafter defined: a) The Commission on Membership, Evangelism and Discipleship b) The Commission on Christian Education c) The Commission on Missions and Welfare d) The Commission on Public Relations e) The Commission on Christian Social Action and f) The Commission on Health.

Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment





**Title**

ACEL 01 - Allen Christian Evangelical League of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

**First and Last Name**

Global Development Council

**Email**

[gdcsecretariat2023@gmail.com](mailto:gdcsecretariat2023@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

1. Pages reference in Current Doctrine and Discipline of the AMEC
2. Pages 226 to 228 are referenced from the Doctrine and Discipline of the AMEC, 2021.

**Intent**

1. The purpose of this organization shall be to lead men, women, and youths to accept Jesus
2. Christ as Lord and Saviour and to encourage ACE League members to become witnesses for
3. Christ in their daily occupation in Evangelism, the main goal is to lead others toward the
4. Path of salvation which is through faith in Jesus, it is the responsibility of the believers to
5. Share their faith with others and make others join the kingdom of the lord
6. Allen Christian Evangelical League will teach the church members the history, aims, and beliefs of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and set aside a day of remembrance on the second Sunday in February of each year in honor of our founder, Bishop Richard Allen.

**Rationale**

7. The rationale of Christian evangelization in the power of the Holy Spirit is to produce
8. Transformed individuals whose attitudes are in harmony with the mind of Christ True
9. Conversion involves a profound change in the attitudes that constitute one's character and
10. Mode of life to engage in the street, media campaign ministries, and revival sessions in the
11. Communities with the main aim being to involve the constituents of the African Methodist
12. Episcopal Church in Christian fellowship, mobilized for evangelical action.
13. To equip and develop ACEL Members in the skill of prayer, personal evangelism, Christian
14. Stewardship, and Christian spiritual and social services
15. To engage in preaching, feeding hungry souls, and mission work throughout

connectional to

16. Secure Episcopal Church congregations and thus encourage church growth

17. To enlist and develop men and women, leaders and role models for the youth of the church

18. Especially in areas of Christian worship, the bible, and songs.to encourage and promote

19. Inter-church interdenominational and connectional activities among AME Church members

20. That will create a sense of Christian community and ecumenism. To encourage and create

21. Conscious loyalty and support of the member to the total program of the AME Church

22. To encourage the practice of outreach ministry

23. The membership of the ACE League shall comprise clergy and lay persons of the AME Church

24. The ACE League shall be established at Connectional, Episcopal Districts, Annual Conference

25. Presiding Elder District, and Local Church level of the AMEC

26. The ACE League shall be an evangelism initiative and serve under the auspices of the Department

of Church Growth and Development

27. Shall be amenable to the governance structures of the Church at each level of existence

#### **Current Text**

28. No Current text

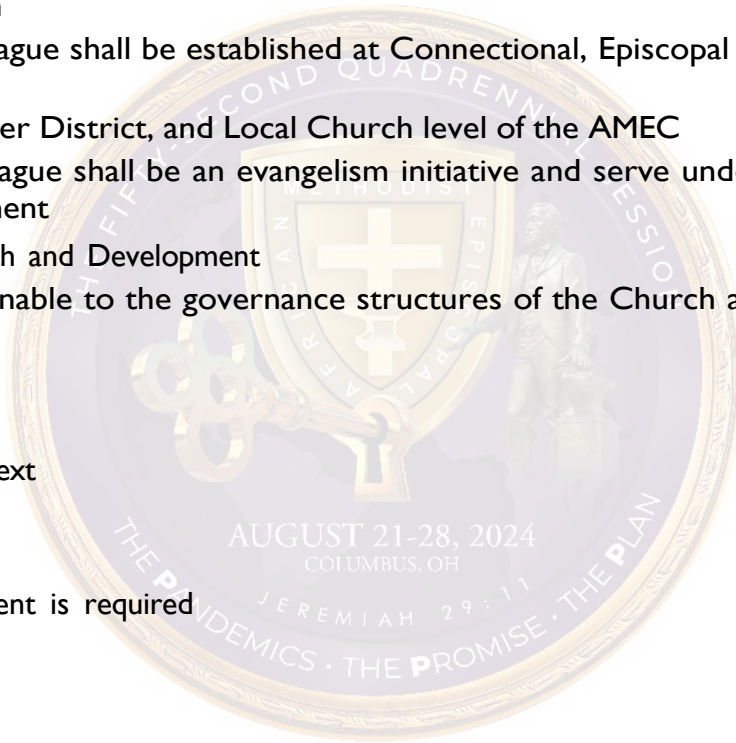
#### **Amended Text**

29. No Amendment is required

#### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Additional Eligibility Requirement for the Order of Itinerant Elder

**First and Last Name**

Hugh Marriott

**Email**

[Rev.HBMarriott@allentempleamec.com](mailto:Rev.HBMarriott@allentempleamec.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

2021, Doctrine and Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Church, page 140

**Intent**

To make it a requirement that each candidate for Itinerant Elder ordination in districts 1 through 13 take at least one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education, (administered by the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education - ACPE); and districts 14 – 20 take a commensurable equivalent, at any time during the ministerial institute process, prior to ordination.

**Rationale**

Clinical Pastoral Education is interfaith professional education for ministry. It brings ministers of all faiths (pastors, priests, rabbis, imams and others) into supervised encounters with persons in crisis. Out of an intense involvement with persons in need, and the feedback from peers and teachers, students develop new awareness of themselves as persons and of the needs of those to whom they minister. From theological reflection on specific human situations, they gain a new understanding of ministry and within the interdisciplinary team process of helping persons, they develop skills in interpersonal and interprofessional relationships. The benefits for the AME Church are threefold...

1. Individual Ministerial Competence - ministers will have the opportunity to address their own needs for personal healing. Having dealt with their own healing needs, they will be better prepared to help others with their own healing needs.

2. Church Hurt Reduction - congregations will have competent ministers qualified with the necessary tools to be able to provide quality soul care and to minister more effectively. This will help to limit instances of persons who feel hurt by the local church and its administration.

3. Ecumenical Consistency - Other Methodist denominations already have this as a requirement for ordination and making it a requirement in the AME Church will

ensure unity with our other sister denominations with which we share communion.

Unless quality and effective pastoral care is made a priority in the AME Church, we will run the risk of seeing people's needs not being met, thereby causing our members to seek other alternate sources for the help they need.

### **Current Text**

#### **B. Elders**

##### **1. Eligibility for the Order of Elder**

Deacons of two (2) full years in good and regular standing are eligible for election to the Order of Elder, provided they give evidence of satisfactory performance in the course of studies prescribed in The Doctrine and Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Church.

### **Amended Text**

#### **B. Elders**

##### **1. Eligibility for the Order of Elder**

Deacons of two (2) full years in good and regular standing are eligible for election to the Order of Elder, provided they give evidence of satisfactory performance in the course of studies prescribed in The Doctrine and Discipline of The African Methodist Episcopal Church.

##### **2. Eligibility for the Order of Itinerant Elder**

In addition to the requirements for the Order of Elder, each candidate seeking the order of Itinerant Elder in districts 1 through 13 must take at least one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education, (administered by the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education - ACPE); and districts 14 – 20 must take a commensurable equivalent, at any time during the ministerial institute process, prior to ordination.

### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Adjusting CONVO to assist in streamlining legislation process for the General Conference

**First and Last Name**

Mark Johnson & Penny Oliver

**Email**

[mrkl9732000@yahoo.com](mailto:mrkl9732000@yahoo.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Part XI, Section IV, F., I. o. and v., pg. 192 General Secretary/CIO Duties and

Responsibilities Part XIV, Section G., 6. c., page 271 Revisions Committee

**Intent**

To enhance the established purpose of the CONVOs; outline it as the primary aggregating mechanism for proposals to be introduced and discussed prior to the General Conference; to adjust the criteria for legislation to be considered at the General Conference; and to establish a CONVO Planning Committee to organize bills and discussions for the CONVOs.

**Rationale**

Currently, the CONVO functions as an “informal part” of the decision-making process of African Methodism. This is counter to its intended purpose as serving as the primary aggregating mechanism for proposals to be considered at the General Conference. To assist in making the General Conference legislation voting process more efficient and productive, the move to create a pipeline of bills to the CONVOs and earlier submission dates is necessary.

An earlier analysis noted discussions on the floor of the General Conference cost \$ 52 K vs \$ 8 K at a CONVO. With the current 90-day deadline for General Conference submission, bills can be forwarded to the General Conference without ever being vetted or discussed in a CONVO or among the general church. This practice is not advantageous nor is it efficient in preparing legislation for General Conference. Earlier submission will ensure earlier discussions of proposed legislation among the general church and particularly the delegates. Another benefit, bills can be scrutinized, revised, and merged making the number of bills that come before the full General Conference reviewed and manageable.

Lastly, the final CONVO closer to the General Conference will allow for proposed legislation from regional conferences such as Global Development Council (GDC)

and a mode for gauging preconference consensus.

## **Current Text**

Part XI, Section IV, F., I. v., pg. 192 General Secretary/CIO Duties and Responsibilities  
Upon the call by the Council of Bishops, the General Secretary/Chief Information Office (CIO) shall notify the General Board and global Church that the purpose of the two CONVOs prior to the General Conference shall be to introduce and vet (examine, scrutinize, assess and/or evaluate) proposed legislation.

## **Amended Text**

### **CURRENT TEXT**

Part XI, Section IV, F., I. v., pg. 192 General Secretary/CIO Duties and Responsibilities  
Upon the call by the Council of Bishops, the General Secretary/Chief Information Office (CIO) shall notify the General Board and global Church that the purpose of the two CONVOs prior to the General Conference shall be to introduce and vet (examine, scrutinize, assess and/or evaluate) proposed legislation.

### **PROPOSED NEW WORDING**

Part XI, Section IV, F., I. v., pg. 192 General Secretary/CIO Duties and Responsibilities  
Upon the call by the Council of Bishops, the General Secretary/Chief Information Office (CIO) shall notify the General Board and global Church the purpose of the CONVOs. The General Secretary/CIO shall also report the dates and deadlines to receive bills for the legislation CONVOs. The CIO shall post the bills for the CONVOs on the AMEC website thirty (30) days prior to the CONVOs.

### **PROPOSED NEW SECTION**

#### **PART XIV, Conferences; Section I. The General Conference M. CONVO**

##### **A. Purpose**

The CONVO serves as an open forum to facilitate strategic planning and visioning for the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The CONVO is also a preliminary and mandatory step toward submitting bills for the General Conference. Only bills that have been presented on the agenda for review & discussion at one of the two legislative type CONVOs shall be considered for the General Conference.

There are two types of CONVOs. The conversational type of CONVO, various topics are presented. The hope is that the conversations and discussions begun in this way will lead to new initiatives and possible legislation. The legislative type of CONVO, the goal is review submitted legislation submitted to be considered for the upcoming General Conference. The goal is to discuss, scrutinize, revise, and possibly merge bills, making the number of bills that come before the full General Conference vetted and manageable. Upon the CONVO attendees' return to their Episcopal Districts,



attendees are expected to present and discuss said discussions and proposed legislation with clergy and laity in their Episcopal Districts.

#### B. Convenings

The CONVO shall meet at least twice during the quadrennial period. Two of the CONVOs shall be devoted to proposed legislation – the legislative type. The final CONVO, a legislative CONVO, shall be within 120 to 180 days prior to the General Conference. Special consideration to convene the said CONVOs at the sites and along with the Bishops Council and General Board meetings and shall be one (1) day prior to or one (1) day after the said meetings.)

#### C. Duties

The CONVO Planning Committee shall have the General Secretary/CIO report the purpose and dates of the CONVOs. They shall also report the deadlines to receive bills for future legislative CONVOs. The final deadline for submitting bills for consideration for the upcoming general conference shall be ninety (90) days prior to the General Conference.

The General Secretary/CIO shall forward all legislation submitted by the Legislative Task Forces, Components, Departments, and individuals to the CONVOs. Bills with financial implications must be submitted with estimated cost. The General Secretary/CIO shall post the submitted bills thirty (30) days prior to the upcoming CONVO on the A.M.E.C. website.

The CONVO Planning Committee is responsible for organizing related bills to be presented for initial review and discussion. The committee shall assign numbers to the bills and note the authors/submitters of each bill. The Commission shall assign subgroups of related bills among plenary sessions for review and discussion. The goal is to scrutinize, revise, and merge bills making the number of bills that come before the full General Conference reviewed and manageable.

In the CONVO discussions, a bill can be amended/modified and maintain its assigned number with the author's consent. Related bills can be merged and modified, with the authors consent, and assigned a new number. A bill(s) can be subdivided, with the author's consent, and assigned a new number or character, however, it must maintain the original intent/subject matter.

Only bills submitted and presented on the agenda of at least one of the two legislative type CONVOs shall be considered for the General Conference. No new bills can be created at the final CONVO, only revisions or mergers.

#### D. Composition

The CONVO Planning Committee shall include the Chair – a Bishop, the CIO/General Secretary, five (5) clergy, and five (5) lay members. Each clergy or lay member category

124 to include at least one young adult member, at least one member from Districts 14 –  
125 20 and one Presiding Elder. Additional members can be added at the discretion of the  
126 CONVO Chair.

127

128 **Approved**

129 • No

130

131 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Alternative service for Itinerant Elders (Classification of Itinerant elders that are not assigned to Pastor

**First and Last Name**

Second Episcopal District- Rev. Dr. Christopher Burnett

**Email**

[valdes2nddistrict@gmail.com](mailto:valdes2nddistrict@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Book of Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021, Section II- Ministerial/Pastoral Support section C Classification of Itinerant Elders, pg. 152-153

**Intent**

To provide recognition of Itinerant Elders outside of the pastorate

**Rationale**

All Itinerant Elders are not called to pastor. There is a distinct call to pastor, just as there is a distinct call to preach. Itinerant Elders serve as pastoral support and ministry leaders to various components of ministry i.e., social justice, youth, elderly, outreach, etc.

**Current Text**

All Itinerant Elders of the AME Church shall be classified according to tenure of Service as 1) full-time pastor or 2) presiding elder, and 3) training for the ministry.

CLASS E: Part-time ministers

**Amended Text**

All Itinerant Elders of the AME Church shall be classified according to tenure of Service as 1) full-time pastor, 2) presiding elder, 3) pastoral support/ ministry leader or 4) training for the ministry.

CLASS E: Itinerant Elders who serve as pastoral support, ministry leaders and Part-time ministers.

**Approved**

- No

42 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

AME WIM Annual Conference Herstorlographer

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto:jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 558, Section VIII, Article XIV Section 8

**Intent**

To clarify duties of Annual Conference Herstorlographer

**Rationale**

To assure Annual Conference WIM History is preserved.

**Current Text**

Section 8. Herstorlographer. The Herstorlographer will collect information on AME/WIM in the Episcopal District and compile a data bank and be a resource for the District. The Herstorlographer shall coordinate with Herstorlographers on all Connectional levels and provide a comprehensive library on women in ministry and the status and role of women in ministry in her Episcopal District. The Herstorlographer should make a presentation to the Episcopal District AME/WIM at an Episcopal District Meeting at least once a quadrennial on her findings.

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

42      Read Full Amendment





**Title**

AME WIM Episcopal District Statistician Powers and Duties

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto: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**

None

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

AME WIM Executive Board Composition

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto:jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 544, Section VIII, Article VI Section I

**Intent**

To create the position of Statistician

**Rationale**

To accurately record progress, statistical data is necessary

**Current Text**

Section I. Powers and Numbers. AME/WIM shall be managed by an Executive Board. Members of the Connectional Executive Board shall consist of: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, General Secretary, Financial Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Herstorlographer, Worship Director, and a Central/Southern Africa Coordinator. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by AME/WIM.

**Amended Text**

Section I. Composition of Connectional AME/WIM Executive Board. AME/WIM shall be managed by an Executive Board. Members of the Connectional Executive Board shall consist of: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, General Secretary, Financial Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Statistician, Herstorlographer, Worship Director, and a Central/Southern Africa Coordinator. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by AME/WIM.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

AME WIM Executive Board Nominations

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto: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**

Section 12. Nominations: The nomination of officers shall be governed by the ad hoc Nominating Committee appointed by the Executive Board. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed no later than the seat of the Bishop's Council one year prior to the General Conference.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three to five persons. At least two persons shall be the Consultants to the Executive Board. The other persons shall be full members of AME/WIM in good and regular standing. Members of the nominating committee shall be ineligible for nomination by the committee for any position to be filled on the Executive Board.

Recommendations and nominations for office to the Executive Board must be submitted no later than February 11th during the year of the General Conference. Recommendations and nominations will not be accepted at the seat of the General Conference. Persons nominated to run for Executive Board office must be present at the time and place of the election meeting in order to be elected.

**Amended Text**

Section 12. Nominations: The nomination of officers shall be governed by the ad hoc Nominating Committee appointed by the Executive Board. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed no later than the seat of the Bishop's Council one year prior to the General Conference.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three to five persons. At least two persons shall be the Consultants to the Executive Board. The other persons shall be full members or advisory members of AME/WIM in good and regular standing. Members of the nominating committee shall be ineligible for nomination by the committee for any position to be filled on the Executive Board.

Recommendations and nominations for office to the Executive Board must be submitted no later than February 11th during the year of the General Conference. Recommendations and nominations will not be accepted at the seat of the General Conference. Persons nominated to run for Executive Board

office must be present at the time and place of the election meeting in order to be elected.

### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

AME WIM Membership

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto: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**

Membership. The categories of membership shall be:

a. Full Membership: for women ordained to the itinerant ministry. They shall be eligible to vote and to hold most offices. [See eligibility chart]

b. Local Membership: for women ordained to the local ministry, licensed evangelists, and licensed exhorters. They shall be eligible to vote and to hold some offices. [See eligibility chart]

c. Advisory Membership: for superannuates who have retired from active service in the itinerant or local ministry. They shall be eligible to vote but not to hold office.

d. Student/Licentiate Membership: for women enrolled in an institution of higher education on a full time basis and/or women licensed to preach and preparing for ordination. Licentiates are not entitled to vote or hold office unless within a Campus Ministry. [See Election Eligibility Chart]. Ordained Clergy are eligible to vote.

e. Associate Membership: for male clergy and laity who are supportive of AME/WIM. They shall not be eligible to vote or to hold office.

f. All persons seeking membership must be in good and regular standing in their local churches and Annual Conferences as defined by The Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church. Good and regular standing for women in ministry shall include the payment of dues on the Connectional, District and Annual Conference levels

**Amended Text**

Membership. The categories of membership shall be:

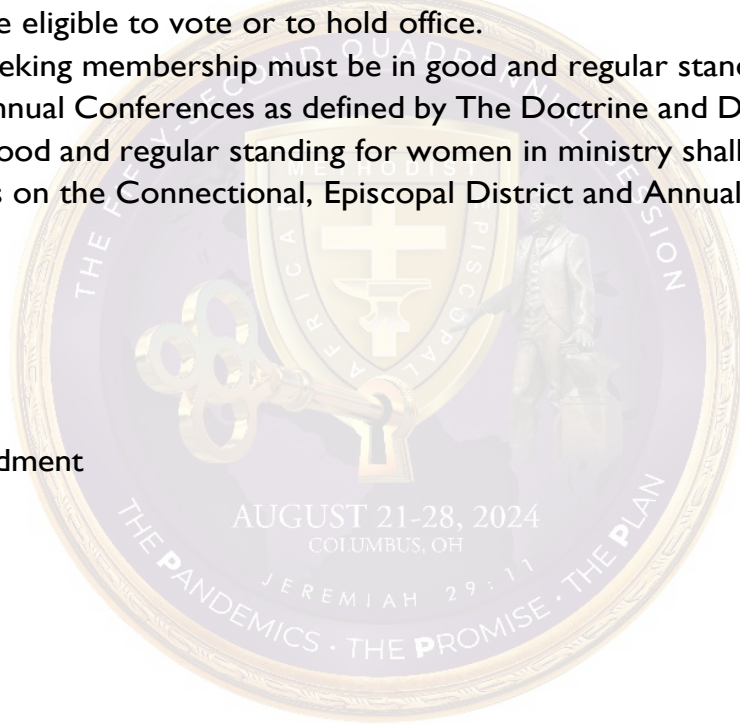


- a. Full Membership: for women ordained to the itinerant ministry. They shall be eligible to vote and to hold most offices. [See eligibility chart]
- b. Local Membership: for women ordained to the local ministry, licensed evangelists, and licensed exhorters. They shall be eligible to vote and to hold some offices. [See eligibility chart]
- c. Advisory Membership: for superannuates who have retired from active service in the itinerant ministry or evangelists and local ministers over 75. They shall be eligible to vote but not to hold office.
- d. Student/Licentiate Membership: for women enrolled in an institution of higher education on a full- time basis and/or women licensed to preach and preparing for ordination. Licentiates are not entitled to vote or hold office unless within a Campus Ministry. [See Election Eligibility Chart]. Ordained Clergy are eligible to vote.
- e. Associate Membership: for male clergy and laity who are supportive of AME/WIM. They shall not be eligible to vote or to hold office.
- f. All persons seeking membership must be in good and regular standing in their local churches and Annual Conferences as defined by The Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church. Good and regular standing for women in ministry shall include the payment of dues on the Connectional, Episcopal District and Annual Conference levels

## **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment





**Title**

AME WIM Standing Committees

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto: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.

**Current Text**

Section 3. Standing Committees. The standing committees and their responsibilities shall be as follows:

a. The Budget and Finance Committee shall study the financial needs of AME/WIM and recommend ways and means of generating income.

b. The Membership Committee shall suggest strategies for identifying the needs of women in ministry, enhancing services to the membership and increasing participation in AME/WIM, and prior to the quadrennial election meeting shall assist with preparation of a list to establish the credentials of members for voting and nomination for office.

c. The Program Committee shall work with planning Connectional services, meetings, conferences and other events.

d. The Bylaws and Legislation Committee shall receive, study, analyze and interpret proposed amendments to the Bylaws and legislation affecting women in ministry.

e. The Publications Committee shall work with the publication of a quarterly newsletter, preparing of educational and informational publications, and assisting with preparing information to be published in The Christian Recorder and other publications.

f. The Public Relations Committee shall work to promote and disseminate information on the presence and contribution of AME/WIM and women in ministry in the A.M.E. Church.

g. The Worship Committee shall work with the planning of services and with

developing resources on worship and liturgy to be made available to the Episcopal District organizations.

h. The Strategic Planning Committee shall work to identify and develop strategies to strengthen AME/WIM's organizational growth and to enhance the presence of women in ministry in the A.M.E. Church.

i. The Global Assistance Committee shall work to identify and generate funding and other resources to assist women in ministry in the Fourteenth through Twentieth Episcopal Districts.

**Amended Text**

None. Delete section

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

AME/WIM Dues

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto: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**

Dues. Connectional dues for Districts One through Thirteen shall be:

Full Membership

= \$25.00 Local

Membership =

\$15.00 Advisory

Membership =

\$10.00

Student/Licentiate Membership =

\$10.00 Associate Membership =

\$20.00

Dues and the names of members shall be sent to the Connectional Financial Secretary and copies of the names shall be sent to the Connectional President, Third Vice President and General Secretary.

AME/WIM in Districts Fourteen through Twenty shall establish a comparable and affordable amount for the five membership categories. Full records of dues received and membership shall be reported to the Connectional President, Third Vice President, and Secretary, but the dues shall be made payable to and retained by the AME/WIM District collecting the same and used for operational expenses of AME/WIM.

Dues shall be paid annually to the Connectional Executive Board, the Episcopal District,

the Annual Conference and, if applicable, to the presiding elder district conference branch of the annual conference. Connectional dues must be received by the Treasurer no later than May 31st. Each Episcopal District shall select an annual date on which dues are paid on the Connectional and the Episcopal District level. The time for payment of dues to the Annual Conference and the Presiding Elder Districts shall be determined by the respective conferences. Upon payment of dues, each member will receive a membership card. Payment of dues will entitle members to the Connectional newsletter.

The amount of annual membership dues at the Episcopal District, Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District, and Campus Ministry levels shall be determined by the respective Executive Boards and the general membership but in no case shall the amount exceed the connectional level.

#### **Amended Text**

Dues. Connectional dues for Districts One through Thirteen shall be:

1. Full Membership = \$30.00
2. Local Membership = \$20.00
3. Advisory Membership = \$15.00
4. Student/Licentiate Membership = \$15.00
5. Associate Membership = \$20.00

Connectional dues and the names of members shall be sent to the Connectional Financial Secretary and copies of the names shall be sent to the Connectional Third Vice President.

The Episcopal District AME/WIM Executive Boards in Districts Fourteen through Twenty shall establish in writing a comparable and affordable dues amount for each of the five membership categories. Full records of amount of dues received and membership names shall be reported to the Connectional Third Vice President, Treasurer and Financial Secretary. All Connectional Dues received for Districts Fourteen through Twenty, shall remain in the Episcopal District treasurer to assist with the work and expenses of AME/WIM in that Episcopal District.

Dues shall be paid annually to the Treasurers on the Connectional Level, the Episcopal District level, the Annual Conference level and, if applicable, to the Presiding Elder district conference level. Each episcopal district shall connectional dues at the fall episcopal district meeting. Connectional dues must be received by the Connectional Treasurer no later than May 31st. The time for payment of dues to the Annual Conference and the Presiding Elder Districts shall be determined by the respective conferences.

The amount of annual membership dues at the Episcopal District, Annual Conference,

84 Presiding Elder District, and Campus Ministry levels shall be determined by the  
85 respective Executive Boards and the general membership but in no case shall the  
86 amount exceed the connexional level.

87

88 **Approved**

89 • No

90

91 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

AME/WIM Executive Board Responsibilities and Duties

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto: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**

Section 16. Third Vice President: Powers and Duties. The Third Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President, First Vice President and Second Vice President. She shall be responsible for membership recruitment and retention. She will maintain an accurate directory of all members of AME/WIM. She will serve as a Membership resource for the Episcopal District Presidents. She shall chair the Membership Committee and report quarterly to the President and Executive Board.

18. Communication Secretary: Powers and Duties. She shall be responsible for all correspondence including social media. She shall send out to the membership a notice of each meeting. She shall conduct the general correspondence of the organization including distribution of the newsletter, maintenance of the website and all other electronic distributions. She shall assist the Third Vice President in gathering names and current contact information of women in ministry for inclusion in the Connectional directory.

Section 19. Financial Secretary: Powers and Duties. The Financial Secretary shall be responsible for the maintenance of account records. She shall maintain a list of all dues-paying members. She shall record all monies (income and expenditures) for the quadrennial and report the same to the Executive Board. She and the treasurer shall be accurate in the record of all monies received and spent, and shall ensure compliance with our written financial policies. She shall provide a monthly financial report to the President and Executive Board.



None

Section 21. Herstorlographer: Powers and Duties. Shall prepare a narrative account of the WIM activities during her term of office, which, when approved by the general membership, will become a permanent part of the herstorlogical record of WIM. She shall research, gather, record and make available herstorlogical and other information on AME/WIM and on women in ministry. The Herstorlographer shall coordinate with the Herstorlographers on the Episcopal District, Annual Conference and Presiding Elder District levels to provide a comprehensive library on women in

ministry and the status and role of women in ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Before the 30th day of September following the General Conference she shall be responsible for the transfer of records to the President and Executive Board, and the Director of Research and Scholarship for the A.M.E. Church.

Section 22. Director of Liturgy & Worship: Powers and Duties. The Director of Liturgy & Worship shall be familiar with the concept of intentional and innovative worship experiences, and spiritual formation, and shall encourage all women in ministry to use gender-inclusive language. She shall work with the First Vice President in the worship component of all programming of all gatherings, conferences, and workshops convened on the Connectional level. She shall chair the Worship Committee and shall share her gifts with the Worship Leaders in the Episcopal Districts.

Section 23. Central/South African Coordinator: Powers and Duties. The Central/Southern Africa Coordinator shall serve as a liason with and resource for the Episcopal District Presidents in the Fifteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth Episcopal Districts and shall serve as a resource to the Global Assistance Committee. The Central/Southern Africa Coordinator shall be a member of one of the Episcopal districts in Central and Southern Africa.

### **Amended Text**

Section 16. Third Vice President: Powers and Duties. Third Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President, First Vice President and Second Vice President. She shall be responsible for membership recruitment and retention. She will maintain an accurate directory of all members of AME/WIM. She will serve as a Membership resource. She shall chair the Membership Committee and report quarterly to the President and Executive Board.

Section 18. Communication Secretary: Powers and Duties. She shall be responsible for all correspondence including social media. She shall send out to the membership a notice of each meeting. She shall conduct the general correspondence of the organization including distribution of the newsletter, maintenance of the website and all other electronic distributions.

Section 19. Financial Secretary: Powers and Duties. The Financial Secretary shall be responsible for the maintenance of account records. She shall maintain a list of all

84 dues-paying members. She shall record all monies (income and expenditures) for the  
 85 quadrennial and report the same to the Executive Board. She and the treasurer shall  
 86 be accurate in the record of all monies received and spent and shall ensure compliance  
 87 with our written financial policies. She shall provide a monthly financial report to the  
 88 President and Executive Board; and she must provide quarterly written  
 89 acknowledgement to each. Episcopal District President, Third Vice Presidents, Financial  
 90 Secretary and Treasurer

91  
 92 Section 21. Statistician: Powers and Duties. Shall design surveys, census, reporting  
 93 forms and polls to collect information and summarize useful data regarding women in  
 94 ministry in the AME Church. She shall report such data to the Commission on  
 95 Women In Ministry and Connectional Executive Board.  
 96 She shall work with the Connectional CIO, Connectional AME/WIM Third Vice President,  
 97 Connectional Financial Secretary and AME/WIM Episcopal District officers.

98  
 99 Section 22. Herstorlographer: Powers and Duties. Shall prepare a narrative account of  
 100 the WIM activities during her term of office, which, when approved by the general  
 101 membership, will become a permanent part of the herstorical record of WIM. She shall  
 102 research, gather, record and make

103 available herstorical and other information on AME/WIM and on women in ministry.  
 104 The Herstorlographer shall coordinate with the Herstorlographers on the Episcopal  
 105 District, Annual Conference and Presiding Elder District levels to provide a  
 106 comprehensive library on women in ministry and the status and role of women in  
 107 ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Before the 30th day of September  
 108 following the General Conference, she shall be responsible for the transfer of all  
 109 original copies of records to the President and Executive Board.

110 Section 23. Director of Liturgy & Worship: Powers and Duties. The Director of Liturgy &  
 111 Worship shall be familiar with the concept of intentional and innovative worship  
 112 experiences, and spiritual formation, and shall encourage the church to use gender-  
 113 inclusive language. She shall work with the First Vice President in the worship  
 114 component of all programming of all gatherings, conferences, and workshops convened  
 115 on the Connectional level. She shall chair the Worship Committee and shall share her  
 116 gifts with the Worship Leaders in the Episcopal Districts. Shall connect with Episcopal  
 117 District Director of Liturgy & Worship

118  
 119 Section 24. Central/South African Coordinator: Powers and Duties. The  
 120 Central/Southern Africa Coordinator shall serve as a liaison with the Connectional  
 121 President and resource for the Episcopal District Presidents in the Fifteenth,  
 122 Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth Episcopal Districts and shall serve  
 123 as a resource to the Global Assistance Committee. The Central/Southern Africa  
 124 Coordinator shall be a member of one of the Episcopal districts in Central and Southern  
 125 Africa. Responsible resource for global quadrennial conference

- 126  
127 **Approved**  
128 • No  
129  
130 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

AME/WIM Objectives

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto: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**

The purpose of AME/WIM is to meet and further the following objectives:

- a. To recognize and support women in ministry as an essential part of the leadership of the AME Church.
- b. To raise the consciousness of the AME Church on issues important to women.
- c. To address and eradicate sexism in the AME Church.
- d. To work to expand leadership opportunities for women in ministry in leadership in the AME Church.
- e. To support women in the pastoral ministry.
- f. To support women in specialized ministries including but not limited to: chaplaincy, writing, teaching, counseling, research, prison, youth, geriatric, singles, street, health care, family/life relations, music, homeless, HIV/AIDS and religious education ministries.
- g. To encourage academic training for the ministry.
- h. To sponsor a Connectional conference at least once during each Quadrennium.
- i. To support and provide assistance and outreach to women in ministry in the Fourteenth through Twentieth Episcopal Districts.
- j. To compile a complete and accurate record of all women in ministry in the AME church.
- k. to foster and develop relationships with people and entities that will assist in furthering the objectives described herein.

**Amended Text**

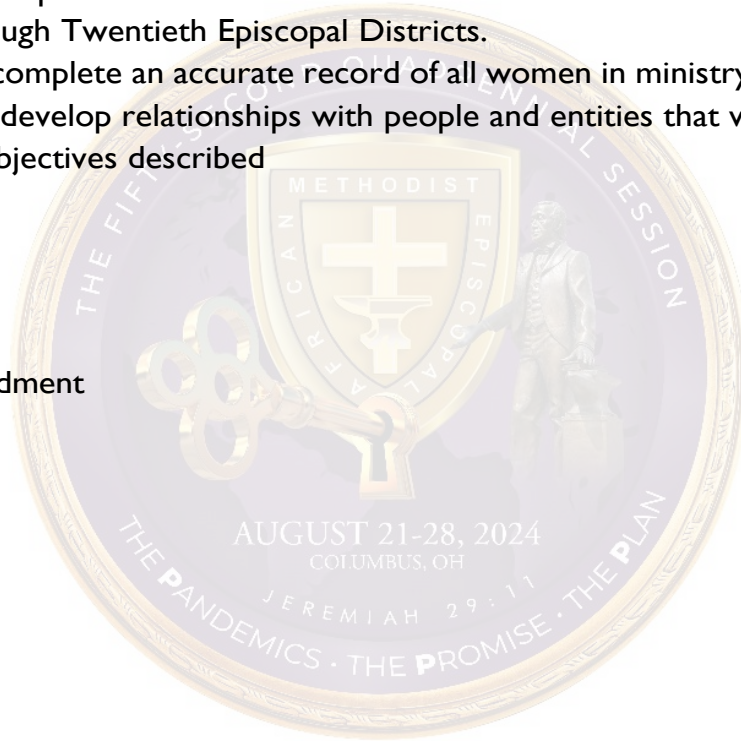
Objectives. The purpose of AME/WIM is to meet and further the following objectives:

- a. To recognize and support women in ministry as an essential part of the leadership of the AME Church.
- b. To raise the consciousness of the AME Church on issues important to women.
- c. To address and eradicate sexism in the AME Church.
- d. To advocate for and work to expand leadership opportunities for women in ministry at every level of the AME Church.
- e. To support women in the pastoral ministry and specialized ministries that support the AME Church's mission to minister to the social spiritual development of all people.
- f. To encourage and support academic training for the ministry.
- g. To sponsor a Connectional conference at least once during each Quadrennium.
- h. To support and provide assistance and outreach to women in ministry in the Fourteenth through Twentieth Episcopal Districts.
- i. To compile a complete and accurate record of all women in ministry in the AME church.
- j. To foster and develop relationships with people and entities that will assist in furthering the objectives described

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment





**Title**

AMEWIM Bylaws/Africa Coordinator

**First and Last Name**

JOELYN STOKES FOR CONNECTIONAL AMEWIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto:jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

PART XVII CONNECTIONAL DEPARTMENTS AND COMMISSIONS,  
Section VIII African Methodist Episcopal Women in Ministry:  
Bylaws, ARTICLE VI-CONNECTIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD  
and Section I and 24  
Pages 581 and 587: Kindle pages 790 and 798

**Intent**

To change the name of the Central/South African Coordinator to more accurately reflect that the position is not limited to just Central and South Africa

**Rationale**

Because Women in Ministry serve in all of Africa, not just Central and South Africa, the coordinator title should reflect same.

**Current Text**

Section I. Composition of Connectional AME/WIM Executive Board. AME/WIM shall be managed by an Executive Board. Members of the Connectional Executive Board shall consist of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, General Secretary, Financial Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Statistician, Herstorlographer, Worship Director, and Central/Southern Africa Coordinator. These officers shall person the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by AME/WIM

Section 24. Central/South African Coordinator: Powers and Duties

The Central/Southern Africa Coordinator shall serve as liaison with the Connectional President and resource for the Episcopal District Presidents in the Fifteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth Episcopal Districts and shall serve as a member of the Global Assistance Committee. The Central/Southern Africa Coordinator shall be a member of one of the Episcopal Districts in Central and Southern Africa. Responsible resource for global quadrennial conference.



**Amended Text**

Section I. Composition of Connectional AME/WIM Executive Board. AME/WIM shall be managed by an Executive Board. Members of the Connectional Executive Board shall consist of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, General Secretary, Financial Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Statistician, Herstorlographer, Worship Director, and Africa Regional Coordinator. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by AME/WIM

**Section 24. Africa Regional Coordinator: Powers and Duties.**

The Africa Regional Coordinator (ARC) shall serve as a liaison with the Connectional President and a resource for the Episcopal District Presidents in the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth and Twentieth Episcopal Districts, and shall serve as a member of the Global Assistance Committee. The ARC shall be a member of one of the Episcopal districts in Africa.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Annual Conference and Episcopal District Budgets

**First and Last Name**

Kimberly Gordon Brook

**Email**

[kimberlysaponi@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlysaponi@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 221 -

Page 282

**Intent**

To clarify the difference between mandatory and voluntary assessments. To clarify the process for establishing mandatory assessments.

**Rationale**

Various financial requests are often framed as mandatory assessments. Establishing mandatory assessments should be the domain of the General Conference and the Annual Conference.

**Current Text**

A. Establishment of the Episcopal District Budget Fund There shall be established in each episcopal district of the African Methodist Episcopal Church a central fund, which shall be known as the Episcopal District Budget Fund. The Episcopal District Budget shall be approved by the episcopal district through its annual conferences. The budget will be structured and developed by the Episcopal District Budget Committee, which shall be made up of one (1) clergy, one (1) layperson and one (1) young adult layperson age eighteen to thirty-five (18-35), and two (2) ministers and one (1) layperson, alternately, from each annual conference within the episcopal district. At least one (1) member must be a young adult age eighteen to thirty-five (18-35). Where there is a person in the episcopal district who possesses accounting or legal expertise, such person shall be considered for election by the respective annual conference.

The Episcopal District Budget shall not exceed thirty-five percent (35%) of the episcopal district allocation of the connexional budget, except in episcopal districts where the episcopal district budget allocation does not exceed \$ 500,000. The Episcopal District Budget shall not exceed the 2016-2020 level. It shall include all administrative and programmatic expenses and shall be inclusive of all income from all sources and components, such as the WMS, YPD, Lay Organization, public offerings, etc., with the

exception of General Conference sustentation. In those episcopal districts where thirty-five percent (35%) would impose a hardship, a smaller percentage will be determined in consultation with the Budget Committee. The Episcopal District Budget shall not make allowances for expenses covered in the Connectional Budget.

Episcopal districts with schools and other projects may appeal to the General Board for special fund-

raising consideration. No other funds are to be collected by the episcopal district, except for emergencies declared by the Council of Bishops and concurred by the General Board.

### **Amended Text**

(Delete the second paragraph and amend the third paragraph as indicated.)

A. Establishment of the Episcopal District Budget Fund There shall be established in each episcopal district of the African Methodist Episcopal Church a central fund, which shall be known as the Episcopal District Budget Fund. The Episcopal District Budget shall be approved by the episcopal district through its annual conferences. The budget will be structured and developed by the Episcopal District Budget Committee, which shall be made up of one (1) clergy, one (1) layperson and one (1) young adult layperson age eighteen to thirty-five (18-35), and two (2) ministers and one (1) layperson, alternately, from each annual conference within the episcopal district. At least one (1) member must be a young adult age eighteen to thirty-five (18-35). Where there is a person in the episcopal district who possesses accounting or legal expertise, such person shall be considered for election by the respective annual conference.

Episcopal Districts and annual conferences must observe the following:

No funds other than those budgeted are to be collected by the episcopal district, except for emergencies declared by the Council of Bishops and concurred by the General Board in a voluntary appeal.

The Mandatory Assessments shall be Connectional Budget, Annuity Contribution, and an approved Annual Conference Budget which includes the designation of presiding elder support (salary, housing, travel, retirement and administration).

Annual Conference budgets must be presented annually and voted upon by the annual conference in regular session.

Components may not assess budgets to churches. Fees may be assessed only directly to members. Other requests are voluntary.

Voluntary Appeals need no prior approval, and there shall be no punitive or retributive action toward pastors, or others, for failure to respond to voluntary solicitations.

Episcopal District or annual conference budgets exceeding 100% of the connectional budget allocation will necessitate scrutiny and special authorization by the General Board.

Mandatory Annual Conference Budgets for the annual conference year must be presented with each church's assessment itemized in a single document as approved by the annual conference.

All mandatory assessments must come through the annual conference.

Requests for schools and other "special projects" must ALWAYS be voluntary and never part of a mandatory episcopal district or annual conference budget.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

1 Annual Conference Audit

2  
3 **First and Last Name**

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

5  
6 **Email**

7 [tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

8  
9 **Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

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

12  
13 **Intent**

14 To bring more transparency to the operation of the church.

15  
16 **Rationale**

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

24  
25 **Current Text**

26 CURRENT TEXT: No Current Text.

27  
28 **Amended Text**

29 I AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to page 267, Section II, new number 4) 4. Every Annual

30  
31 2 Conference must have an external audit annually by an accredited auditor, that will be

32  
33 3 financed by each entity (Annual Conference).

34  
35 4 (Consequently, renumber #4 – 8 accordingly.)

36  
37 5

38  
39 6

40  
41 7 Funding: There is no funding on the General Budget. However, there is funding



**Title**

- 42 associated
- 43
- 44 8 at the expense of the Annual Conference.
- 45 No
- 46
- 47 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

Annual Conference Audit

**First and Last Name**

Angela Pettis

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021, Section II.  
The Annual Conference (page 281)

**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**

CURRENT TEXT: No Current Text.

**Amended Text**

AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to page 281, Section II, C. Responsibilities and Requirements (new number 4)

4. Every Annual Conference must have an external audit annually by an accredited auditor, that will be financed by each entity (Annual Conference).

(Consequently, renumber #4 – 8 accordingly.)

Funding: There is no funding on the General Budget. However, there is funding associated at the expense of the Annual Conference.

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

43

44 **Approved**

45 • No

46 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Annual Reports from AME, Inc.

**First and Last Name**

Jeffrey Leath

**Email**

[jeffreynleath@aol.com](mailto: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**

None - Insert new section.

**Amended Text****22. Reports**

The Trustees of AME, Inc. shall make a quadrennial report to the General Conference which shall include a summary, without specific detail, of the numbers of matters addressed, assets liquidated and other pertinent information to give the Church a view of its activity. Where there are personnel, or proprietary and other matters which warrant anonymity, the report shall exclude identifying markers.

In addition, AME, Inc. shall submit to the Council of Bishops and the Commission on Statistics and Finance of the General Board an annual audit and an inventory of all real and financial assets of the Church held directly, or controlled, by AME, Inc. Such information shall be kept confidential and used by those entities to observe the activity of the corporation.

**Approved**

- No

42

43 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Annuity Fund & Insurance Stability II

**First and Last Name**

Second Episcopal District-Rev. Derrell Wade & Rev. Rubin Boyd

**Email**

[valdes2nndistrict@gmail.com](mailto:valdes2nndistrict@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church; Page 229 of the 2021 Discipline (D 2 a. 4)

**Intent**

To ensure that participants are fully aware of the contents, any annuity and insurance plan entered on their behalf. Further they may have a voice in the management of their retirement and insurance plans.

**Rationale**

To ensure that participants are fully aware of the contents of the annuity and insurance plan entered into on their behalf. Further they may have a voice in the management of their retirement and insurance plans.

**Current Text**

none

**Amended Text**

That any change in providers of the annuity and insurance plans be approved by seventy percent of the annuitants and insured.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Annuity Investment Participation and Protection

**First and Last Name**

Kimberly Gordon Brooks

**Email**

[kimberlysaponi@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlysaponi@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 232 3. F

Add a new section “g”

**Intent**

To assure participant inclusion in any selection of a new third party/investment administrator for the annuity program.

**Rationale**

The Wespath relationship is a major part of the solution for a secure future for retirement investments. Yet there are official entities which could move funds without the clear knowledge and consent of program participants. This legislation is design to insure, notice and concurrence with such major decisions.

**Current Text**

f. All changes recommended by the Commission must be approved by a two-thirds (2/ 3) vote of the General Board, with a two-thirds (2/ 3) vote of the Council of Bishops concurring.

**Amended Text**

(add new section)

g. The Department of Retirement Services, the Commission on Retirement Service or any other entity with authority to choose the third party administrator, shall not change the third party administrator without participant agreement demonstrated by a majority vote of those participants. Such vote must be administered by an independent company which specializes in such polling hired by the General Board. The balloting may be by internet and/or mail. The poll shall be secure, secret and no party may receive reports except on who has or has not voted and the numerical/statistical total result. The poll must include the name of the proposed new service provider; the cost of the proposed service; reasons for the proposed change in vendor; and, the term of the proposed contract. The result of the poll shall be forwarded to the President of the



42 General Board, the President of the Council of Bishops, and the CIO who shall  
43 disseminate the information to relevant commissions and publicize the same in the  
44 Christian Recorder.

45  
46 **Approved**

47 • No

48 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Appointments of Ministerial Couples

**First and Last Name**

Myra Turner Billips, Eric R. Billips, Sr., Gerald A. Cooper, Mila P. Cooper

**Email**

[thebillipsteam@hotmail.com](mailto:thebillipsteam@hotmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021, 178; Part XI, Section I. B. I.

**Intent**

To expressly authorize bishops to appoint spouses of pastors to dual pastor, co-pastor, executive pastor and other such appointments when they deem it beneficial to do so.

**Rationale**

Since 1960, when the General Conference, lifted all restrictions pertaining to the ordination of women, there has been a steady increase in the number of married clergy couples in the A.M.E. Church. This phenomenon is evidenced by the increased number of active bishops whose spouses are ordained clergy as well as those of presiding elders. Several bishops, recognizing the unique opportunities and benefits of embracing and affirming the team ministries to which God has called many of these clergy couples, have exercised their episcopal authority to appoint dual pastoral appointments, co-pastoral appointments, executive pastors and the like. While there is no provision in the Discipline preventing a bishop from making such an appointment, the purpose of this legislation is to codify this authority as positive law. This legislation is not an attempt to require any bishop to appoint the spouse of a pastor to any of the aforementioned offices, but rather removes any ambiguity about the bishop's authority to do so. Moreover, this legislation affirms that the A.M.E. Church embraces this move of God that the church has witnessed regarding married couples serving in ministry together. Note, the term "pastor in charge" is a variation of the term "minister in charge," which is already used in other parts of the Discipline, and is intended to have the same meaning.

**Current Text**

The bishop shall preside in all of the annual conferences within the episcopal district where assigned, and in conjunction with the presiding elders, determine what shall be the appointments of all of the pastors at the Annual Conference. When a charge within an annual conference is without a pastor for any reason, the presiding bishop must

appoint a pastor within one hundred twenty (120) days to fill the vacancy.

#### **Amended Text**

The bishop shall preside in all of the annual conferences within the episcopal district where assigned, and in conjunction with the presiding elders, determine what shall be the appointments of all of the pastors at the Annual Conference. With respect to married clergy couples, the bishop may also appoint dual pastors, co-pastors, executive pastors, and other such complementary pastoral positions when they deem it beneficial to do so. When a charge within an annual conference is without a pastor for any reason, the presiding bishop must appoint a pastor within one hundred twenty (120) days to fill the vacancy.

#### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Bi-Monthly Connectional Department Review Meetings

**First and Last Name**

Angela Pettis

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Part XII The General Board, D. Standing Commissions, 1. Duties and 2. Meetings, pages 217 & 218

**Intent**

Regular bi-monthly review discussions with the Connectional Department leadership could allow standing commission members to exercise greater oversight of Connectional Departments than the current process of reviewing activities at the scheduled General Board meetings. The bi-monthly review process can eliminate the concerns standing commission members face of not having enough time during the General Board sessions to exercise oversight properly and being assigned to commissions that meet simultaneously during the General Board. Bi-monthly information sharing and review can uncover problems early, allow for proactive responses and solutions, and reveal opportunities to reallocate funding within a specific department when needed.

**Rationale**

As the need for stricter fiscal and increased accountability is present, it is necessary to pay closer attention to operational oversight and uses and allocations of funds during the interim period between General Conferences. Regularly scheduled review sessions will allow standing commission members to provide leadership unavailable during General Board Sessions.

**Current Text**

CURRENT TEXT

Part XII The General Board, Section VI. Organization, D. Standing Commissions 2. Meetings, page 218

a. The Standing Commissions shall meet at 9 a.m. one (1) day prior to the opening of the General Board at the site of the meeting. Each General Board member should serve on no more than three (3) Commissions.

b. The annual Commission meetings should not exceed two (2) hours, and devotions should honor a fifteen-minute (15) maximum length of time. This is to ensure a proper evaluation of the departments and agencies of the Church.

c. All regular meetings of the standing commissions and boards shall be held at the same site and in the same week as one (1) of the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Council meetings. Establish a time block exclusively for the General Board to conduct all of its business. The suggested time block will commence at 8 p.m. on Sunday and conclude at 5 p.m. on Tuesday. No other departments/components are to be permitted to schedule activities during this block of time. Re- ordering the schedule of the annual Commission meetings will eliminate/minimize any one General Board member from having to attend more than one Commission meeting during the same time frame.

### 3. Responsibilities

With the duties listed above, the Commissions shall also have these additional responsibilities:

#### a. Commission on Statistics and Finance:

Shall receive the report of the General Secretary of the AME Church and the Chief Financial Officer of the AME Church.

Shall receive an annual report from the AME Future Fund, LLC.

### **Amended Text**

#### AMENDED TEXT

Part XII General Board, Section VI. Organization, D. Standing Commissions, 2. Meetings, page 218

a. The Standing Commissions shall meet bi-monthly to hold review discussions with the Connectional Department leadership to exercise sufficient oversight, share information promptly, and identify and address concerns in their early stages.

b. The times of the bi-monthly Commission meetings shall not conflict with each other.

c. Hold the bi-monthly Commission meetings virtually.

d. There shall also be an annual meeting of each Standing Commission held at 9 a.m. one (1) day prior to the opening of the General Board at the site of the General Board meeting. Each General Board member should serve on no more than three (3) Commissions.

e. The annual Commission meetings should not exceed two (2) hours, and devotions should honor a fifteen-minute (15) maximum length. This format ensures adequate



time to discuss findings and recommendations from the bi-monthly monthly review meetings.

f. All annual meetings of the standing commissions and boards shall be held at the same site and in the same week as one (1) of the Council of Bishops and the Connectional Council meetings. (2) Establish a time block exclusively for the General Board to conduct its business. The suggested time block will commence at 8 p.m. on Sunday and conclude at 5 p.m. on Tuesday. No other departments/components are permitted to schedule activities during this block. Re-ordering the schedule of the annual Commission meetings will eliminate/minimize any General Board member from having to attend more than one annual Commission meeting during the same time frame.

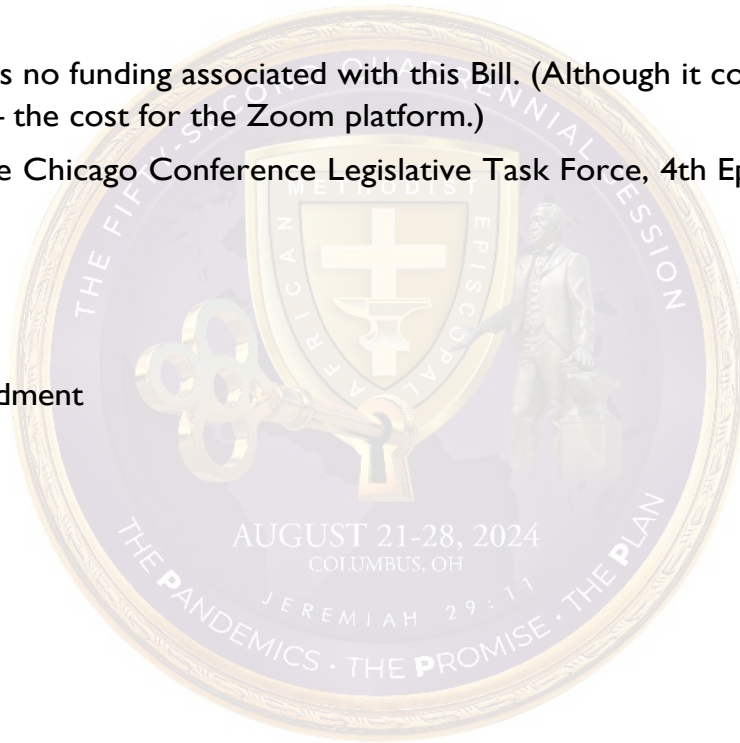
Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill. (Although it could be argued that there is a cost – the cost for the Zoom platform.)

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

### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Bishop

**First and Last Name**

Paul Kawimbe

**Email**[kawimbeforbishop@yahoo.com](mailto:kawimbeforbishop@yahoo.com)**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 315

**Intent**

To provide districts 14 and 16 the same chances to participate in the Global Development Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Church program, while fostering equality and fairness.

**Rationale**

Global Development Council Biennial meetings held in the year immediately after the General Conference have lacked the full participation of district 14 and 16 due to the fact that the annual conferences which elect district representatives are held in the months March, April, and May. The current timing of Global Development Council Biennial Meeting conflicts with the annual conference schedules of districts 14 and 16 which elect district representatives, the conflicts in the meeting schedule, has hindered full participation from these districts. The proposed legislation will provide districts 14 and 16 with equal opportunities to effectively participate in the Global Development Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Church program.

**Current Text****7. Meetings**

- a. The Global Development Council will hold biennial meetings. The first biennial meeting shall be called by the senior bishop serving in the Global community not later than February 15, 2005.
- b. The Executive Board of the Global Development Council shall meet at least annually.
- c. The expenses of members attending meetings (Biennial or Executive Board Annual Meetings) of the Global Development Council shall be borne by the respective annual conference.

**Amended Text****1. 7. Meetings**

2. a. The Global Development Council will hold Biennial General Assembly in the month

- of
3. February in the second year after the General Conference, The senior Bishop serving in
4. the Global Development Council shall call for the Biennial General Assembly not later than
5. February 25, 2026.
6. b. The Global Development Council Executive Board shall meet at least annually in the
7. month of February not later than 25th.
8. c. The expenses of members attending meetings (Biennial or Executive Board Meetings) of
9. the Global Development Council shall be borne by the respective Episcopal 10.Districts.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

1 CALL TO PREACH QUESTION

2  
3 **First and Last Name**

4 Rev. Dr. A. Qismat Alim

5  
6 **Email**

7 Qismat2002@aol.com

8  
9 **Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

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

12  
13 **Intent**

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

17  
18 **Rationale**

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

22  
23 The current questions regarding the call to preach do not address the commissioning of  
24 God to specifically preach. The current questions could apply to all persons who become  
25 Christians without a distinction to the call to preach.

26  
27 **Current Text**

28 A. Questions for Persons Seeking a

29 License to Preach As to religious

30 experience:

- 31 a. Do they know God as a pardoning God?  
32 b. Do they have the love of God abiding in them?  
33 c. Do they desire and seek nothing but God?  
34 d. Are they holy in all manner of conversation?

35  
36 As to gifts:

37  
38 Do they have a clear, sound understanding; a right judgment in the things

**Title**

39 of God, and just conception of salvation by faith?

40

41 As to fruits:

42

43 Are they truly convinced of sin and converted to God by their preaching?

44 ADD 4. As to commissioning:

45 Have they acknowledged and confessed that God has called them to Preach the Gospel?

46

47 **Approved**

48 • No

49

50 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

CDMC Administrator

**First and Last Name**

Lyndajo Jones-Watson

**Email**

[msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 243– c) (2)

**Intent**

To bring parity with other connectional heads.

**Rationale**

CDMC is self-funded and has been since 1954 however, things have changed. The cost of travel, food and housing has increased exponentially. A small token of appreciation in the form of an honorarium is an act of kindness since the administrator and the ministry bares all the expenses. The previous legislation concerning this matter was put in place over 60 years ago. It is time to make a change even if it is a small one.

**Current Text**

c) (2). The CDMC administrator shall have the rank of a connectional officer, receiving all recognition and courtesies, but shall not receive salary, stipend, honorarium, or expense from the General Church

**Amended Text**

c) (2). The CDMC administrator shall have the rank of a connectional officer, receiving all recognition and courtesies including an appropriate honorarium as decided by the General Church and from the General Church.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

CDMC Funding

**First and Last Name**

Lyndajo Jones-Watson

**Email**

[msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 244– d) (I)

**Intent**

Add how additional funding may be received.

**Rationale**

Obtaining funds to sustain the CDMC ministry goes beyond membership fees and patrons.

**Current Text**

(d) I. The CDMC shall be completely funded through voluntary local church and community membership subscriptions with no financial obligations whatsoever required from the General Church. All administrative and operational expenses, plus promotional funds for CDMC, must be secured through the annual membership fees of CDMC patrons.

**Amended Text**

(d) I. The CDMC shall be completely funded through voluntary local church and community membership subscriptions with no financial obligations whatsoever required from the General Church. All administrative and operational expenses, plus promotional funds for CDMC, must be secured through the annual membership fees of CDMC, patrons, donations, and fundraisers.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

CDMC Funding

**First and Last Name**

Lyndajo Jones-Watson

**Email**

[msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 244– (d) (2)

**Intent**

To reflect current practices for some while now, remove the language that concerns the Richard Allen Youth Council and change who decides on how the monies are appropriated.

**Rationale**

To reflect current practices for some while now, remove the language that concerns the Richard Allen Youth Council and change who decides on how the monies are appropriated.

**Current Text**

(d) 2. All profit realized from membership patrons shall be used to supplement the Richard Allen Young Adult Council's expanded budget for other youth advancement, for enrichment and social service programs, and for AME involvement in community and national welfare projects, as decided upon from time to time by the General Conference, the Council of Bishops or the General Board.

**Amended Text**

(d) 2. All profit realized from memberships, patrons, donations, and fundraisers shall be used for CDMC advancement, enrichment, social service programs, and AME involvement in community and national welfare projects, as decided upon by the Administrator, the Executive Board, and District Commissioners.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

CDMC Funding

**First and Last Name**

Lyndajo Jones-Watson

**Email**

[msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 252– 4 d) (I)

**Intent**

Add how additional funding may be received.

**Rationale**

There is more than one avenue for obtaining funds to operate the ministry

**Current Text**

4 (d) I. The CDMC shall be completely funded through voluntary local church and community membership subscriptions with no financial obligations whatsoever required from the General Church. All administrative and operational expenses, plus promotional funds for CDMC, must be secured through the annual membership fees of CDMC patrons.

**Amended Text**

4 (d) I. The CDMC shall be completely funded through voluntary local church and community membership subscriptions with no financial obligations whatsoever required from the General Church. All administrative and operational expenses, plus promotional funds for CDMC, must be secured through the annual membership fees of CDMC patrons, donations, and fundraisers.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Change in Frequency of Publication of The Christian Recorder

**First and Last Name**

John Thomas III

**Email**

[editor@thechristianrecorder.com](mailto:editor@thechristianrecorder.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

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**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**



43 9. Publication of The Christian Recorder

44 The Christian Recorder shall be published biweekly under the direction of the  
 45 Commission on Publications of the General Board of the AME Church at the AME  
 46 Sunday School Union in Nashville, Tennessee. The Department of Publications shall be  
 47 the publishing agent for The Christian Recorder and shall have full responsibility for its  
 48 printing and publication.

49  
 50 **Amended Text**

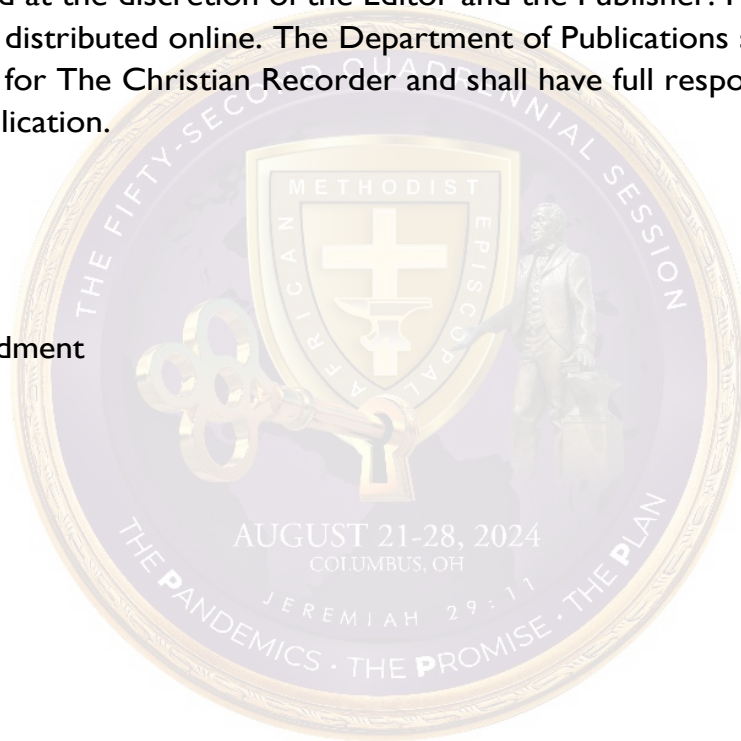
51 9. Publication of The Christian Recorder

52 The Christian Recorder shall be printed at least monthly under the direction of the  
 53 Commission on Publications of the General Board of the AME Church at the AME  
 54 Sunday School Union in Nashville, Tennessee. Special/Commemorative editions may be  
 55 physically printed at the discretion of the Editor and the Publisher. Periodic news  
 56 updates shall be distributed online. The Department of Publications shall be the  
 57 publishing agent for The Christian Recorder and shall have full responsibility for its  
 58 printing and publication.

59  
 60 **Approved**

- 61 • No

62  
 63 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

CHARLOTTE MAXEKE LADIES FELLOWSHIP (CMLF)

**First and Last Name**

Global Development Council

**Email**

[gdcsecretariat2023@gmail.com](mailto:gdcsecretariat2023@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

1. New Text To Be Inserted in next edition of the Book of Discipline and Doctrine

**Intent**

2. To establish as a Connectional Organisation, a proven fellowship of women  
3. and who live and serve in Africa, to bring that organization into compliance  
4. with the structure and governance of the African Methodist church, and to  
5. attach said organization to the Commission on Social Action.

**Rationale**

6. Among the organizations on the African Continent that provide fellowship  
7. opportunities for Christian women, is the Charlotte Maxeke Ladies Fellowship.  
8. Although the Book of Discipline of the AME Church has made provision for an  
9. organization creating a fellowship of women known as ‘ Women’s Missionary  
10. Society’ on pages 296-352, the AME Church female members of the 15th,  
11. 17th, 18th, and 19th Episcopal Districts have for several years been  
12. operating a similar organization. It is a ministry of women, aimed at  
13. conducting studies and recommending resolutions relating to the Christian social  
14. concerns that affect the members and neighbors of the church. It also aims  
15. to evangelize women for Christian fellowship, outreach, and social action.  
16. Many of the other denominations in Southern Africa have their versions  
17. of the organization. This legislation enables the episcopal Districts, Annual  
18. Conferences, and Presiding Elder Districts and local congregations to  
19. regulate, utilize, and expect accountability at each level of governance in the  
20. denomination. The Bill also provides for its use outside of the African  
21. Continent wherever the African Methodist Episcopal Church has a presence  
22. through the larger program of Church Growth and Evangelism.

**Current Text**

23. No Current text exists. New text to be inserted

**Amended Text**

## VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CMLF

24. Charlotte Maxeke Ladies Fellowship [CMLF] is a ministry of women in the  
 25. AME church who wish to fellowship together. It will serve as a social action  
 26. support and ministry to ladies and women of the church. It is a ministry that  
 27. ministers to the physical and emotional well-being  
 of the women. VISION  
 28. To be a big and ever-growing auxiliary of ladies in the African Methodist  
 29. Episcopal Church that unifies all in the Church through Spiritual Endeavours.

## MISSION

30. To create a platform for all ladies and women to reach their pathway in  
 31. unleashing the potential to do God's work, as well as striving for unity and  
 32. understanding of one another as children of God flourishing in His Kingdom and  
 their psychosocial needs.  
 33. To seek to address the needs and concerns of the ladies in the local churches  
 34. who are not members of any women's organization in the church.

## OBJECTIVES

35. CMLF will recruit Christian women to be advocates for the relevant global  
 36. religious issues and will also provide support for women.  
 37. CMLF will give each member an equal opportunity to optimally utilize their  
 38. good given qualities/skills to contribute to the church and to the welfare of  
 39. their congregation members, families, neighbors, and communities.  
 40. Support and implement the programmes of the church.  
 41. Promote a positive team spirit and sisterhood within the church.  
 42. Do outreach programmes such as spiritual revivals, seminars, and workshops.  
 43. Maintain and sustain the organization by working together as members of the  
 44. CMLF in the best interest of the church and its communities.  
 45. Recognize, acknowledge, and support all ladies and women in the church.  
 46. Create skills, development, and training programmes for all CMLF members by:  
 47. Providing education, training, and guidance in all areas of church life; and  
 48. promoting activities that develop unity, togetherness, and strength for all ladies.  
 49. Build and maintain "UBUNTU" within the community of caring ladies.  
 50. Facilitate and support opportunities for leadership experiences in the church and the  
 CMLF.  
 51. Promote activities that result in harmonious working relationships.  
 52. Endeavour to establish a Christian Standard empowered by the Holy  
 53. spirit among the CMLF family and the church at large.  
 54. Enable growth in stewardship in the church.

## MEMBERSHIP

55. The CMLF is an organization that is open to all ladies and women in the  
 church who want to fellowship together.

56. To all women and ladies who are striving for unity, understanding of one  
 57. another as children of God flourishing in His Kingdom.  
 58. For all women and ladies who wish to reach their pathway unleashing their  
 potential to do God's work.

## OFFICERS

59. The elected Officers of the Connectional CMLF and its Divisions shall be:

60. President

61. First Deputy President

62. Second Deputy President

63. Treasurer

64. Financial Secretary

65. Secretary

66. Assistant Secretary

67. Parliamentarian

68. Chaplain

69. Historiographer

70. Director of CMLF Activities

71. Public

Relations

Officer

## IDENTITY

72. The colours of CMLF shall be Black and White

73. Need to consider seasons

74. CMLF members shall wear the following gear:

75. Black skirts

76. White shirt/Jacket

77. Black hat

78. Black shoes

79. Black stockings

80. Put on name pins displaying CMLF and own names on the  
 left-hand side. OCCASIONS

81. CMLF members shall wear their identity on:

82. CMLF drives

83. Member funerals

84. Local church Holy Communion Service

85. Presiding Elder's Quarterly Conference

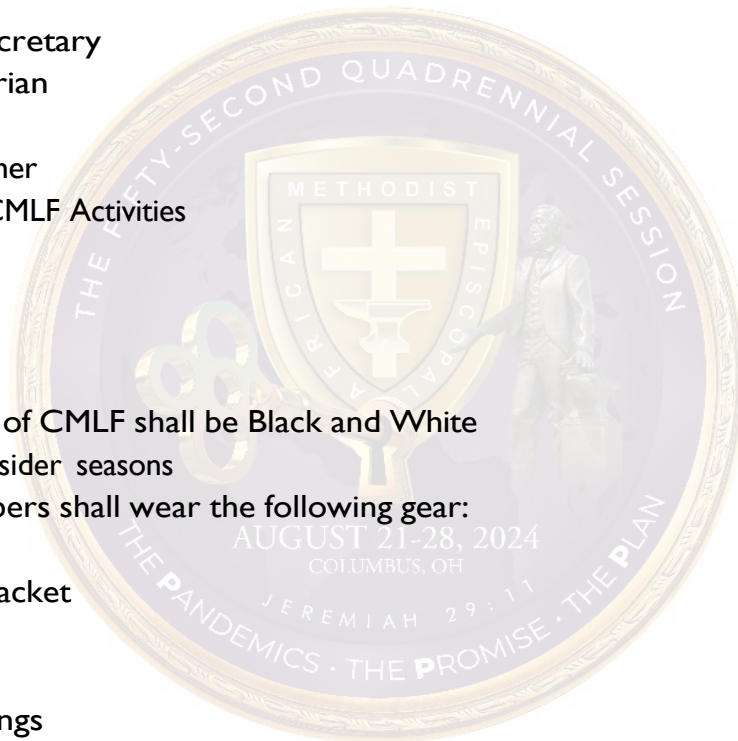
86. Closing day of the District and Annual Conferences

87. On other official occasion, or when so directed by responsible

officers of CMLF PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS FOCUS

88. In line with the legacy of Charlotte Maxeke being the first female probationer,

89. encouraging education to the vulnerable groups and rendering support to



90. women and children, the CMLF has planned the following:

91. In all Districts identify a children's home for adoption through

92. Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the said NGO/NPO for

93. support with any means being required.

94. Commit our own professionals to draw a programme towards

95. empowerment of women and youth in our different Districts addressing

96. emotional and social needs. And should be an ongoing programme.

97. Build a relationship with the correctional centre for rejected children to

98. reintegrate them in the community and unify them with their families.

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment





**Title**

Child and Youth Protection and Background Checks

**First and Last Name**

Department of Christian Education

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto: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**

Pg. 333, Section X. Sexual Misconduct 3. Proactive Measures to Combat Abuse

**Amended Text**

(To be added as separate second paragraph of Section X,3, following the "a, b, c" listing)

The church must be a safe place where faith can be nurtured, free from abusive and predatory behavior. This is particularly true for the sake of children and youth. As proactive measures toward this goal, adult employees and volunteers beginning their 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 must have national criminal background checks no less than every two years as well

as participate in a child abuse prevention and ministry protection training also no less than every two years administered by the Department of Christian Education. Responsibility of any costs associated with the background check or training to be covered should be negotiated and determined by the adult staff or volunteer and the church leader/ministry/organization/agency recruiting or having oversight over the adult staff or volunteer. Results of said background checks should be kept securely on file in the headquarters of the episcopal district, in which the adult staff or volunteer is serving. Verification of completion of the before mentioned training will be maintained in a secure, central database within the Department of Christian Education, with periodic reports shared with the respective episcopal districts.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)

**First and Last Name**

Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto:gpierce@ameced.com)

**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 existing text to make it current.

**Rationale**

Some structures and practices in the current text reflect an earlier model and structure of the ministry, particularly as it relates to the role of the CDMC administrator. The changes seek to make the role and the recognition of it current.

**Current Text**

c). Administrator: (2) The CDMC administrator shall have the rank of a Connectional officer, receiving all recognition and courtesies, but shall not received salary; stipend; honorarium or expense from the General Church.

(4) Said administrator shall have the authority to contact local pastors, individual and community organizations requesting voluntary membership in the CDMC. The administrator must submit a literary and financial report to the General Conference. He or she shall also report to the General Board annually if it is requested.

(d) Funding: (1) The CDMC shall be completely funded through voluntary local church and community membership subscriptions with no financial obligations whatsoever required from the General Church. All administrative and operational expenses plus promotional funds for CDMC must be secured through the annual membership fees of CDMC Patrons.

All profit realized from membership patrons shall be used to supplement the Richard Allen Young Adult Council's expanded budget for other youth advancement, enrichment and social service programs, for AME involvement in community and national welfare projects as decided upon from time to time by the General Conference, the Council of Bishops, or the General Board.

(2) All profit realized from membership patrons shall be used to supplement the Richard Allen Young Adult Council's expanded budget for other youth advancement, enrichment and social service programs, for AME involvement in community and national welfare projects as decided upon from time to time by the General Conference, the Council of Bishops, or the General Board.

**Amended Text**

c) Administrator (2) The CDMC administrator shall have the rank of a connectional officer, receiving all recognition and courtesies including an honorarium from the General Church.

(4) Said administrator shall have the authority to contact local pastors, individual and community organizations requesting voluntary membership in the CDMC. The administrator must submit a literary report to the General Conference and an annual financial report to the Department of Christian Education. He or she shall also report to the General Board annually if it is requested.

(d) Funding: (1) The CDMC shall be completely funded through voluntary local church and community membership subscriptions, donations and fundraisers, with no financial obligations whatsoever required from the General Church. All administrative and operational expenses plus promotional funds for CDMC must will be secured through the annual membership fees of CDMC Patrons, donations and fundraisers

(2) All profit realized from membership patrons, fund raisers, and donations shall be used to supplement the Richard Allen Young Adult Council's expanded budget for other youth advancement, enrichment and social service programs, for AME involvement in community and national welfare projects as decided upon from time to time by the General Conference, the Council of Bishops, or the General Board.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)

**First and Last Name**

Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Christian Debutante-Master Commission a) Purpose

**First and Last Name**

Lyndajo Jones-Watson

**Email**

[msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 243– a) (I)

**Intent**

To correct and change the language.

**Rationale**

To correct grammatical error and how the commission is involved in the supplies for the ceremony.

**Current Text**

a) (I) The purpose of the Christian Debutante-Master Commission is to provide guidance and information as to relevant study of field work 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, local church ecumenical and community levels.

**Amended Text**

a) (I) The purpose of the Christian Debutante-Master Commission is to provide guidance and information as to relevant study of fieldwork activities, program suggestions, liturgical requirements and all other details. The Commission shall also provide relevant information about the supplies needed for the preparation and presentation of a unified, coordinated program on the Connectional, Episcopal District, Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District, Local Church Ecumenical and Community levels.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Christian Debutante-Master Commission a. Purpose- I)

**First and Last Name**

Lyndajo Jones-Watson

**Email**

[msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 251–4. (2)

**Intent**

1. To add more time to the ceremony if needed to accommodate the number of participants from districts 1- 20
2. To clarify requirements for participation in the Connectional Christian Debutante/Master Ceremony.

**Rationale**

In the past, there have been 13 districts. If we are to be inclusive as a connectional church more time is needed to accommodate the additional participants from districts 14-20. Participation in the Connectional ceremony should not be the first encounter with CDMC.

**Current Text**

4-a. 2) The CDMC is an officially programmed activity scheduled for ninety (90) minutes on the first Sunday afternoon of every regular General Conference of the AME Church.

**Amended Text**

4-a. 2) The CDMC is an officially programmed activity scheduled for ninety (90) minutes but no longer than one hundred twenty (120) minutes (2 hours) on the first Sunday afternoon of every regular General Conference of the AME Church. Participation for Debutante and Masters in the ceremony (ages 15-22) requires them to have been presented on any level in their district. This does not apply to the other age groups (Sub-Debutantes, Sub-Masters and Allenites).

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Christian Debutante-Master Commission b. Meetings)

**First and Last Name**

Lyndajo Jones-Watson

**Email**

[msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 251–252, 4. C 1& 2-Administrator

**Intent**

Change current text.

**Rationale**

Update text to reflect wording from suggested revision on page 243 c. 1&2.

**Current Text**

c) (1). There shall be an administrator elected at the General Conference. There shall be a Voluntary Work Advisory Board recruited by the administrator, consisting of not fewer than eighteen (18) nor more than thirty-six (36) persons.

c) (2). The CDMC administrator shall have the rank of a connectional officer, receiving all recognition and courtesies, but shall not receive salary, stipend, honorarium or expense from the General Church

**Amended Text**

c) (1). There shall be an administrator elected or appointed at the General Conference. There shall be a Voluntary Work Advisory Board recruited by the administrator, consisting of not fewer than eighteen (18) nor more than thirty-six (36) persons.

c) (2). The CDMC administrator shall have the rank of a connectional officer, receiving all recognition and courtesies including an appropriate honorarium as decided upon by the General Church and from the General Church.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Christian Debutante-Master: Funding

**First and Last Name**

Lyndajo Jones-Watson

**Email**

[msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 252– 4 (d) (2)

**Intent**

Remove the language that concerns the Richard Allen Youth Council and change who decides on how the monies are appropriated.

**Rationale**

The RAYAC is a separate ministry although it falls under the Christian Education Department. They have their own means of raising money and also received money from the General Church. CDMC does not. It is more appropriate for the stated groups to decide on how the money is used since they are closest to whatever the situation is and what the needs are. It would be time consuming to try to bring these things before the General Conference (which only meets every 4 years) and the Council of Bishops.

**Current Text**

4 (d) 2. All profit realized from membership patrons shall be used to supplement the Richard Allen Young Adult Council's expanded budget for other youth advancement, for enrichment and social service programs, and for AME involvement in community and national welfare projects, as decided upon from time to time by the General Conference, the Council of Bishops or the General Board.

**Amended Text**

4 (d) 2. All profit realized from membership patrons, donations, and fundraisers shall be used for CDMC advancement, enrichment, social service programs, and AME involvement in community and national welfare projects, as decided upon by the Administrator, Executive Board, and District Commissioners.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Christian Debutante-Mater Commission a. Purpose- I)

**First and Last Name**

Lyndajo Jones-Watson

**Email**

[msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 251—4. a. (I)

**Intent**

Make the wording in this section the same as the proposed legislation for page 243, a) (I)

**Rationale**

Both places in the discipline should read the same.

**Current Text**

4. a. I. The purpose of the Christian Debutante-Master Commission is to provide guidance and information as to relevant study of field work activities, programs 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, local church ecumenical and community levels.

**Amended Text**

a) (I) The purpose of the Christian Debutante-Master Commission is to provide guidance and information as to relevant study of fieldwork activities, program suggestions, liturgical requirements, and all other details. The Commission shall also provide information relative to the supplies needed for the preparation and presentation of a unified, coordinated program on the Connectional, Episcopal District, Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District, Local Church Ecumenical, and Community levels.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Christian Debutante-Mater Commission b. Meetings)

**First and Last Name**

Lyndajo Jones-Watson

**Email**

[msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msdmcfame@sbcglobal.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 251–4. (2b.) Meetings

**Intent**

Update current text.

**Rationale**

To reflect part of the wording that applies to the administrator from suggested revision on page 243

c. 2 concerning honorarium. Same rationale as that revision.

**Current Text**

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

**Amended Text**

4- 2. b) Meetings: The commission shall meet annually during the summer session of the Council of Bishops. The members of the Commission shall not receive a stipend, salary, or honorarium for attending meetings. However, the Administrator or his/her appointee shall receive an appropriate honorarium.

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Class Leaders

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes for Connectional AMEWIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto:jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Part V Local Church Organization, Section I A 2c, pp. I 02, (Kindle Edition p. I 66)

**Intent**

To update the class leader's duties, qualifications, and responsibilities

**Rationale**

The Class Leaders' responsibilities and work should reflect the changes in the church and the role of modern-day class leaders. For example, most classes do not meet weekly, very few class leaders collect money from class members, and the band of societies is archaic in its writing.

**Current Text**

c. Class Leaders

**1) Assignment**

One of the persons assigned to each class is the class leader.

**2) Appointment**

Class leaders must be appointed annually by the minister. They shall serve for one (1) year and may be appointed as long as their conduct is satisfactory.

**3) Examination**

They shall be examined quarterly by the minister and the presiding elder.

**4) Duties**

a) to meet the members in class once a week, to inquire how each soul prospers, to visit their members from time to time and to receive what they are willing to contribute for the support of the Gospel;

b) to read the rules of Band Societies to those who meet with the class for the first time;

c) to visit other classes frequently;

d) to converse with their pastors frequently and freely;

- e) to admit non -members to their class meeting no more than three (3) times, with none of them to be consecutive;
- f) to exclude, suspend, and expel members from the class meeting;
- g) to watch over new members with special care and recommend those who are eligible at the end of ninety (90) days for full membership, upon their profession of saving faith in the Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ;
- h) to report to the Official Board 1) those who are sick, 2) those who walk disorderly and will not be reprov'd and 3) the amount of money collected for the support of the Gospel, paying the same to the stewards
- i) to serve as leaders for children's classes. Such leaders shall perform the duties as outlined above and, in addition, give instruction in The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

## **Amended Text**

### **c. Class Leaders**

#### **1) Assignment**

One of the persons assigned to each class is the class leader.

#### **2) Appointment**

Class leaders must be appointed annually by the Pastor. They shall serve for one (1) year and may be re-appointed as long as their conduct is satisfactory, and they remain in good and regular standing.

At least one person shall be appointed to serve members of the church's virtual or online community.

#### **3) Qualifications**

a) They shall be examined annually by the pastor

b) They shall be active members of the church for more than 1 year

c) They shall be persons of great moral conduct and integrity who have professed saving faith.

#### **4) Duties**

a) to communicate with the members in class monthly, and meet with the class quarterly to inquire how each soul prospers, to visit their members from time to time;

b) to review the catechism of faith with the class annually;

c) to visit other classes periodically;

d) to converse with their pastors frequently and freely;

e) to admit non -members to their class meeting no more than three (3) times, with none of them to be consecutive;

f) to refer to the Pastor members who need to be excluded, suspended, and expelled

- 85 members from the class meeting;
- 86 g) to walk with members ensuring they complete new members class and recommend
- 87 those who are eligible at the end of ninety (90) days for full membership, upon their
- 88 profession of saving faith in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ;
- 89 h) to report to the Official Board
- 90 I) those who are sick,
- 91 2) those who walk disorderly and will not be reprov'd and
- 92 i) Where applicable, to serve as leaders for children's classes. Such leaders shall
- 93 perform the duties as outlined above and, in addition, give instruction in The
- 94 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

95 **Approved**

- 96 • No

97

98 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Classificaiton of Churches Correction

**First and Last Name**

Anthony Steele

**Email**

[assteele@msn.com](mailto:assteele@msn.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 134-135, Section D

**Intent**

Simply add the phrase "per month" to existing language for clarity of local church classification and correctly categorize Pastoral Compensation in given charge.

**Rationale**

The current language is lacks understanding of salary frequency (e.g., per week, per month, per year, etc.). Adding the phrase "per month" to existing language will give clarity to church classification and correctly categorize Pastoral Compensation in given charge.

**Current Text**

CLASS A: Charges requiring full-time pastoral services and providing salaries of \$20,000 or more. CLASS B: Charges requiring full-time pastoral services. Salary shall be negotiated.

CLASS C: Charges requiring full-time pastoral services and providing salaries from \$1,000 to \$2,400. CLASS D: Charges requiring full-time pastoral services providing less than \$1,200.

CLASS E: Charges not requiring full-time pastoral services.

NOTE: Charges requiring full-time pastoral services shall be urged to provide a parsonage (or living quarters) for the pastor where the church is located. The bishop and Annual Conference shall require the observance of this provision wherever and whenever possible.

**Amended Text**

CLASS A: Charges requiring full-time pastoral services and providing salaries of \$20,000 or more per month.

CLASS B: (Use current text.)

CLASS C: Charges requiring full-time pastoral services and providing salaries from \$1,000 to \$2,400 per month.



42 CLASS D: Charges requiring full-time pastoral services providing less than \$1,200  
43 per month. CLASS E: (Use current text)

44  
45 NOTE: (Use current text)

46  
47 **Approved**

48 • No

49 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Classification of Churches for Pastoral Compensation

**First and Last Name**

Myron D Hill

**Email**

[myrondavidhill@comcast.net](mailto:myrondavidhill@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

pp. 153, 154

**Intent**

This section of the discipline needs clarity and updating.

**Rationale**

This legislation seeks to more clear and to update pastoral charges classifications

**Current Text**

CLASS A: Charges requiring full time pastoral services, providing salaries of at least \$20,000 or more. CLASS B: Charges requiring full time pastoral services. Salary shall be negotiated.

CLASS C: Charges requesting part time pastoral services, providing salaries from \$1000 to \$2400. CLASS D: Charges requesting part time pastoral services, providing less than \$1200.

CLASS E: Charges not requesting full time pastoral services.

**Amended Text**

CLASS A: Charges requiring full time pastoral services, providing salaries of at least \$40,000 per year and other benefits such as insurance, housing, travel and does not have any other employment.

CLASS B: Charges requiring full time pastoral services, providing salaries of at least \$40,000 per year and other benefits commensurate such as insurance, housing, travel and does have another employment.

CLASS C: Charges requiring part time pastoral services, providing salaries not exceeding \$40,000 per year and may or may not offer benefits commensurate such as insurance, housing, travel and does have another employment.

CLASS D: Charges requiring part time pastoral services, providing salaries not exceeding \$20,000 per year and may or may not offer benefits commensurate with this status and does have other employment.

CLASS E: Charges requiring part time pastor services, providing salaries not exceeding

42 \$10,000 per year and may not offer benefits with this status and does have other  
43 employment.

44

45 **Approved**

46 • No

47

48 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Clergy Peer Review

**First and Last Name**

Hugh Marriott

**Email**[Rev.HBMarriott@allentempleamec.com](mailto:Rev.HBMarriott@allentempleamec.com)**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

None

**Intent**

To ensure that the African Methodist Episcopal Church engages in a process that focuses on improving the quality and spiritual development of ministers across the denomination. This legislation will require that all ordained clergy submit to a five (5) year peer review requirement for maintaining their ordination status as “good standing”.

**Rationale**

Peer Reviews focuses on the performance of professionals, with a view to improving quality and to uphold established standards. The clergy peer review process will be used to provide support and recommendations that can provide a basis for clergy development and support, as well as to improve their quality of pastoral care in the ordained ministry. This review process will also drive increased collegiality among clergy and limit the instances for clergy burnout.

**Current Text**

None

**Amended Text**

All ordained clergy must participate in the maintenance of their ordination status to be considered in "good standing" by demonstrating that they have completed a peer review every five years. Each Episcopal District will determine their own appropriate process for the administration and will keep track of the peer reviews to ensure denominational compliance.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

CLO – II Ministerial Training Board Composition

**First and Last Name**

Connectional Lay Organization

**Email**

MRK19732000@YAHOO.COM

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

2021, Part VII, Section III, Subsection C - Ministerial Training Board (Committees on Instruction); Pages 135 and 136.

**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 in Section C, 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**

Part VII, Sec. III. C1.; Appointment of Dean and Nomination of Staff, Page 135.

The presiding bishop shall appoint the Dean of Ministerial Training of the Conference. The dean, in turn, shall nominate the staff (committees) which shall be confirmed by the Annual Conference.

**Amended Text**

Part VII, Sec. III. C1; Page 135

The presiding Bishop shall appoint the Dean of Ministerial Training of the conference. The dean, in turn, shall nominate the staff (committees) which will consist of highly qualified and/or certified clergy and laity which shall be confirmed by the Annual Conference.



- 42  
43 **Approved**  
44 • No  
45  
46 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

CLO I - A What's New Page for the AME Book of Doctrine & Discipline (BODD)

**First and Last Name**

Connection Lay Organization

**Email**

[mrkl9732000@yahoo.com](mailto:mrkl9732000@yahoo.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

No current language is present for this proposed bill.

**Intent**

Provide a section in the 2024 Discipline and future editions that succinctly describes key new information for readers.

**Rationale**

The BODD is a must have resource book for members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The BODD is updated every four years and members are encouraged to purchase the latest edition.

Unfortunately, many members refuse to purchase the latest edition because of the perception that "my old copy is just as good as the new copy". A "What's New" page located at the front of the BODD will offer readers an opportunity to see the new highlights and incentivize readers to purchase the latest copy.

A "What's New" page is a common practice for academic publishers when marketing new editions of textbooks for faculty and students. A "What's New" page would inform readers about important updates, new legislation, new personalities (Bishops, General Officers), etc., not published in prior editions. Fundamentally, a "What's New page" fosters readership and helps answer the question: Why should I buy the new edition?! A "What's New" page for the BODD is long overdue and makes sense for our members.

**Current Text**

No current language is present for this proposed bill.

**Amended Text**

The proposed bill is brand new. The new section would begin similar to the following:

Guide to What's New in The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2024: Fifty-Second Edition

**Title**

- 42
- 43 This section provides an overview of what's new in the fifty second edition of the
- 44 African Methodist Episcopal Church 2024. Content throughout the discipline has been
- 45 significantly expanded and revised from the fifty-first edition.
- 46 No
- 47
- 48 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

CLO 2 - Commission on Internal Audit

**First and Last Name**

Connectional Lay Organization

**Email**mrkl9732000@yahoo.com**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 113, Section II. Local Church Organization - Optional Commissions

**Intent**

Many Stewards, Trustees and Official Board Members feel powerless to verify the accuracy of the financial reports that are provided to leadership during Official Board meetings and Quarterly and Annual Conferences. It is vital that church leadership has the information and tools to verify the financial reports as well as the accompanying documentation to ensure that the financial status of the church is being reported correctly and accurately. Frequently, the leadership is reliant on the Pastor and a few individuals for the financial integrity of reporting and to maintain internal controls. The Commission on Internal Audit is designed to provide an independent review of the critical areas of financial management and will be able to draw from the Discipline the necessary tools to properly conduct this internal audit review.

**Rationale**

The current Doctrine and Discipline has no requirements for systematic auditing of the church records. The consistent application of audit procedures is a critical need in order to ensure that the financial reporting is accurate and reliable. Most churches cannot afford to expend the monies required for an external audit to be conducted by a certified public accounting firm. This bill allows a local church to form an Internal Audit Commission charged with performing internal audit procedures to verify key financial statement components and assets to ensure correct financial reporting to the Official Board, Quarterly Conference and Annual Conference. The lack of specific prescribed steps to verify financial records has continually led to incorrect and unreliable financial reporting that has resulted in foreclosures, IRS liens and other negative consequences for our local churches.

**Current Text**

Existing Legislation now reads

Section II. Local Church Organization - Optional Commissions

A. Guidelines for Establishing Commissions

I. Types There may be constituted in each local church the following commissions, whose respective duties are hereinafter defined: a) The Commission on Membership, Evangelism and Discipleship b) The Commission on Christian Education, c) The Commission on Missions and Welfare, d) The Commission on Stewardship & Finance, e) The Commission on Public Relations. f) The Commission on Christian Social Action, and g) The Commission on Health.

### **Amended Text**

## **Section II. Local Church Organization - Optional Commissions**

### **A. Guidelines for Establishing Commissions**

I. Types There may be constituted in each local church the following commissions, whose respective duties are hereinafter defined: a) The Commission on Membership, Evangelism and Discipleship b) The Commission on Christian Education, c) The Commission on Missions and Welfare, d) The Commission on Stewardship & Finance, e) The Commission on Public Relations. f) The Commission on Christian Social Action, g) The Commission on Health and, h) The Commission on Internal Audit.

### **D. Duties of Each Commission**

#### **8. Commission on Internal Audit**

##### **a. Qualifications**

- (1) Must be a member in good standing in the local church, participating financially.
- (2) Must be approved to serve on the internal audit committee by the Official Board or Church Conference.
- (3) Must commit to 30-45 days of each year to work consistently on the internal audit for the local church.
- (4) Must participate in all internal audit committee meetings held in preparation for an upcoming internal audit
- (5) Must participate in all internal audit committee training sessions
- (6) Must be willing to sign the final internal audit report as a member of the committee and stand in agreement with the committee.

##### **b. Duties**

The duties of this commission are as follows:

- (1) Collate, check, and analyze spreadsheet data
- (2) Examine the church accounts and financial control systems
- (3) Gauge levels of financial risk within the church
- (4) Check that financial reports and records are accurate and reliable to ensure assets are protected
- (5) Identify if and where processes are not working as they should and advise on changes to be made
- (6) Prepare reports, commentaries, and financial statements
- (7) Serve as a liaison with Official Board and Pastor to present findings and recommendations
- (8) Ensure procedures, policies, legislation, and regulations are correctly followed and complied with



- 85  
86 **Approved**  
87 • No  
88  
89 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

CLO 3 - Consistent use of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Emblem - The Cross and Anvil

**First and Last Name**

Connectional Lay Organization

**Email**

MRK19732000@YAHOO.COM

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 21, Part I., Section V. New legislation

**Intent**

To ensure the Cross and Anvil emblem is a part of the design of logos created and used by churches, offices, publications, and organizations throughout the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Rationale**

The AMEC has a unique history that is symbolized in her emblem of the Cross and Anvil. This emblem distinguishes our denomination and our beliefs. The elements of this unique symbol signify our belief in Jesus Christ, the Cross, and celebrates worship as held in our first church, the Anvil. By making the Cross and Anvil the official emblem of the Church, we are easily identified as the AME Church denomination in our publications, correspondence, and other presentations. Because of the unique nature of each component, department, and level of the church, it is not necessary to use the same emblem, just the inclusion of the Cross and Anvil on the logos. The logo for Women in Ministry is a good example of a unique emblem that includes the Cross and Anvil. The proposed legislation makes for a more identifiable Connectional Church. As examples of unique emblems/logos, consider the swish for Nike and the red flame for the United Methodist Church. See the note below from Forbes.com that succinctly sums up the reasons for using the right logo (emblem in our case).

NOTE: According to Forbes com: The right logo says everything without saying a word. It connotes feelings of honor, trust, pride, excellence and integrity. It conveys a series of virtues and a set of values without pages of copy and a team of copywriters. It evokes a sense of connection between a brand and consumers. It establishes a bond between a company and its community of fans, friends, critics, allies, and champions.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/theyec/2018/11/30/the-importance-of-having-the-right-logo/?sh=1281c9bb1ccb>

**Current Text**

Part I, Section I-V Historical Preamble, Mission, Vision, Purposes and Objectives

### **Amended Text**

Proposed NEW wording

Part I. HISTORICAL PREAMBLE, MISSION, VISION, PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES, AND EMBLEM. New

Section, Page 21. New SECTION . THE EMBLEM

The African Methodist Episcopal Church has a unique emblem that identifies our denomination and our heritage. The components of this unique symbol are the Cross and Anvil. The cross signifying our belief in Jesus Christ and the Anvil signifying our history of worship in our first church, Mother Bethel, a blacksmith shop. The Cross and Anvil emblem should be included, regardless of size, in the logos of each church, department, and components noted are readily identified with the AME Church denomination.

### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

CLO 4 - Local Minister Annuity/Insurance Program Participation

**First and Last Name**

Connectional Lay Organization.

**Email**

MRK19732000@YAHOO.COM

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

2021 - Page 157, Part VIII, Section IV., The Local Ministry, B. Local Deacon & C. Local Elder & Part XIII, Section I. D.,  
Page 228. D. 2. a. Ministerial Annuities Plan, I

**Intent**

The AME Church to expand the criteria for eligibility into the annuity and insurance benefit program to a Local Minister\* that serve as a pastor to a local charge continuously for at least two years, with an expectation that they will continue to serve in that same capacity.

**Rationale**

There are instances throughout the connection particularly in rural areas of the Church, local ministers\* are assigned to serve as supply pastors for a prolonged appointment. They are responsible for all financial obligations of their church. However, they are currently not eligible to participate in the annuity and insurance programs of the AME Church. Two years of service as pastor is deserving of an exception of eligibility criteria of an annuity/insurance program. Secondly, it should be noted the change of term Local Elder to Local Minister\* to encompass the various types of clergy who may be applicable to this scenario. The AME Discipline defines Local Ministers as Local Deacons and Elders who are authorized to perform specific pastoral duties in a particular charge under the specific supervision of their itinerant elder (page 893 of the 2021 AME Discipline). Often, supply pastors are local ministers, however, this proposed bill only references those local ministers that are appointed and serve as a pastor to a local charge continuously for at least two years.

**Current Text**

Page 228. D. 2. a. Ministerial Annuities Plan, I. ....Included in this coverage shall be all bishops, general officers, college presidents, deans of theological seminaries, itinerant elders, and salaried personnel of the connectional departments of the AME Church, including our hospitals, church schools and colleges.

Page 214, D.2.a 1) Included in this coverage shall be all bishops, general officers, college presidents, deans of theological seminaries, itinerant elders and salaried personnel of the connectional departments of the AME Church, including our hospitals, church schools and colleges.

**Amended Text**

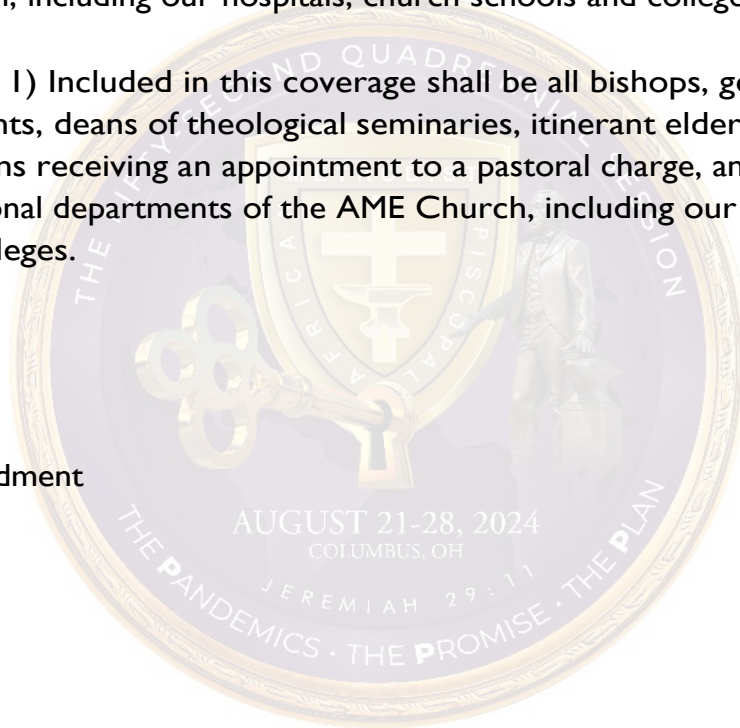
Page 228. D. 2. a. Ministerial Annuities Plan, I. ....Included in this coverage shall be all bishops, general officers, college presidents, deans of theological seminaries, itinerant elders, other local ministers that serves as a pastor to a local charge continuously for at least two years, with an expectation that they will continue to serve in that same capacity, and salaried personnel of the connectional departments of the AME Church, including our hospitals, church schools and college.

Page 214, D.2.a 1) Included in this coverage shall be all bishops, general officers, college presidents, deans of theological seminaries, itinerant elders and all other ordained persons receiving an appointment to a pastoral charge, and salaried personnel of the connectional departments of the AME Church, including our hospitals, church schools and colleges.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment





**Title**

CLO 5 - Providing IRS Required Documentation for the Pastor's Housing Allowance Benefit

**First and Last Name**

Connectional Lay Organization

**Email**

MRK19732000@YAHOO.COM

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

2021

Page 95. Part V-Local Church Organization, Section I.A.2, a.2), b)

PAGE 154. Part VIII-Ministerial Classifications, Rules and Support, Section III. Ministers' Bill of Rights Paragraph 2) a) Parsonage or Housing Allowance

**Intent**

The goal of this legislation is to provide guidance to Pastor's and Steward's on how properly provide and document a housing allowance benefit for the Pastor.

**Rationale**

The housing allowance exclusion is a benefit that all pastors and Stewards in the AME should be versed in and understand how to maximize the tax effect of the pastor's compensation package. The goal of this legislation is to provide clarity within the Doctrine and Discipline on how this benefit should be incorporated into a pastor's compensation package. As we are aware, a properly designated housing allowance is excludable from federal and state taxation although it is subject to self-employment taxes for pastors who have not elected Form 4361 treatment which excludes the housing allowance from self-employment taxes.

Per IRS Publication 517, the clergy housing allowance must be calculated as the lower of two (2) options; a. pastor's actual expenses, or b. fair rental value of a fully furnished and equipped home in the geographical area of the church. The Doctrine and Discipline has similar references in the above noted paragraph when it references "negotiated salary and benefit package shall be commensurate with the cost of living in the given geographical area and the ability of the local congregation." Therefore, the Pastor's actual expenses should be calculated based on the attached worksheet, and the benefit should be maximized and reported correctly on a W-2 so that a pastor's compensation package can follow IRS guidelines and requirements. The housing allowance should be maximized prior to the pastor receiving other forms of compensation which are fully

taxable.

All Pastors are eligible to receive a housing allowance if a parsonage is not being provided. Many receive incorrect compensation documentation and are forced to forego the benefits of the housing allowance exclusion and do not have correct information to document their entire compensation package. This legislation will provide the steps to properly implement a housing allowance benefit.

#### **Current Text**

Part V-Local Church Organization Section I.A.2a – Stewards Paragraph 2)

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

Part VIII-Ministerial Classifications, Rules and Support, Section III. Ministers' Bill of Rights, Paragraph

2) a) Parsonage or Housing Allowance

In the alternative, the Stewards of the local church may negotiate a reasonable housing allowance with the pastor.

#### **Amended Text**

Proposed NEW wording

Part V-Local Church Organization

Page 95, Section I.A.2a – Stewards Paragraph 2) b)

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

The Board of Stewards and the Board of Trustees will work to assist the Pastor in implementing the most tax-advantageous compensation package by ensuring that the housing allowance is maximized per the attached housing allowance worksheet. Other benefits would be considered after the housing allowance has been maximized.

Part VIII - Ministerial Classifications, Rules and Support, Section III. Ministers'

Bill of Rights Paragraph 2) a) Parsonage or Housing Allowance, Page 154.

In the alternative, the Stewards and Trustees of the local church may negotiate a reasonable housing allowance with the pastor.

Pastor's Housing Allowance  
Worksheet Request for  
Housing/Parsonage Allowance

Submitted By: Calendar Year:  
2021 Submitted To:

Please accept this as my request for a housing/parsonage allowance in the amount of  
\$ \$0.00 for the calendar year stated above. This request is made pursuant to Internal  
Revenue Code Section 107, and I represent that I am qualified, pursuant to said section  
and the regulations there under, to receive the same.

Actual Expenses

2021 Est. Expenses

2022

I Mortgage / Rent Payment

II Taxes

A. Real Estate Taxes

B. Personal

Property

Taxes III

Insurance

A. Fire

B. Homeowners

C. Renters

D. Other:

IV Home Improvements

A. New Roof

B. Additions, Garage, Carport

C. Fence, Landscaping

D. Driveway, Paving, Sealing

E. Other:

V Maintenance and Repairs

A. Appliances

B. Plumbing

C. Fence, Landscaping

D. Driveway, Paving, Sealing

E. Other:

VI Appliances and Furnishings

A. TV, VCR, Stereo, DVD Player, etc.



- 128 B. Piano, Sewing Machine  
 129 C. Lawnmower, Vacuum Cleaner  
 130 D. Dryer, Dishwasher, Refrigerator  
 131 E. Lawn Equipment  
 132 F. Lawnmower, Vacuum Cleaner  
 133 G. Carpet, Tile, Wood Floors  
 134 H. Other:  
 135 VII Decorative Items  
 136 A. Drapes, Curtains, Blinds  
 137 B. Throw Rugs  
 138 C. Wallpaper, Paint, Molding, Shelving  
 139 D. Paintings, Pictures, Knick-Knacks  
 140 E. Bedspreads  
 141 F. Sheets, Linens, Towels  
 142 G. Other:  
 143 VIII Utilities  
 144 A. Gas  
 145 B. Electricity  
 146 C. Water and Sewer  
 147 D. Cable TV  
 148 E. Garbage Removal  
 149 F. Other:  
 150  
 151 IX Miscellaneous  
 152 A. Home Cleaning Supplies  
 153 B. Broom, Mops, Sweepers, etc.  
 154 C. Light Bulbs,  
 155 Home Supplies  
 156 D: Other:  
 157  
 158  
 159  
 160  
 161 Column Totals: \$0.00 \$0.00  
 162 Total Estimated Fair Market Rental Value: \$0.00  
 163  
 164  
 165 Fair Market Rental Value  
 166 I Annual Rental Value including furnishings  
 167 II Utilities \$0.00  
 168 III Maintenance &  
 169 Repairs \$0.00 Total



170 Fair Market Rental  
 171 Value \$0.00

172  
 173 I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided above is both  
 174 accurate and truthful, and I submit it as the basis for a housing/parsonage allowance,  
 175 which will be excluded from my taxable salary. I further agree to notify this  
 176 Board/Committee of any substantial changes in the total amounts reflected.  
 177

178  
 179 \_\_\_\_\_NAME \_\_\_\_\_DATE

180  
 181 \_\_\_\_\_NAME \_\_\_\_\_DATE

182  
 183 **Approved**

184 • No

185  
 186 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

CLO 5 - Providing IRS Required Documentation for the Pastor's Housing Allowance Benefit

**First and Last Name**

Connectional Lay Organization

**Email**

mrkl9732000@yahoo.com

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

2021

Part V-Local Church Organization, Section I.A.2, a.2), b), Page 95

Part VIII-Ministerial Classifications, Rules and Support, Section III. Ministers' Bill of Rights Paragraph 2) a) Parsonage or Housing Allowance, Page 154

**Intent**

The goal of this legislation is to provide guidance to Pastor's and Steward's on how properly provide and document a housing allowance benefit for the Pastor.

**Rationale**

The housing allowance exclusion is a benefit that all pastors and Stewards in the AME should be versed in and understand how to maximize the tax effect of the pastor's compensation package. The goal of this legislation is to provide clarity within the Doctrine and Discipline on how this benefit should be incorporated into a pastor's compensation package. As we are aware, a properly designated housing allowance is excludable from federal and state taxation although it is subject to self-employment taxes for pastors who have not elected Form 4361 treatment which excludes the housing allowance from self-employment taxes.

Per IRS Publication 517, the clergy housing allowance must be calculated as the lower of two (2) options; a. pastor's actual expenses, or b. fair rental value of a fully furnished and equipped home in the geographical area of the church. The Doctrine and Discipline has similar references in the above noted paragraph when it references "negotiated salary and benefit package shall be commensurate with the cost of living in the given geographical area and the ability of the local congregation." Therefore, the Pastor's actual expenses should be calculated based on the attached worksheet, and the benefit should be maximized and reported correctly on a W-2 so that a pastor's compensation package can follow IRS guidelines and requirements. The housing allowance should be maximized prior to the pastor receiving other forms of compensation which are fully

taxable.

All Pastors are eligible to receive a housing allowance if a parsonage is not being provided. Many receive incorrect compensation documentation and are forced to forego the benefits of the housing allowance exclusion and do not have correct information to document their entire compensation package. This legislation will provide the steps to properly implement a housing allowance benefit.

#### **Current Text**

Part V-Local Church Organization Section I.A.2a – Stewards Paragraph 2)

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

Part VIII-Ministerial Classifications, Rules and Support, Section III. Ministers' Bill of Rights, Paragraph

2) a) Parsonage or Housing Allowance

In the alternative, the Stewards of the local church may negotiate a reasonable housing allowance with the pastor.

#### **Amended Text**

Part V-Local Church Organization

Page 95, Section I.A.2a – Stewards Paragraph 2) b)

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

The Board of Stewards and the Board of Trustees will work to assist the Pastor in implementing the most tax-advantageous compensation package by ensuring that the housing allowance is maximized per the attached housing allowance worksheet. Other benefits would be considered after the housing allowance has been maximized.

Part VIII - Ministerial Classifications, Rules and Support, Section III. Ministers' Bill of Rights Paragraph 2) a) Parsonage or Housing Allowance, Page 154.

In the alternative, the Stewards and Trustees of the local church may negotiate a reasonable housing allowance with the pastor.

See addendum

- 85  
86 **Approved**  
87 • No  
88  
89 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

CLO 6 - Reduction of the Travel Budget of Retired Bishops and General Officers by 50% to achieve fiscal savings in the 2024-2028 General Church Budget

**First and Last Name**

Connectional Lay Organization

**Email**

[mrkl9732000@yahoo.com](mailto:mrkl9732000@yahoo.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Connectional Budget of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2020-2024), Page 17, Retired Bishops Expenses, page 2, Retired General Officers Travel.

**Intent**

Reduce the Travel Budget of Retired Bishops and General Officers by 50%.

**Rationale**

The next Connectional Budget and its looming anticipated higher costs/demands will warrant sensitive crafting reflecting the fiscal realities of local churches who are already struggling to meet their assessment targets. One of the major budget concerns is six additional Bishops and two additional General Officers will retire in 2024. Considering the unprecedented number of retired Bishops and GOs (29) the Church will have and its projected impact on the Connectional Budget (ref the % of increase & the % impact on overall C. Budget), reducing the travel expenses for retired Bishops and General Officers is a responsible course of fiscal action.

It is noted in their retirement, they contribute their expertise and offer wise counsel, they vote in their Council Meetings, except on financial matters and reassignments of Bishops, and meet as a Council at major Connectional meetings. however, regarding current priorities, the General Church should consider reducing these generous travel subsidies during these current economically stressful times.

A 50% reduction in travel for both groups is fair, equitable and communicates true leadership. This will result in a savings of \$861,922 for the 2024-2028 Connectional Budget.

**Current Text**

There is no existing legislation for this proposed bill.

**Amended Text**

42 There is no new wording for this proposed bill. The financial impact of this bill is a  
43 quadrennial savings is an estimated \$861,922 (4/20/2024).  
44

45  
46 See addendum

47 **Approved**

48 • No

49  
50 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

CLO 7 - Revisions Committee – Time at General Conference

**First and Last Name**

Connectional Lay Organization

**Email**

MRK19732000@YAHOO.COM

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

2021, page 271, Part XIV, Section I. G.6.g

**Intent**

To increase the Revision's Committee's time at each session of the General Conference devoted to revisions of The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

**Rationale**

There has been limited consideration to the Revision Committee's time allocated for revisions to The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the General Conference. The change is needed because there is not adequate time devoted to the numerous proposed changes during the General Conference. This increase in time will allow for more bills to be considered.

**Current Text**

At least one (1) hour shall be devoted each session to the revision of The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Amended Text**

At least two (2) hours shall be devoted each session to the revision of The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. At a minimum all bills shall have been read by the end of the second business session. It shall be considered ....

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

CLO 8 - Revisions to the Commission on Financial Management Program

**First and Last Name**

Connectional Lay Organization

**Email**

MRK19732000@YAHOO.COM

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

2021. Part XIII, Section II, A. 7. Page 254 - Commission on Financial Management Program

**Intent**

This proposed legislation is to replace the well-intentioned financial management program, the Commission on Financial Management Program, passed in but never implemented. The current version in our Doctrine and Discipline, endeavors to provide oversight of each Episcopal District, leading churches in each District, and for all General Departments, Agencies and Institutions of the AME Church. It is clear the original intent of this Commission was to provide independent financial oversight, integrity, and accountability to the AMEC's process of financial management for all areas of the Connectional and Episcopal District levels of the AME Church.

This newly revised Commission removes the Episcopal Districts and local churches from the oversight of the Commission to allow the Commission to focus solely on those ministries at the Connectional level that are not monitored closely and are not held accountable for transparent financial reporting yet receive a substantial amount of their funding from the General Budget dollars that are provided by each member of the AME Church. This Commission and platform shall be implemented, staffed and function as an independent body of professionals responsible to the General Conference body to provide strict, sound, objective and transparent oversight. This commission is to be supported by the general funds of the AME Church in the spirit of the Commission on Financial Management Program which has been in our Discipline for more than 40 years.

This bill establishes three (3) specific areas of the financial management program under an independent commission of professionals elected to oversee independent, specific oversight and accountability procedures and reporting for all Departments, Agencies and Institutions of the AME Church. The Commission will oversee the work of the three program areas which will be implemented in phases to ensure a baseline of consistent, reliable information is established on which recommendations can be based on. The three program areas are: Phase I: Financial Management (Financial Oversight);

Phase II: Planning & Evaluation (Effectiveness and Efficiency) and Phase III: Research (Goal-Oriented Improvements). It is recommended that each of these program areas are implemented separately or in phases as outlined below.

### **Rationale**

This legislation focuses on implementing sound internal controls and oversight processes to ensure accurate and consistent financial reporting to prevent, detect and address financial irregularities,

misappropriations and crimes that have occurred in numerous organizations including the AME Church. This oversight program must be independent of the current Episcopal control structure to ensure no one person, regardless of title or office, will be in a position to influence, conceal or manipulate the financial policies and reporting that will be routinely presented to the church body. Our Zion has suffered greatly in the past and currently from the consistent lack of oversight, reliable independent auditing, undocumented financial reporting and the inability to detect gross errors and omissions in financial reporting. The implementation of this much needed service seeks to mitigate historic irregularities that the AMEC has suffered in the past.

### **Current Text**

No current text.

### **Amended Text**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021. Part XIII, Section II, A. 7. Page 254 - Commission on Financial Management Program

Commission on Financial Management Program (CFM)

Introduction and explanation of the Commission on Financial Management Program  
The Commission on Financial Management Program purpose is to provide independent financial oversight, integrity, and accountability to the financial management of all Departments, Agencies and Institutions at the Connectional level that receive substantial funding from the General Budget of the AMEC. The program will bring consistent monitoring as well as transparent standardized financial audit reporting to the AME Church. This Commission and platform shall be implemented, staffed and function as an independent body of professionals ensuring strict, sound, objective, and transparent oversight and will be responsible to the General Conference body. This program must be independent of the current Episcopal control structure to ensure no one person, regardless of title or office, will be in a position to influence, conceal or manipulate the financial policies and reporting that will be routinely presented to the church body. This commission is to be supported by the general funds of the AME Church.

The Commission will oversee the work of the three program areas which will be implemented in phases to ensure a baseline of consistent, reliable information is established on which recommendations can be based on. The three program areas are: Phase I: Financial Oversight; Phase II: Planning & Evaluation and Phase III: Research. The program areas are to be implemented separately or in phases as outlined below. The Financial Oversight arm of the Financial Management Program will be implemented first, followed by Planning & Evaluation, then Research.

a. Composition - Candidates for the Commission will offer themselves to be elected by ballot at each General Conference and elected by the General Conference body to constitute the Commission on Financial Management Program.

The Commission shall consist of nine (9) persons – 5 lay and 4 clergy persons. Ideally, three (3) of the persons on this Commission will be from outside of the AME Church. The chair of the General Board of the AME Church shall be ex-officio member of this Commission, and shall be prohibited from making

any attempt to disrupt or misdirect the orderly work and flow of the commission as described herein

b. Qualifications - These elected commissioners must possess the formal education, professional certifications, experience, and independence from the General Board to provide the objective expertise required to perform the duties of this commission. The Commission should be made up of certified public accountants, human resource professionals, internal audit and control experts, fraud examiners, organizational leadership professionals, attorneys, and others with similar financial, management and legal expertise whose skills and experience will be useful to the commission.

c. Duties of the Commission

1) advise the General Board and the General Conference of the AME Church of the General Budget funds to accomplish the basic program purpose and objective as outlined in the doctrine and discipline by which all AME Connectional Departments, Agencies and Institutions are governed.

2) ensures the implementation of independent audit committees for each connectional department, agency and Institution to oversee the respective audit processes.

3) provides direct oversight, training and tools to each audit committee to provide the foundation for consistent ongoing oversight, monitoring & reporting.

4) annually review the financial health of each component as provided by the audit reports, verifying basic supporting documentation from each component and report to the General Board on the compliance of each component.

5) elect 3 Program Directors from the commission members prior to the implementation of each Phase of the program.

6) make periodic studies and evaluate the use of material and manpower resources of



Connectional Departments, Agency and Institutions in consultation with the components leadership.

7) analyze the operations of each General Department, Agency and Institution of the Church with the purpose of determining the productive benefits occurring from their operation and the degree of efficiency by which these operations are administered.

8) recommend to the General Board and to the General Conference of the AME Church specific financial goals outlined in audit management letters and by review of Commission members to be achieved by each department, agency or institution supported by the general funds of the church and establish time schedules of progress by which each department, agency or institution shall be required to conform in order to produce the greatest benefits for the Church.

9) supervise and structure policy for the productive operation of an Office of Research, Planning and Evaluation.

10) The Commission shall recommend to the General Board of the AME Church the paid staff, qualified academic training and professional experience, to serve as (a) Director of Financial Oversight, (b) Director of Planning and Evaluation and (c) Director of Research. The three Directors will employ one supporting staff member to implement their functional assignments.

#### Phase I – Financial Oversight Arm of the Financial Management Program Overview/Duties

The Financial Oversight Arm would be responsible for ensuring independent audit committees are assigned, functioning, trained, and provided tools to oversee the audit process for each Connectional Department, Agency and Institution. Each audit committee will coordinate their work through the Financial Management Program Committee. The final audit reports for each Department, Agency and Institution will be provided directly to the Program Committee. The Director of Financial Oversight and Committee would be responsible for preparing and providing summary reports of each Department, Agency and Institution annually at the General Board meetings of the church and quadrennially provide a summary report regarding each Department, Agency and Institution to the General Conference body. These summaries will include audit results, management letter recommendations, Committee recommendations for financial procedure and process improvements and other pertinent information. The summaries would be submitted to the Commission on Statistics and Finance 30 days prior to presentation to the annual General Board. The complete report quadrennial report will be available for dissemination to all General Conference delegates 3 months prior to each General Conference for review, discussion information, sharing/dissemination...)

#### Composition

Oversight Program Chairperson - The Commission on Financial Management Program would elect among the commission members, a Director of Financial Oversight, that would be employed by the General Conference (AMEC) on a part-time basis



(potentially \$50-\$75,000 annually). This program chair would provide oversight, training, tools and coordination to the group of audit committees. The director would provide annual reporting to the Commission on Statistics & Finance, General Board and General Conference on all matters pertaining to the Financial Oversight work completed by the Financial Management Program Committee.

**Audit Committees** - Independently selected Audit Committee members shall be drawn from qualified volunteer members from the general populus of the AME Church or in the case of the Institutions with existing audit committees, from the governing boards of those institutions. Upon organization, the Financial Management Program Committee shall solicit interested volunteer members willing to be trained to serve on audit committees. All Connectional Departments, Agencies or Institutions that have existing audit committees shall agree to be governed by the guidelines, policies and procedures established by the Commission on Financial Management Program which will be required of all audit committees. They shall submit to the Commission their selected/appointed audit committee persons, or the Commission on Financial Management Program will assign qualified volunteers from the pool of those who volunteer from all districts as needed.

Each independent audit committee would consist of 3-5 volunteer persons (no person in a paid AME Church position can serve on an audit committee) based on the size of the Connectional Department, Agency or Institution. The audit committees would also elect/select a Chair and Vice Chair of the committee from their members. The Chairperson would be responsible for reporting to the Director of Financial Oversight.

**Staffing** - The staff under the Director of Financial Oversight would be limited to two administrative persons, employed part-time at a cost of no more than \$20,000 annually each. One administrative person will be assigned coordination of the audit committees, and the second person will be responsible for assisting with coordinating the audit reporting.

The Independent Audit Committees will perform the following duties:

- (1) Selection of external auditor
- (2) Coordination and review of the engagement letter and any specific audit requests.
- (3) Direct coordination with the auditor during the audit process to review progress, ensure cooperation and provide oversight and instruction if any material error or irregularities are discovered.
- (4) Meet with the auditor after the completion of the audit to review the audit report and management letter concerns.
- (5) Summarize the report and recommendations and report to the Financial Oversight Chairperson and Program Committee.

**Phase II - Planning & Evaluation**

Phase II would begin 2 years after Phase I is fully operational. The Director of Planning and Evaluation would be implemented under the same financial support of part-time compensation and one support person. This program director would draw from the audit reports and recommendations to evaluate the effectiveness and financial viability of the existing Connectional Departments, Agencies and Institutions and coordinate with the Commission on Financial Management Program and various commissions and boards to assist with outlining needed improvements and changes and timelines for completion of agreed-upon changes. The Director of Planning and Evaluation and Committee would be responsible for preparing and providing summary reports of recommendations on each Department, Agency and Institution annually at the General Board meetings of the church and quadrennially provide a summary report regarding each Department, Agency and Institution to the General Conference body.

### Phase III - Research

Phase II would begin 1 year after Phase II is fully implemented and operational. The Director of Research would be implemented under the same financial support guidelines as the other Director positions with a part-time compensation chairperson and one part-time paid support position. The Director of Research will gather information from all areas of the AME Church and from many outside resources to recommend and implement significant process and program changes that can make our Zion stronger, more viable, more responsive, and more prepared for the challenges we will face as we endeavor to spread the Good News to all areas of the world. The Director of Research and Committee would be responsible for preparing and providing summary reports of recommendations on each Department, Agency, and Institution annually at the General Board meetings of the church and quadrennially provide a summary report regarding each Department, Agency and Institution to the General Conference body.

### Financial Implications:

#### Year 1 & 2

P/T Director of Financial Oversight

\$50,000-\$75,000 P/T Assistant 1

\$20,000

P/T Assistant 2 \$20,000

Total Year 1 & 2 \$90,000-\$115,000

#### Year 3

All Year One Costs Plus

P/T Director of Planning & Evaluation.

\$50,000-\$75,000 P/T Assistant 3 \$20,000

Total Years 3 \$160,000-\$185,000

#### Year 4 and forward

All Year 1 and 3 Costs Plus

P/T Director of Research \$50,000-\$75,000

255 P/T Assistant 4 \$20,000  
256 Total Year 4 \$230,000-\$255,000  
257  
258 **Approved**  
259 • No  
260  
261 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

CLO 9 - Transparency of Connectional Budget

**First and Last Name**

Connectional Lay Organization

**Email**

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**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

2021,

Part IX Church Finance, Section I. General Summary of the Budget

**Intent**

To restore the Church Finance Section to the 2024 Book of Doctrine and Discipline (BODD).

**Rationale**

The 2020 Discipline does not include a Church Finance Section as done in prior editions. The decision to delete the Church Finance Section from the 2020 Discipline out of concerns about legal risk promotes a burden of non-access to basic Connectional financial data. 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 church? To promote member trust in our church financial transactions the Connectional Budget must be included in the BODD, be fully transparent and free to all members in good and regular standing.

**Current Text**

There is no current text or existing legislation for the proposed bill.

**Amended Text**

There is no new wording or amended text other than restoring Section IX Church Financial Section back to the 2024 Discipline.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

CLO 10 - Trustee Participation in the Negotiation of Pastor's Housing Allowance

**First and Last Name**

Connectional Lay Organization

**Email**

MRK19732000@YAHOO.COM

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

2021,  
Page 98, Part V, Section I. A. b. 5) d

**Intent**

Add a designated member of the Board of Trustees to be included with the Board of Stewards for the negotiation of the pastor's housing allowance when there is a parsonage available and the pastor elects not to reside in the parsonage.

**Rationale**

This legislation addresses the disparity in the process of the Board of Stewards negotiating the housing allowance without conferring with the Board of Trustees to ensure a complete understanding of the costs of maintaining the residence and any other costs that should be considered when the church enters into a housing allowance agreement at the same time the church is responsible for maintaining and equipping a parsonage. The Board of Trustees can provide invaluable insight that ensures that the best interest of the pastor and the church are considered simultaneously during this important process.

Per the above reference, the Board of Trustees is responsible for securing housing for the pastor's family. The Board of Trustee is also responsible for the upkeep, maintenance and taxes on the parsonage, which includes, but is not limited to, utilities, upgrades, landscaping, HVAC systems, roofing, window replacement, appliances, carpeting, painting, real estate taxes, and homeowners' insurance.

Because of the expenses associated with the maintenance of the parsonage, the funds needed for these expenses may affect funds available for, and should be considered in negotiation of, the pastor's housing allowance. The duly elected Trustees are the ones who are given the responsibility of being knowledgeable about these expenses and are equipped to provide valuable insight on what is in the best interest of the church and pastor as it relates to the housing allowance.



Therefore, the Board of Stewards and a designated representative of the Trustee Board, together, should negotiate the housing allowance for the pastor when (s)he elects to seek accommodations apart from the available parsonage.

#### **Current Text**

SECTION I. LOCAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION – REQUIRED A. Boards, Licensed Missionary Workers, and Organizations of Ministries b. Trustees 5) Duties

d) They shall secure, by purchase or hire, a house for the pastor's family and comfortably furnish it. In lieu of this arrangement, the pastor may be given a housing allowance. If a housing allowance is given, it is the Stewards' duty to negotiate a reasonable housing allowance with the pastor.

#### **Amended Text**

SECTION I. LOCAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION - REQUIRED

A. Boards, Licensed Missionary Workers, and Organizations of Ministries b. Trustees 5) Duties

d) They shall secure, by purchase or hire, a house for the pastor's family and also comfortably furnish it. In lieu of this arrangement, the pastor may be given a housing allowance. If a housing allowance is given, it is the Stewards' duty to negotiate a reasonable housing allowance with the pastor. If the church has a parsonage and the pastor chooses not to reside in it, a designated member of the Board of Trustees shall be included in the negotiation of the pastor's housing allowance.

B. It should be noted, and clearly understood that only under these circumstances and conditions, where the local church is giving or negotiating a housing allowance for the Pastor, while at the same time in possession of a parsonage that the Pastor elects not to reside in, will the local Board of Trustees have a representative be included to collaborate with the Board of Stewards for the negotiation of the Pastor's Housing Allowance

#### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

CLO 12 - Stewardship and Finance Commission

**First and Last Name**

Connectional Lay Organization

**Email**

MRK19732000@YAHOO.COM

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

2021, Part V, Section I. Local Church Organization - Required; and Section II. Local Church Organization - Optional Commissions, specifically, Subsection A. Guidelines for establishing Commissions (page 113) and Subsection C.3. Commission on Stewardship and Finance (page 117).

**Intent**

To move the requirements for the Commission on Stewardship and Finance from Section III (Optional Local Church Organization), and place them under Section II, Subsection A.4. (Auxiliaries), thus qualifying the body as a standing commission.

**Rationale**

For several years, the local church has been encouraged to establish a Central Budget Fund (as is established on the Episcopal District and Connectional levels). Increasingly at Quarterly Conferences, presiding elders regularly inquire if the local church in question has a central fund. The requirement for establishing a Central Budget Fund is written under the duties of the Commission on Stewardship and Finance. It is specified in paragraph 4 of said section (page 104) that the fund is administered by the Commission on Stewardship and Finance. However, these requirements are laid out under the above cited section, designated for optional local church organizations.

The existence and function of an administrative body such as this commission is vital to effectual fiscal management in the local church and cannot be optional, but must be mandatory. It needs to be established as a continuously functioning, standing unit, as are similar bodies at other levels of the Connectional Church. The Commission on Stewardship and Finance is currently required to carry out the financial obligations of the church under the direction of the Official Board and leadership of the pastor, including developing a budget and administering the Central Budget Fund. These functions need to be performed by a representative cross - section of the local church components and membership. Members should possess relevant skills and experience that can advance the fiscal health and wellbeing of our Zion.

**Current Text**

Part V, Section I. C. Page 99 - No Language

**Amended Text**

CURRENT TEXT:

Part V, Section I. C. Page 99 - No

Language PROPOSED NEW WORDING:

Add a new, Section I. C. to Part V. as follows:

C. Stewardship and Finance Commission

1. Purpose

The Commission on Stewardship and Finance shall promote and cultivate Christian stewardship and administer the financial program of the church.

2. Composition

a.) The Commission shall be composed of an equal number of stewards, trustees and Official Board Members at- large. The total number of persons on this commission shall not be fewer than three (3) nor more than nine (9). This rule may not apply to mission charges.

b.) The members of the commission shall be elected by the Church Conference. Where there is a member of the local church who possesses accounting expertise, such person should be considered for election.

c.) The pastor shall be the chairperson of the commission.

3. Duties

In keeping with the overall function, the duties of the commission are as follows:

a.) At the beginning of each conference year, the commission shall set up an annual budget for the station, circuit or mission and shall submit the same to the Official Board for its action and determination.

b.) Upon approval of the annual budget by the Official Board, the commission shall, under the direction of the board, take action to provide the income sufficient to cover same, and shall administer the funds received according to the plan of the Official Board. The approved budget may be presented to the Church Conference.

c.) There shall be an annual "Every Member Canvas" for individual pledges.

Contributions and payments shall be credited to the respective contributor and a proper and accurate account shall be kept of each contributor and each contribution and payment.

d.) All funds shall be deposited promptly in a bank approved by the Official Board and the account shall be in the name of the local church.

e.) Funds received shall be disbursed as the Official Board direct, subject to the approval of the pastor. Any request for expenditure not included in the approved budget must come before the Official Board for pre- approval, with the consent of the pastor.

f.) The income received each month shall have been shared proportionately among

the budgeted items after the pastor's salary and that of the entire church staff shall be given priority.

g.) A report of all receipts and disbursements and of unpaid obligations against the budget shall be made by the financial secretary and treasurer(s) to the Official Board each month and to the Quarterly Conference.

h.) It shall be the continuing duty of the commission to inform the congregation of the financial needs of the church.

i.) No lottery, raffle, or other games of chance shall be used in raising money for any purpose.

#### 4.) Central Budget Fund

The work of the local church requires the support of each member. Participation through services and gifts is a Christian duty and a means of grace. In order that all members of the AME Church on the local level may share in its manifold ministries at home and abroad, and that work committed to us may prosper, the following financial plan is hereby duly approved and adopted. [See Part II, Section VII: Stewardship Tithes and Offerings (Rules for Giving)]

i.) There shall be established a central fund in the local church known as the "Central Budget Fund".

ii.) The various causes and services included in this central fund shall be:

a.) Ministers' Support

b.) Benevolence

c.) Christian Education

d.) Public Relations

e.) Connectional Budget

f.) Conference Budget (District of the Conference)

g.) Community Project

h.) Current Trustee expense

i.) Purchases and Repairs

j.) Church Expansion (Local)

k.) Travel (Minister and Lay)

l.) Extra Budget Projects

m.) Insurance

n.) Contingency

iii) All monies used by organizations of or for the church shall be reported immediately to this fund. Each commission component shall be permitted to draw on this fund, upon presentation of a voucher previously prepared for such purposes. Each organization shall withdraw funds for incidental needs using the same procedure.

#### CURRENT TEXT

Part V, Section II, p. 99 - Local Church Organization/Optional Commission

A. Guidelines for establishing Commissions

1. Types



There may be constituted in each local church the following commissions, whose respective duties are hereinafter defined: (a) The Commission on Membership, Evangelism, and Discipleship, (b) The Commission on Christian Education, (c) The Commission on Missions and Welfare, (d) The Commission on Stewardship and Finance, (e) The Commission on Public Relations, (f) Commission on Christian Social Action, and (g) The Commission on Health.

## 2. Chairpersons

a) The pastor shall be the chairperson of the Commission on Stewardship and Finance and the ex- officio chairperson on the other commissions.

b) The chairperson of each commission shall be a steward and therefore, a member of the Official Board and Quarterly Conference to which he or she is amenable.

c) Exception: The chairperson of the Commission on Missions and Welfare, whose chairperson may be either a steward or a trustee.

d) Chairpersons shall make monthly reports to the Official Board and also quarterly reports to the Quarterly Conference.

## 3. Election of Members

a) The members shall be elected by the Church Conference, except that the superintendent of the Church School, president of the Allen Christian Fellowship, director of the Young People's Division of the Women's Missionary Society, directors of Bureau Service Agencies and additional members who shall be nominated by the pastor and elected by the Quarterly Conference.

b) The director of Christian Education shall be an ex-officio member of this commission.

## 4. Composition

a) Each Commission shall be composed of no fewer than three nor more than seven members who are in good and regular standing in the AME Church and eighteen years of age or over.

b) This rule may not apply in the case of mission charges, and does not apply to the Commission on Stewardship and Finance, which shall be composed of an equal number of stewards and trustees plus Official Board members-at-large. The total number of persons on this commission shall not be fewer than three (3) nor more than nine (9).

c) Each commission shall cooperate with the Connectional and Annual Conference Commission. PROPOSED NEW TEXT

Part V Section II; p. 99 - Local Church Organization/Optional Commissions

## A. Guidelines for Establishing Commissions

### 1. Type

There shall be constituted in each local church the following commissions, whose respective duties are herein defined: (1) The Commission on Membership, Evangelism and Discipleship, (2) The Commission on Christian Education, (3) The Commission on Missions and Welfare, (4) The Commission on Public Relations, (5) The Commission on Christian Social Action, and (6) The Commission on Health.

### 2. Chairpersons

a.) The pastor shall be ex-officio chairperson on the commissions.

b.) The chairperson of each commission shall be a steward and therefore a member



of the Official Board and Quarterly Conference to which he or she is amenable.

c.) Exception: The chairperson of the Commission on Missions and Welfare, whose chairperson may be either a steward or trustee.

d.) Chairpersons shall make monthly reports to the Official Board, and also quarterly reports to the Quarterly Conference.

### 3. Election of Members

a.) The members shall be elected by the Church Conference, except that the Commission on Christian Education shall be composed of the pastor, the superintendent of Church School, president of the Allen Christian Fellowship, director of the Young People's Division of the Women's Missionary Society, directors of Bureau Service Agencies and additional members who may be nominated by the pastor and elected by the Quarterly Conference.

b.) The director of Christian Education shall be ex-officio member of this commission

### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

CLO 14 - Supervision and Evaluation of Pastors

**First and Last Name**

Connectional Lay Organization

**Email**

[mrkl9732000@yahoo.com](mailto:mrkl9732000@yahoo.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Part VIII, Section V. The Presiding Elder, Supervisory and Advisory Function. 2021 BODD, Page 165. New insert.

**Intent**

To establish a process for evaluating the performance of pastors; to timely identify areas of concern for the local church and implement a system of recourse and documentation used in future assignments.

**Rationale**

The purpose of clergy evaluation is to assist the clergy in being the most effective pastor possible in the particular church being served. Also, it is to help the pastor in her or his growth and development within ministry. Gaining objectivity or clarity in evaluation of pastoral leadership is an important task. We recognize that most of what a pastor does in the performance of ministry is highly subjective, and immediate results are rarely recognizable. Yet we believe that there are unique opportunities for growth that take place because of an evaluation.

An example of the evaluation process assisting the AME church involves the issue of pastor's discontent with their pastoral assignments. Another scenario where the evaluation process can come into play is in the addressing a congregation's dissatisfaction with the assigned pastor. Another, if the status of a pastoral charge is significantly diminished (attending membership and financial resources), the root cause can be determined and addressed via the evaluation process.

These burdensome situations could be alleviated, if not avoided if common human resource policies regarding employee performance evaluation, followed by supervisory, and perhaps professional counseling referrals, were in place and adhered to.

In secular society, employment policies require that a supervisor meets with an employee at least twice during the year to evaluate the employee's progress against previously agreed upon goals- accomplishments, challenges and failures are specifically discussed and documented, along with amended goals and new timelines, if necessary

to achieve goals. Decisions on church leadership assignments should be based on capabilities and work product that serves the needs of the congregation, community, and objectives of the AME Church, not undermined by emotional affiliation and political influence.

Part VIII, Section V. The Presiding Elder, Supervisory and Advisory Function. 2021 BODD, page 165. It

may also need to be referenced in the "Minister's Bill of

Rights". Attachment: Pastor Evaluation Template

### **Current Text**

Part VIII, Section V. The Presiding Elder, Supervisory and Advisory Function. 2021 BODD, page 165. No language exists.

### **Amended Text**

Current Text

Part VIII, Section V. The Presiding Elder, Supervisory and Advisory Function. 2021 BODD, page 165. No language exists.

Amended Text

Part VIII, Section V. The Presiding Elder, Supervisory and Advisory Function. 2021 BODD, page 165. No language exists. New insert.

Prior to Annual Conference, and before the third quarterly Conference, the presiding elder must discuss with the said pastor the status of the local church and his/her performance at that charge, citing preceding Quarterly Conference evaluations, reports, and written communications from members. These meetings shall be documented, showing the date, venue, and signature of both pastor and presiding elder of the discussion and final assessment. Goals and objectives must be clear.

Documentation from these meetings shall be entered into a secure personnel storage file and copied to the presiding bishop. The information may be referenced in making pastoral appointments. The bishop shall be made aware of positive, adverse, or irreconcilable situations between the pastor and congregation as the presiding elder becomes aware, and if necessary, the case referred to the Ministerial Efficiency Committee. The presiding elder is to provide sufficient or adequate supervision of mission and smaller churches and circuits that will lead to a more informed and accurate evaluation.

SEE ATTACHED SUGGESTED EVALUATION FORM FOR USE  
(the form can be modified to accommodate the presiding

81 elder district) See addendum

82 **Approved**

83 • No

84

85 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Commission on Health: Annual Conference Health Ministry reporting

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Miriam J. Burnett, MD, MPH

**Email**

[chcamec@gmail.com](mailto: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**

n/a

**Amended Text**

17. Commission on Health

a. Does your charge/church have an active Health Ministry? Yes\_\_\_No\_\_\_In progress\_\_\_

b. Did your charge/church engage in ministry or awareness events towards eliminating or addressing congregation or community needs associated with the HIV/AIDS pandemic? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

Optional to provide info on event(s):

c. Last date of completion of a 'What effective religious leaders should know about HIV/AIDS' mandatory training

Names and dates for Clergy \_\_\_\_\_ Names and dates for Officers \_

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Miriam J. Burnett, MD, MPH

**Email**

[chcamec@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Commission on Health: Quarterly Conference Health Ministry reporting

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Miriam J. Burnett, MD, MPH

**Email**

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**

n/a

**Amended Text**

26. Commission on Health

a. Does your church have an active Health Ministry? Yes\_\_\_No\_\_\_In development\_\_\_\_\_ Provide info on event(s):

b. Did your church engage in ministry or awareness events towards eliminating or addressing congregation or community needs associated with the HIV/AIDS pandemic? Yes \_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_ Provide

c. Last date of completion of a 'What effective religious leaders should know about HIV/AIDS' mandatory training

Names and dates for Clergy \_\_\_\_\_ Names and dates for Officers \_

d. Has your church completed active shooter training? Yes \_\_\_Date \_\_\_No\_\_\_

42 e. Has your church conducted disaster preparedness activities? Yes \_\_\_No \_\_\_If yes,  
43 describe (include evacuation drills, CPR/AED training, gathering of recommended  
44 supplies, training, etc.)

45

46 **Approved**

• 47 No

48

49 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Connectional AME WIM Annual Meetings

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

Section 10. Meetings. The election meeting of AME/WIM shall be held Quadrennially at the seat of the General Conference. The annual meeting of AME/WIM shall be held during the Bishop's Council meeting.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Connectional AME WIM Eligibility Chart

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto: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**

Unable to submit chart, providing text only. Will submit chart when requested.

**Office/Term Length/Term Limits/ Eligibility**

Connectional/4 years/2 (8 years)/

- Itinerant Elder
- Good standing two (2) consecutive years before election
- Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
- Present at time and place of election
- Elected by general membership at properly noticed meeting

Episcopal District/4 years/2 (8 years)/

- Itinerant Elder
- Good standing two (2) consecutive years before election
- Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
- Elected by general membership at properly noticed meeting

Annual Conference/1 year/none/

- Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator must be Itinerant Elder
- Other officers must be ordained (Local or Itinerant)
- Good standing for at least one (1) year before nomination
- Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
- Elected by general membership at properly noticed meeting



42 • Present at time and

43 place of elections

44 Presiding Elder District/I

45 Year/none/

- 46 • Coordinator, Itinerant Elder when available
- 47 • Good standing for at least one (1) year before nomination
- 48 • Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
- 49 • Elected by general membership at properly noticed meeting
- 50 • Present at time and place of elections

51  
52 Campus Ministry/I Year/I Year/  
53 • Must be a member of AMEWIM  
54 • Must be accountable to Presiding Elder District Coordinator of if none then the  
55 Annual Conference Coordinator.

56  
57 **Amended Text**

58 Unable to submit chart, providing text only. Will submit chart when requested.

59  
60 Office/Term Length/Term Limits/Eligibility  
61 Requirements Connectional/4 years/2 (8  
62 years)

- 63 • Itinerant Elder
- 64 • Good standing two (2) consecutive years before election
- 65 • Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
- 66 • Present at time and place of election
- 67 • Elected by general membership at properly noticed meeting

68  
69 Episcopal District /4 years/2 (8 years)

- 70 • President and 1st Vice President must be Itinerant Elder, all other offices must be
- 71 Itinerant Elder or Itinerant Deacon
- 72 • Good standing two (2) consecutive years before election
- 73 • Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
- 74 • Present at time and place of election
- 75 • Elected by general membership at properly noticed meeting

76  
77 Annual Conference/2 year/4 terms (8 years)

- 78 • Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator must be Itinerant Elder or Itinerant Deacon
- 79 • Other officers must be ordained (Itinerant Elder, Itinerant Deacon or Local Elder)

- Good standing for at least one (1) year before nomination
- Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
- Present at time and place of elections
- Elected by general membership at properly noticed meeting

Presiding Elder District/1 Year/ 4 terms (4 years)

- Coordinator must be an Itinerant Elder when available; otherwise a Full or Local member of AME/WIM

- Accountable to the Conference Coordinator
- Good standing for at least one (1) year before nomination.
- Comply with Nomination Committee Criteria
- Present at time and place of elections
- Elected by general membership at properly noticed meeting.

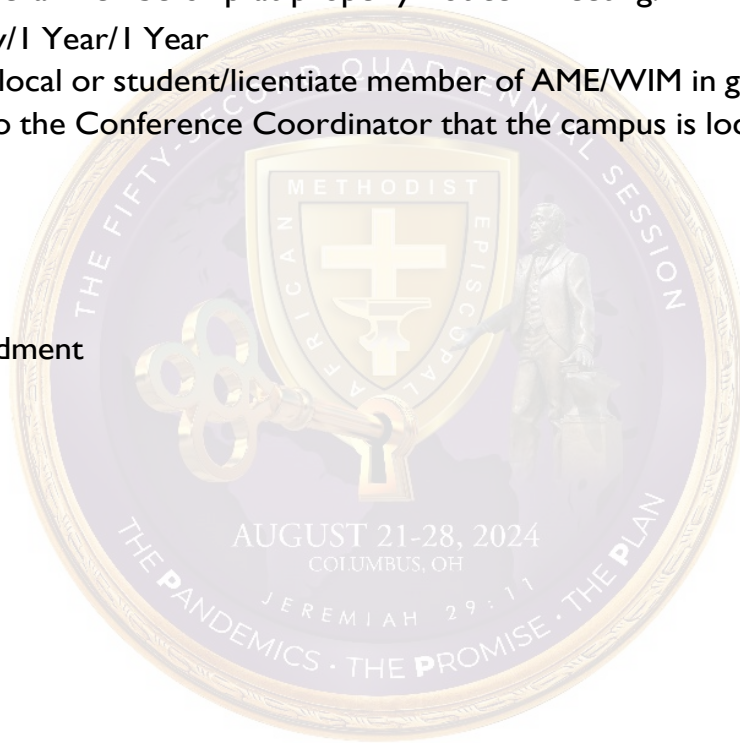
Campus Ministry/1 Year/1 Year

- Must be a full, local or student/licentiate member of AME/WIM in good standing
- Accountable to the Conference Coordinator that the campus is located within

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Connectional AMEWIM Bylaws/Applicability

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes for Connectional AMEWIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto:jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 589, Kindle Page 802

**Intent**

To clarify the applicability of bylaws at all levels.

**Rationale**

The bylaws as set forth at the Connectional level apply to all levels, unless expressly stated otherwise.

**Current Text**

None

**Amended Text****ARTICLE XIII-APPLICABILITY**

The bylaws set forth in Articles II through XII, unless expressly stated to the contrary, apply to every level of AMEWIM (i.e. Episcopal District, Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District and Campus Ministry).

(the remaining Article numbers shall adjust accordingly--i.e. current Article XIII shall become Article XIV and so forth)

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators Revised Bylaws

**First and Last Name**

Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto: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**

The whole of the Bylaws found on pages 588-591

**Amended Text**

Connectional Fellowship of Church  
Educators Bylaws

**Preamble**

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.

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of the organization shall be the Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators of the Christian Education Department of the African Methodist Episcopal

Church.

## ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

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.

## ARTICLE III - MEMBERS

### Section 1. Membership

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.

### Section 2. Dues

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.

## ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers - The officers shall be the Chair, Vice Chair, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Financial Secretary, Chaplain, and Parliamentarian.

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.

Section 3. The duties of officers shall be:

#### A. Chair

1. The Chair of the Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators (CFCE) shall preside over the Executive Board and all meetings of the CFCE body;
2. The Chair is an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee;
3. The Chair shall appoint chairpersons of all committees as may be necessary to conduct (business) and develop the Fellowship;
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;
5. The Chair shall submit written reports to the Executive Director for the General Board, General Conference, and the Annual MCE/CFCE meetings; and



6. The Chair shall be recognized as a Connectional Officer.

#### B. Vice Chair

1. The Vice Chair shall serve in the absence of the Chair;

2. The Vice Chair shall assist in coordinating all activities of CFCE;

3. The Vice Chair serves as Coordinator for all Standing Committees; and

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.

5. The Vice Chair shall be responsible for maintaining the membership rolls of current and participating members.

#### C. Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all meetings and serve as the custodian of all records and information.

#### D. Corresponding Secretary

The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for communications sent to the membership listing time, place, and agenda for all meetings and other correspondence.

#### E. Financial Secretary

1. The Financial Secretary shall receive, record, and report all funds and forward to the Executive Director of the Christian Education Department; and

2. The Financial Secretary shall chair the Budget and Finance Committee.

#### F. Chaplain

The Chaplain shall be responsible for the spiritual discipline of the CFCE and plan worship/devotional experiences at meetings.

#### G. Parliamentarian

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;

2. The Parliamentarian shall follow the bylaws of this organization, the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, latest edition at all meetings;

3. The Parliamentarian shall serve as a member of the bylaws committee; and

4. The Parliamentarian shall be seated next to the presiding officer.

### ARTICLE V – TERM OF OFFICE

Section I. 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.

Section 2. Elections shall be held at the Connectional Christian Education Congress. All elections shall be by ballot.

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.

## ARTICLE VI -MEETINGS

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.

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.

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.

## ARTICLE VII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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.

## ARTICLE VIII – EXECUTIVE BOARD

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.

## ARTICLE XI – CFCE COMMITTEES

Committees shall be established to carry out the work of the body. The following are Standing Committees:

1. Membership
2. Curriculum Development and Assessment
3. Continuing Education (Workshops)
4. Communications (Newsletter, Column in Journal)
5. Bylaws Review
6. Budget/Finance

All committee appointments must be approved by the Executive Director.

## ARTICLE X – FELLOWSHIPS

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.

## ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

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.

## ARTICLE XII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current addition of Robert's 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.

July 1998; adopted at General  
Conference 2000 Revised  
November 4, 2019

## **Approved**

- No

210

211 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Continuing Education Credit for Ordination Maintenance

**First and Last Name**

Hugh Marriott

**Email**

[Rev.HBMarriott@allentempleamec.com](mailto:Rev.HBMarriott@allentempleamec.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

None

**Intent**

To ensure that the African Methodist Episcopal Church engages in a process that focuses on improving the spiritual development and quality of ministers across the denomination. This legislation will require that all ordained clergy achieve at least 30 Continuing Education Credits (CEU) annually as the basic requirement for maintaining their ordination status as “good standing”.

**Rationale**

A continuing education unit (CEU) is a measure used in continuing education programs to assist the professional with maintaining their license in their profession. Continuing education or professional development is required in many fields, including teachers, insurance professionals, interior designers, architects, engineers, school administrators, educators, doctors, nurses, as well as mental health professionals including psychologists and social workers. In addition, these credits can be earned through attendance at...

- The AME General Conference
- The General Board Meeting
- Episcopal District Meetings:
  - Post Convocation Planning Meeting
  - Christian Education Congress
  - Fall Convocation
  - Founder’s Day
  - Annual Conference
- Field Research and Advanced Degree Enrollments
- Approved spiritual formation and self-care retreats

Once approved, a committee can be established to determine the CEU credit allocation for participation in the various meetings. This requirement will also serve as



an incentive to...

1. Improve the standard of pastoral care provided by persons in the ordained ministry,
2. Ensure that ordained clergy engage in a process that requires personal self-care to limit clergy burnout, and
3. Increase attendance of ordained clergy at Connectional, District, and Annual Conference meetings.

Clergy spend an inordinate amount of time investing in others and very little time investing in themselves. This legislation will make it a policy that clergy continue to remain a "value add" to the ministries in which they serve.

### **Current Text**

Not Applicable

### **Amended Text**

All ordained clergy must participate in the maintenance of their ordination status to be considered in "good standing" by demonstrating that they have met the following requirements:

- A total of 30 Hours of Continuing Education Unit (CEU) annually
- A maximum of 5 hours credit to be allocated towards personal self-care
- Completion of a peer review every five years.

Each Episcopal District will determine their own appropriate Continuing Education Unit administration and will keep track of the CEUs to ensure denominational compliance.

### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Jeffrey Leath

**Email**

[jeffreynleath@aol.com](mailto:jeffreynleath@aol.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Part XIV, Section I, J., I, 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**

5) Create Sub-Commission for General Conference Planning  
The Commission shall create a sub-commission, which, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Council of Bishops, the Chief Financial Officer and the General Secretary of the AME Church, shall perfect all arrangements for the proper planning and entertainment of the General Conference.

**Amended Text**

5) Create Sub-Commission for General Conference Planning  
The Commission shall create a sub-commission, which, in conjunction with the Program Committee Chairperson of the Council of Bishops, the Chief Financial Officer (Treasurer) and the Chief Information Officer (General Secretary) of the AME Church, shall perfect all arrangements for the proper planning and entertainment of the General Conference, including provisions for the video/virtual participation of delegates.

**Approved**

- No

42      Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Course of Instruction for Preachers

**First and Last Name**

Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto: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 CURRENT TEXT: C. Ministerial Training Board (Committee on Instruction),

2 D. Course of Instruction for Preachers, page 121

3 D. Course of Instruction for Preachers

4 The following course of study constitutes the minimum requirement for each of

5 the four (4) years of study, after the candidate has been admitted to the Annual

6 Conference. A candidate who is regularly enrolled in an approved theological

7 seminary may be exempted from the general course of study, but must be

8 required to study and pass an examination in the history, polity, doctrine and

9 current program of the AME Church. The Board of Examiners should determine  
 10 whether a candidate is fully registered and presently attending an accredited  
 11 seminary.

**Amended Text**

1 AMENDED/NEW TEXT: D. Course of Instruction for Preachers, page 121

2 D. Course of Instruction for Preachers

3 The following course of study constitutes the minimum requirement for each of  
 4 the four (4) years of study, after the candidate has been admitted to the Annual  
 5 Conference. A candidate who is regularly enrolled in an approved theological  
 6 seminary may be exempted from the general course of study. The Board of  
 7 Examiners must provide instruction in the history, polity, doctrine,  
 8 administration and current program of the AME Church to all candidates.  
 9 Candidates should be directed to experience AME Churches to assist in their  
 10 understanding of the function of the local church. Candidates will also be tested  
 11 on their ability to conduct the Official Board, Church Conference and Quarterly  
 12 Conference. In addition, the candidate must pass an exam on the history, polity,  
 13 administration doctrine and current program of the AME Church. The Board of  
 14 Examiners should determine whether a candidate is fully registered and  
 15 presently attending an

accredited seminary. 16

17

18 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.



- 82     **Approved**
- 83     • No
- 84
- 85     Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Course of Instruction for Preachers

**First and Last Name**

Angela Pettis

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine & Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021, D. Course of Instruction for Preachers) page 136

**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**

CURRENT TEXT: D. Course of Instruction for Preachers, page 136

D. Course of Instruction for Preachers

The following course of study constitutes the minimum requirement for each of the four (4) years of study, after the candidate has been admitted to the Annual Conference. A candidate who is regularly enrolled in an approved theological seminary may be exempted from the general course of study, but must be required to study and pass an examination in the history, polity, doctrine and current program of the AME Church. The Board of Examiners should determine whether a candidate is fully registered and presently attending an accredited seminary.

**Amended Text**

AMENDED/NEW TEXT: D. Course of Instruction for Preachers, page 136

D. Course of Instruction for Preachers

The following course of study constitutes the minimum requirement for each of the

42 four (4) years of study, after the candidate has been admitted to the Annual  
43 Conference. A candidate who is regularly enrolled in an approved theological seminary  
44 may be exempted from the general course of study. The Board of Examiners must  
45 provide instruction in the history, polity, doctrine, administration and current program  
46 of the AME Church to all candidates. Candidates should be directed to experience  
47 AME Churches to assist in their understanding of the function of the local church.

48 Candidates will also

49 be tested on their ability to conduct the Official Board, Church Conference and  
50 Quarterly Conference. In addition, the candidate must pass an exam on the history,  
51 polity, administration doctrine and current program of the AME Church. The Board of  
52 Examiners should determine whether a candidate is fully registered and presently  
53 attending an accredited seminary.

54  
55 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

56  
57 Submitted by Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District

58  
59 **Approved**

60 • No

61  
62 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Creation of The Global Mission Annual Conference, The Global Mission Episcopal District, and The Central Mission Annual Conference

**First and Last Name**

Royd Mwandu

**Email**

19662010revrm@gmail.com

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 289

Page 302

**Intent**

To create a new Episcopal District which is restructured for the purpose of shared leadership, mission expansion, and connectional support.

**Rationale**

The uneven distribution of mission annual conferences puts an unmanageable strain on both leadership and financial resources. By creating a space for new, and/or weaker, works to grow, there is denominational connection with fewer institutional expectations and restrictions.

Various exceptions to current district protocols have the potential to focus finances and personnel in under resourced areas. Among the shifts in the current paradigm would be the use of retired bishops, more than one bishop who preside in another district working under the umbrella of a district organized to foster the work of mission annual conferences.

Once annual conferences have developed beyond a “mission stage,” it will be easy to change their status and make regular district adjustments among self-sustaining entities.

**Current Text**

Page

289 -

None

Page

300 -

None

**Amended Text**

Page 289 – Insert and new “Q,” “R,” and “S”, the current “Q” become “T”

#### Q. Mission Annual Conference

There may be established Mission Annual Conferences to nurture expansion and develop on a global platform. Such annual conferences shall be organized under the structure of a Global Mission Episcopal District. There shall be reasonable adaptations to the regular annual conference structure to allow for growth and development.

Mission Annual Conferences shall be presided over by an assigned bishop who shall not receive additional salary, gifts, or honorarium. Bishops may raise/receive travel funds which shall be limited to documented, actual expenses. All funds raised by, and for, Mission Annual

Conferences shall be used for expansion, programs, travel, and other expenses which shall be documented and annually reported. All funds raised within these conferences shall be used for further development of the work.

#### R. The Global Mission Episcopal District

The Global Mission Episcopal District shall be known and referred to by its name, and not with a number, to distinguish it from other Episcopal Districts.

The Global Mission Episcopal District shall be comprised of annual conferences which will be granted a representative number of General Conference Delegates, but will not be represented in the General Board, the Episcopal Committee, or other entities which call for Episcopal District representation. The following exceptions to current law shall be granted The Global Mission Episcopal District:

1. The Episcopal Committee shall assign a bishop to one, or more, annual conference(s) within the Global Mission Episcopal District. Bishops presiding over a Mission Annual Conference may, or may not, have an assignment to an episcopal district (1-20).

2. A retired bishop may volunteer to serve a conference, with the permission and assignment of the Episcopal Committee (and the General Conference) without salary, having the support of travel and program funds which may be allotted by the general conference, or raised through their efforts for mission/expansion support. Such activity will not be excused from reporting and oversight by the Council of Bishops, the General Board, and the annual conference served. Such bishops also shall be granted exception to appoint pastors.

3. The most senior, active bishop serving a conference within The Global Mission District shall convene other bishops serving Mission Annual Conferences, as needed, to address and voice common concerns. The Executive Director of Global Missions and Development shall work closely with the bishops serving The Global Mission District.

4. There shall be four (4) General Conference delegates allotted to each



Mission Annual Conference once the number of congregations therein is eight (8) or more. The delegation from the annual conference shall be two clergy and two lay, one of whom must be a young adult (if available).

5. Participation in both annual conferences and The General Conference may be digital, as required.

S. The Central Mission Annual Conference

Individual congregations in countries where no annual conference exists, or where the existing annual conference has fewer than twelve (12) congregations, may be placed in a new entity: The Central Mission Annual Conference. The Central Mission Annual Conference shall be organized by the assigned presiding bishop with appropriate discretion given geographical and demographic considerations. It is

likely that "congregations" will be populated in the Central Mission Annual Conference from different continents, and will reflect all the linguistic/cultural diversity one may expect. The

goal is to provide a "place" within our current structure without the usual organization/expectations of a current, regular annual conference. New Mission Annual Conferences shall emerge as there is adequate growth/expansion from among congregations in the Central Mission Conference.

Page 302 - End of Section II, Q. Annual Conferences and Their Boundaries within the Episcopal Districts

The Global Mission Episcopal District (8 Conferences)

1. Katanga Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder Districts: North Katanga, Kolwezi, Kipushi, Kesenga Pweto and Lubumbashi.

2. Kananga Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder Districts: Malandji. Luanda Mutoto, Dimbelenge, Kazumbo, Mweka, Lac Mukamba, Luiza, Sankuru, Lualua, Luanda Dibaya and Ilebo.

3. Congo River Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder Districts: Kinshasa East, Kinshasa West, Brazzaville. Tshikapa, Ilebo, Luiza, Rive-Gaucha, Rive- Droite, Bandudu, Bas Congo, Kasai and Mbandaka.

4. Mbuji-Mayi Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder Districts: Mbuji- Mayi East, Mbuji-Mayi East, Mbuji-Mayi South East, Mbuji-Mayi South West, Mbuji- West and Mbuji-Mayi North West.

5. Burundi Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder Districts: South West Burundi, North East Burundi, Western Burundi and North West Burundi.

6. Great Lakes Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder District: Eastern.

7. East Africa Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder Districts: Nakuru, Nairobi and Mombasa.

128 8. The Global Mission Annual Conference: new and existing congregations  
129 where the work has not developed for annual conference structure or it lies  
130 beyond current annual conference boundaries.

131

132 **Approved**

133 • No

134

135 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Dealing in Liquors

**First and Last Name**

Second Episcopal District- Dr. Valdes Snipes

**Email**

[valdes2nddistrict@gmail.com](mailto:valdes2nddistrict@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Section XIII. Causes for Ministerial Impeachment A) Dealing in Liquors

**Intent**

To address unrealistic means and causes for ministerial impeachments

**Rationale**

Preachers should not have to forfeit his or her official standing or be impeached if he or she drinks alcohol beverages.

**Current Text**

No preacher among us shall distill, retail or drink spirituous liquors without forfeiting his official standing.

**Amended Text**

No preacher among us shall distill spirituous liquors without forfeiting his official standing.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Delete Section XV, Part B (2016 Discipline, page 360).

**First and Last Name**

Ravi Perry

**Email**

[ravi.perry@gmail.com](mailto:ravi.perry@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

(2016 Discipline, page 360).

**Intent**

I am proposing that the AME Church delete Section XV, Part B (2016 Discipline, page 360). By deleting the section, the AME Church would indicate it permits what said section now bans for those pastors and congregations that choose to perform or host ceremonies on AME property within the bounds of the laws of their respective states, which ultimately has the legal authority to sanction marriage in the United States. This will benefit the church. By simply deleting the section, the church would then permit local churches and pastors to welcome LGBTQ parishioners into full membership in God's house.

**Rationale**

Marriage is a state-sanctioned practice made legal or not by the state. There are AME churches in territories and countries (i.e., Uganda) that have nationwide laws that not only ban homosexuality but that punish the so-called 'offense' with death - and the AME church is silent.

Deleting page 360 from the Discipline give the Church an opportunity to right a new path with inclusion as its guide, leaving judgment to God. This kind of proposal is not new to our tradition; the AME church has adopted governing rules that were more just, more fair, and more inclusive before. For example, the Church revised its prior Discipline editions to allow women into ministry and eventually to be eligible to become Bishops. This was and is fair and just despite some scripture that limits women's role in the church. Thus, 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.

**Current Text**

"B. Same Sex Marriage. 1. The African Methodist Episcopal Church believes that marriage is ordained by God as set forth in the Holy Scriptures. 2. Further, the AME Church believes that unions of any kind between persons of the same sex or gender are contrary to the will of God. 3. Therefore, the AME Church strictly prohibits and forbids any AME Church clergyperson, licensed and/or ordained from performing, or participating in or giving any blessing to any ceremony designed to result in any pairing between persons of the same sex gender including but not limited to marriage or civil unions.

A. Any AME Church clergyperson licensed and/or ordained charged with violating this rule shall be

referred to the Ministerial Efficiency Committee. B. If the charges are sustained, the bishop shall suspend the clergyperson and shall convene the Trial Committee within forty-five (45) days. C. If the charges are sustained by the Trial Committee, such person's ordination shall be revoked by the Annual Conference and he or she shall be relieved of his or her orders and/or license. 4. Further, the AME Church strictly prohibits and forbids the use of any AME Church property for the performance or and/or the participation in and/or giving of any blessing on the same.

#### **Amended Text**

The AME Church believes God loves all and welcomes all to His house. Local churches can choose whether or not to openly welcome LGBTQ persons in terms of external outreach. However, all local churches must admit any human being eligible and desiring of full membership to have access to full membership in the AME church. Local churches should hold church conferences on the issue, ensuring a majority of active members in the past six months have been invited to participate and to vote on the matter. Should a local church choose to openly welcome and embrace LGBTQ persons, appropriate signage on the exterior of the church or elsewhere in church publications is permitted. Should a local church choose not to at that time, the local church, its clergy or members, is yet encouraged to embrace all persons as full members in God's house.

The AME Church believes God wishes all humankind to experience the joy of love and the love of God. Insofar as two human persons are found fit to engage in the awesome responsibility of a commitment to one another, the AME Church welcomes such persons as full members. The AME Church permits its clergy to marry said persons in public or private ceremonies, in official and unofficial capacities as AME clergy, and such ceremonies are permitted on church property. The AME Church encourages its clergy of all ranks to embrace love and the commitment shared between two human beings. As such, clergy are permitted to preside over, attend, coordinate, host, and sponsor any commitment ceremonies wherein the clergy believes the couple to be in good standing with the Church and seeking a close



85 relationship with God.

86

87 **Approved**

88 • No

89

90 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Detailed Glossary Admendments

**First and Last Name**

JACQUELYN DUPONT-WALKER

**Email**

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**

Glossary extends from page 811 to page 826

**Amended Text**

Add to Acrynoyms

1) Page 811/"ACRONYM"/BSFDCK and I- /This is the acronym for, Bishop Sarah Francis Davis Covenant Keepers and Intercessors, legislated and established on July 2016 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the AME Church General Conference 50th Quadrennial Session.

Add to Definitions

2) Page 814/BSFDCK and I/Glossary (Definition): The Bishop Sarah Francis Davis Covenant Keepers and Intercessors is a conglomeration of clergy and laity working together with the goals to fast, pray and intercede for the African Methodist Episcopal Connectional Church, our Bishop's, Episcopal Supervisors, all Connectional and General Officer's and their Families, all Presiding Elders and their Families, all Clergy and their Families, all Laity and their Families, all our Youth and Young Adults.

Conduct spiritual mapping, domestic and international prayer intercession for matters across the world. Responsible for the Connectional Day of Prayer for the AME Connectional Church every April 13th of each year, as well as the Midnight Prayer which is held the first Monday at Midnight eastern standard time every month and the General Conference Prayer Chapels and early morning Prayer Labs.

3) Page 816/Connectional Day of Prayer/Glossary (Definition): An approved and established date of April 13th of each year for a uniformed day of fervent prayer that includes all the AME Church

Episcopal Districts One through Twenty-one. This day of uniformed prayer is facilitated by the Director of the Bishop Sarah Francis Davis Covenant Keepers and Intercessors.

4) Page 816/Covenant Keepers-/Glossary (Definition): To come; a coming together; a meeting or agreement of minds. In theology, the covenant keepers of works, is that implied is the commands, prohibitions, and promises of God; the promise of God to man, that man's perfect obedience should entitle him to happiness. This do, and live; that do, and die.

5) Page 818/Domestic-/Glossary (Definition): Existing or occurring inside a particular country; for example, the United States of America is domestic; not foreign or international.

6) Page 818/Evangelist-/Glossary (Definition): One who publishes glad tidings; a messenger, or speaker of good news. According to Ephesians 4:11-12; "THE THIRD CALLED FOR THE PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY FOR THE EDIFYING OF THE BODY OF CHRIST." These persons were sent not to settle in a particular place, but to travel among the churches, and finish what the Apostles had begun. An example was Philip the deacon, Mark, Silas, according to Acts 21:8.

7) Page 819/Intercessor(s)-/Glossary (Definition): A person, or persons who intervenes on behalf of another, especially in prayer. The person or persons who appeal to God. For example, there are nine basic types of prayers; Communion, Supplication, Intercession, Spiritual Warfare, Agreement, Watch, Thanksgiving, Forgiveness and Repentance. Christ's prayer for His followers, John 17:6-26.

8) Page 819/International-/Glossary (Definition): Existing, occurring or carried on between two or more nations. Opposite of domestic. Pertaining to representation for different countries. Generally observing concerns that are beyond our national boundaries. For example, our domestic episcopal districts are District's One through Thirteen; and our international episcopal districts are Districts Fourteen through Twenty.

9) Page 823/Prayer Labs-/Glossary (Definition): A contemporary reset of a biblical sermonette or brief presentation that is presented to a body of listeners or participants who are encouraged to ask questions, give comments or to witness and faith share after the sermonette or brief presentation has been delivered. The sermonette provider or presenter is expected to respond or answer the questions and comments or address

84 them to the best of their ability.

85 10) Page 824/Spiritual Mapping-/Glossary (Definition): A new approach to  
 86 evangelizing one's community. This concept researches the historical and current  
 87 conditions pertaining to a community, city, township, state or province of a domestic  
 88 or international geographical area or nation; for the purpose of prayer, fasting and  
 89 evangelism. There are various processes in the research, patterns, activity and  
 90 historical time-lines to complete a spiritual mapping project. It concludes with a  
 91 thorough investigation of the spiritual conditions of a region, or nation, domestic or  
 92 international. This mapping is used to understand the area or region to better  
 93 motivate and faith share.

94 Add to the Bibliography

95 Lucado, Max. No Wonder They Call Him The Savior. Questar Publishers, Multnomah  
 96 Books, copyright 1986 by Max Lucado.

97  
 98 Lucado, Max. Walking With The Savior. All color topical inserts were compiled from  
 99 Walking With The Savior. Published by Tyndale House Publishers, copyright 1993 by Max  
 100 Lucado.

101  
 102 The Holy Bible. New International Version Study Bible. Grand Rapids, Michigan; 1984.  
 103 Books and Chapters: Ephesians 4:11-12; Acts 21:8; John 17:6-26.

104  
 105 Zondervan, King James Version Study Bible. Grand Rapids, Michigan, Zondervan, 2002.

106 NOTE: This legislation has NO FISCAL IMPACT.

107  
 108 Submitted by the Connectional Prayer Ministry and the 5th District Legislative Task  
 109 Force

110  
 111 **Approved**

112 • No

113  
 114 Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Develop Department of Innovation, Technology, and Development

**First and Last Name**

Baldwin Hughes

**Email**

[info@ame-church.com](mailto:info@ame-church.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

259

**Intent**

To establish a Department of Innovation, Technology, and Development for the AME Church

**Rationale**

The Office of Resource-Institutional Development is outdated for the AME Church as we position ourselves for the future. The Department of Innovation, Technology, and Development for the AME Church will focus on establishing new paradigms for ministry in the future.

**Current Text**

C. Office of Resource-Institutional Development

1. Administration There shall be an office of Resource-Institutional Development with general supervision of departmental entities, which include Allen Travel, convention/meeting planning, grant development, endowments, economic and stewardship development, and insurance. This will be a hired position, not elected or appointed. 2. Director There shall be a Director of Resource-Institutional Development, who shall be responsible for the research, preparation and acquisition of grants and other funding sources from both the public and private sectors, including foundations. The qualifications include the ability to work in a participatory management framework. The person must be able to facilitate teamwork approach to proposal development with bishops, and General and Connectional Officers. The person must be skilled in grant and proposal writing, facilitate the creation of business entities, have responsibility and authority to hire personnel to accomplish the objectives of the office, including stewardship education, and be able to handle multiple priorities, follow complex directions and solve problems. 3. Performance Review If supervisory personnel do not satisfy outlined job descriptions and expectations their employment with the AME Church will be terminated through an evaluation process and replacement personnel secured in a timely and expeditious manner as not to interrupt the overall objectives



and function of the Resource-Institutional Development Office. 4. Accountability The Resource-Institutional Development Office will operate independent of the Chief Financial Officer's office and be accountable to the General Board by way of the Chief Financial Officer's office. The Stewardship Seminars will continue under the auspices of the Officer of Institutional Development.

#### **Amended Text**

#### **C. Office of Innovation, Technology, and Development**

Administration — There shall be an office of Innovation and Development with general supervision of departmental entities, which include convention/meeting planning, grant development, endowments, economic and stewardship development, and innovation. This will be an appointed position by the General Board.

Director — There shall be a Director of Innovation, Technology, and Development, who shall be responsible for developing programs to increase access to technology, and innovation. The Director shall be responsible for the research, preparation and acquisition of grants and other funding sources from both the public and private sectors, including foundations. The qualifications include the ability to work in a participatory management framework. The person must be able to facilitate teamwork approach to proposal development with bishops, and General and Connectional Officers. The person must be skilled in grant and proposal writing, facilitate the creation of business entities, have responsibility and authority to hire personnel to accomplish the objectives of the office, including stewardship education, and be able to handle multiple priorities, follow complex directions and solve problems.

Accountability — The Innovation, Technology and Development Office will be accountable to the General Board and report to the Commission on Stewardship and Finance.

Budget — The Innovation, Technology, and Development Office will have a budget of \$150,000 annually.

#### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Jeffrey Leath

**Email**

[jeffreynleath@aol.com](mailto: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**

B. Local Church Property – Transfer of Property

The Board of Trustees, duly elected by the local church as provided by The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, may take such steps to purchase, mortgage, sell, transfer and convey real and personal property, PROVIDED that such transfer has been duly approved by the resolution in Quarterly Conference of the said church, and also by the trustees of the Annual Conference in which the property is located, and of which the presiding bishop is president.

The Board of Trustees and members of the local church hold property of whatever kind IN TRUST for the Annual Conference of the General Church and not in their individual capacities.

**Amended Text**

INSERT NEW TEXT

B. Local Church Property – Transfer of Property

The Board of Trustees, duly elected by the local church as provided by The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, may take such steps to purchase, mortgage, sell, transfer and convey real and personal property, PROVIDED that such transfer has been duly approved by the resolution in Quarterly Conference of the said church, and also by the trustees of the Annual Conference in which the property is

located, and of which the presiding bishop is president.

Insert:

In cases where there are no duly elected trustees of the congregation; or the full membership is less than ten active adult persons; or the church has been designated by the annual conference as having “mission” status; the Annual Conference Trustees shall have full authority to purchase, mortgage, sell transfer and convey real and personal property without the approval of a church conference or quarterly conference.

The Board of Trustees and members of the local church hold property of whatever kind IN TRUST for the Annual Conference of the General Church and not in their individual capacities.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Doctrinal Affirmation Current Text Spelling Correction

**First and Last Name**

Debra Hunter, Sixth Episcopal District

**Email**

[bhunt01@live.com](mailto:bhunt01@live.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 23, Section I, Apostles' Creed (Affirmation of Faith):Section I. Title Apostles' Creed (Affirmation of Faith)

**Intent**

To correct the spelling from quck to quick

**Rationale**

To clarify the current text. The word is misspelled.

**Current Text**

1. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker up heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his
2. only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
3. suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day he arose
4. from the dead colons; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the
5. Father Almighty; from thence, he shall come to judge the quck and the dead.

**Amended Text**

1. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker up heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his
2. only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
3. suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day he arose
4. from the dead colons; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the
5. Father Almighty; from thence, he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Doctrinal Affirmation Current Text Spelling Correction

**First and Last Name**

Debra Hunter, Sixth Episcopal District

**Email**

[bhunt01@live.com](mailto:bhunt01@live.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Section; doctrine affirmation, page 28, section #19. Of both kinds

**Intent**

To replace current text word, people

**Rationale**

To make the language more appropriate for use

**Current Text**

1. The cup of the Lord is not to be denied to the lay people; for both the parts of the
2. Lord's supper, by Christ's ordinance and commandment, ought to be administered
3. to all Christians alike.

**Amended Text**

1. The cup of the Lord is not to be denied to the lay members: for both the parts of the
2. Lord's supper, by Christ's ordinance and commandment, ought to be administered
3. to all Christians alike.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Doctrinal Affirmation Current Text Spelling Correction

**First and Last Name**

Debra Hunter, Sixth Episcopal District

**Email**

[bhunt01@live.com](mailto:bhunt01@live.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Doctrinal Affirmation, Section III. Special Declaration of Apostolic Succession and Ritualism, Section A. Apostolic Succession. Page 30.

**Intent**

To add the word it for word smoothing and clarity

**Rationale**

To provide for reading clarity

**Current Text**

1. Second - That while there is separate ministry in the New Testament representing
2. the universal priesthood or membership of the church, yet as has been affirmed
3. above, each and every member is a king of priest under God.

**Amended Text**

1. Second - That while there is separate ministry in the New Testament representing
2. the universal priesthood or membership of the church, yet as it has been affirmed
3. above, each and every member is a king of priests under God.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Doctrinal Affirmation Current Text Spelling Correction

**First and Last Name**

Debra Hunter, Sixth Episcopal District

**Email**

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**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 23, Section I, Apostles' Creed (Affirmation of Faith):

**Intent**

To correct the spelling from quck to quick

**Rationale**

To clarify the current text. The word is misspelled.

**Current Text**

I.I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker up heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his  
 2. only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
 3. suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day he arose  
 4. from the dead colons; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the  
 5. Father Almighty; from thence, he shall come to judge the quck and the dead.

**Amended Text**

I.I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker up heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his  
 2. only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
 3. suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day he arose  
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**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Doctrinal Affirmation Current Text Spelling Correction

**First and Last Name**

Debra Hunter, Sixth Episcopal District

**Email**

[bhunt01@live.com](mailto:bhunt01@live.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Section; doctrine affirmation, page 28, section #19. Of both kinds

**Intent**

To replace current text word, people

**Rationale**

To make the language more appropriate for use

**Current Text**

1. The cup of the Lord is not to be denied to the lay people; for both the parts of the
2. Lord's supper, by Christ's ordinance and commandment, ought to be administered
3. to all Christians alike.

**Amended Text**

1. The cup of the Lord is not to be denied to the lay members: for both the parts of the
  2. Lord's supper, by Christ's ordinance and commandment, ought to be administered
  3. to all Christians alike.
- .

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Doctrinal Affirmation Current Text Spelling Correction

**First and Last Name**

Debra Hunter, Sixth Episcopal District

**Email**

[bhunt01@live.com](mailto:bhunt01@live.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Doctrinal Affirmation, Section III. Special Declaration of Apostolic Succession and Ritualism, Section A. Apostolic Succession. Page 30.

**Intent**

To add the word it for word smoothing and clarity

**Rationale**

To provide for reading clarity

**Current Text**

1. Second - That while there is separate ministry in the New Testament representing
2. the universal priesthood or membership of the church, yet as has been affirmed
3. above, each and every member is a king of priest under God.

**Amended Text**

1. Second - That while there is separate ministry in the New Testament representing
2. the universal priesthood or membership of the church, yet as it has been affirmed
3. above, each and every member is a king of priests under God.

.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Doctrinal Affirmation Current Text Spelling Correction

**First and Last Name**

Debra Hunter, Sixth Episcopal District

**Email**

[bhunt01@live.com](mailto:bhunt01@live.com)

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3. to all Christians alike.

**Amended Text**

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2. Lord's supper, by Christ's ordinance and commandment, ought to be administered
3. to all Christians alike.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Doctrinal Affirmation Current Text Spelling Correction

**First and Last Name**

Debra Hunter, Sixth Episcopal District

**Email**

[bhunt01@live.com](mailto:bhunt01@live.com)

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Page 23, Section I, Apostles' Creed (Affirmation of Faith):Section I. Title Apostles's Creed (Affirmation of Faith)

**Intent**

To correct the spelling from quck to quick

**Rationale**

To clarify the current text. The word is misspelled.

**Current Text**

1. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker up heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his
2. only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
3. suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day he arose
4. from the dead colons; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the
5. Father Almighty; from thence, he shall come to judge the quck and the dead.

**Amended Text**

1. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker up heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his
2. only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
3. suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. The third day he arose
4. from the dead colons; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the
5. Father Almighty; from thence, he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Documentation for Pastoral Transition

**First and Last Name**

Second Episcopal District- Rev. Kim Moss

**Email**

[valdes2nddistrict@gmail.com](mailto:valdes2nddistrict@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

p.154, Section II. Ministerial/Pastoral Support- New Subcategory: The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Documentation for Pastoral Transition

**Intent**

To ensure a smooth transition from one pastoral leadership to another.

**Rationale**

Since appointments to serve local congregations are given one year at a time, each pastor should prepare an annual Transition Package in preparation for another pastor to follow them.

**Current Text**

none

**Amended Text**

p.154 Section II. Pastoral Transition

Every Pastor will provide an Annual Transition Package to be provided to the assigned Presiding Elder for a new pastoral appointment for that charge. Such a Package should contain (but not be limited to): banking information, the 4th Quarterly Report, Officers of the Local Church, the keys, and intellectual property information- WIFI passwords, computer login information, website information, and other information needed for a smooth transition.

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment

1     **Title**  
2     Draft for prposal  
3  
4     **First and Last Name**  
5     Sheila Michelle Brown-Hawkins  
6  
7     **Email**  
8     [sheilahawkins232@gmail.com](mailto:sheilahawkins232@gmail.com)  
9  
10    **Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**  
11    200  
12  
13    **Intent**  
14    Pledge  
15  
16    **Rationale**  
17    Money  
18  
19    **Current Text**  
20    Help  
21  
22    **Amended Text**  
23    C  
24  
25    **Approved**  
26    • No  
27  
28    Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Duties

**First and Last Name**

Marvin Louis Harris

**Email**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 &amp; 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**

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

**Amended Text**

2016 TDDOAMEC page 86 Duties (B) The Salary of a full time minister shall be negotiated by the pastor and the steward & trustee boards. The negotiated salary and benefit package shall be commensurate with the cost of living in the given geographical area and the ability of the local congregation. etc.

2016 TDDOAMEC (D). Page 89 (They shall secure by purchase or hire, a house for the pastor's family and also comfortably furnish it. In lieu of this arrangement, the pastor may be given a housing allowance. If a housing allowance is given, it is the Stewards & Trustees duty to negotiate a reasonable housing allowance with the pastor

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

ELIMINATE SAME SEX MARRIAGE LANGUAGE

**First and Last Name**

RAVI PERRY

**Email**[ravi.perry@gmail.com](mailto: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 it complicit in the horrors our fellow Black family members and friends experience. As such, I invite the Church toward redemption, to once again be a beacon of light to the left out and to turn toward healing and love and leave the judgment to God and between God and each individual person.

**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 I Corinthians 14:34, rightly saw 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 two individuals were signed and made valid by a state government official. Anniversaries that are valid are celebrated on the day of marriage ceremonies when those ceremonies correspond with the date in which the contract between the two individuals was signed. The church regularly recognizes anniversaries of married couples and in so doing is actively participating in the state sanctioning of marriage. Now the state has sanctioned same-sex marriage. Yet, the AME Church has chosen to write Section XV, Part B in response. The AME Church has chosen to actively oppress members of the Black diaspora community simply for being who they are and how God made them. This text in Section XV Part B is antithetical to the church's mission, its founding, and its future.

How is it an extension of God's love to not allow individual churches and individual pastors with the heart of understanding to attend, participate in, or preside over any ceremony in which two people of the same gender pledge their love to one another?

What is the spiritual message we communicate to AME members that are also members of the global LGBTQ+ community? Seriously, what are we saying to the millions of AME members today that preach in our pulpits, sing in our choirs, praise in our sanctuaries, volunteer in our communities? The church's relative silence on whether or not to openly and fully embrace members of the LGBTQ+ community is not just and is not loving. Such silence only contributes to the millions of examples of mental health challenges, tragedies, and deaths associated with Black children and adults in the United States. Does the church want to continue to be complicit in the indirect subjugation, isolation, violation, abuse, neglect, and murder going on in the Black LGBTQ community in the name of God? Let us not forget that when Jesus came the first time, He did not admire the church leadership, and instead spent time with the lowly, the outcast, the downtrodden.

God commands we love all. God commands we do justice. God commands we genuinely embrace and take care of the least among us. God desires all to experience a love with another human being insofar as God is the center of their commitment. The AME Church is not our church, it is God's church, and God welcomes everybody and wants all to experience the fullness of joy. Discrimination, oppression, and injustice is wrong. If the Section XV Part B deletion is adopted and/or the proposed legislation is adopted, the Church will no longer be complicit in the subjugation, oppression, discrimination, and in some cases, death, of God's people.

#### **Current Text**

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

#### **Amended Text**

"Embracing All of God's People into Full Membership"

The AME Church believes God loves all and welcomes all. Thereby, all persons are eligible for full membership into the church. Local churches can choose whether or not to openly welcome LGBTQ persons in terms of external signage and outreach. All local churches must admit any human being eligible and desiring of full membership to have access to full membership in the AME church. Local churches should hold church conferences on issues affecting LGBTQ persons, ensuring a majority of active members in the past six months have been invited to participate and to vote on the matter(s). Should a local church choose to openly welcome and embrace LGBTQ persons, appropriate signage on the exterior of the church or elsewhere in church publications is permitted. Should a local church choose not to at that time, the local church, its clergy or members, is yet encouraged to embrace all persons as full members in God's house.

The AME Church believes God wishes all humankind to experience the joy of love and the love of God. Insofar as two human persons are found fit to engage in the awesome responsibility of a commitment to one another, the AME Church welcomes such persons as full members. The AME Church permits its clergy to marry said persons in public or private ceremonies, in official and unofficial capacities as AME clergy, and such ceremonies are permitted on church property. The AME Church encourages its clergy of all ranks to embrace love and the commitment shared between two human beings. As such, clergy are permitted to preside over, attend, coordinate, host, and sponsor any commitment ceremonies wherein the clergy believes the couple to be in good standing with the Church and seeking a close relationship with God.

#### **Approved**

- No

126      Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Employee or Independent Contractor?

**First and Last Name**

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

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Publication 15-A Employer's 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**

CURRENT TEXT: No current text.

**Amended Text**

AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to page 86, Local Church Organization, 2. Boards

3 a. Stewards, 2) Duties, new letter e.

4 When payment is made to an individual in their name for services performed at 5 or for the church when the church has the right to control what will be done, when 6 it will be done and how it will be done the person is an employee of the church.

7 This person is not an independent contractor, and thus income and Federal

8 Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes must be withheld, reported and paid for 9 the employee.

- 42 10  
43 11 (Renumber letters e-k accordingly)  
44 12 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.  
45  
46 **Approved**  
47 • No  
48 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

Employee or Independent Contractor?

**First and Last Name**

Angela Pettis

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Publication 15-A Employer's 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**

No current text.

**Amended Text**

AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to page 97, Local Church Organization, 2. Boards a. Stewards, 2) Duties, new letter e.

When payment is made to an individual in their name for services performed at or for the church when the church has the right to control what will be done, when it will be done and how it will be done the person is an employee of the church. This person is not an independent contractor, and thus income and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes must be withheld, reported and paid for the employee.

42 (Renumber letters e-k accordingly)

43

44 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

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

46

47 **Approved**

48 • No

49

50 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Episcopal Committee

**First and Last Name**

Leodis Strong

**Email**

[leodis-strong@att.net](mailto:leodis-strong@att.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 268, Section G. General Conference Committees, Sub-section I., The Episcopal Committee

**Intent**

To provide a formula for equalization of Lay and Ministerial representation on the Episcopal Committee which also recognizes the value and inclusion of young adult representation, but also values the equality of Lay representation without requiring the sacrifice of Lay equality of representation to include that youth participation and representation.

**Rationale**

To provide equality and consistency of both Lay and Youth participation with Ministerial participation in the proceedings and processes of this all important committee and still consistent youth representation and participation which is commensurate and equal to required youth participation on the General Board and across the AME Church.

**Current Text**

"The Episcopal Committee shall be composed of two (2) ministerial delegates and two (2) lay delegates, at least one of whom must be a young adult between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty- five (35) from each episcopal district."

**Amended Text**

The Episcopal Committee shall be composed of two (2) ministerial delegates, two (2) lay delegates and one (1) young adult delegate between the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty-five from each episcopal district. The young adult delegate shall be youth beginning with the 2028 General Conference and Ministerial in the 3032 General Conference and, thereafter, the young adult delegate shall alternate between Lay and Ministerial.

**Approved**

- No

42

43 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Establish AME Church Department of Social Action

**First and Last Name**

Malcolm King

**Email**

[info@ame-church.com](mailto:info@ame-church.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

249

**Intent**

To establish a Department of Social Action

**Rationale**

The AME Church Director of Social Action should be an official elected office of the General Conference and manage day to day operations of the Department of Social Action

**Current Text**

Current Text

There shall be an African Methodist Commission on Social Action which shall function under the direction of the General Board and elect quadrennially a consultant who will serve on a part time basis. The consultant shall be a member of the General Board

The Commission on Social Action shall conduct studies, make pronouncements, and issue directives embracing those issues of Christian social concern which affect the members and the neighbors of the church. It shall assist in the direction of the African Methodist Christian social witness in all matters relating to human relations and Christian citizenship.

The Social Action Director/Consultant shall serve as the Officer of Social Action for the AME Church. He or she shall be ever conversant with the issues pertaining to his or her office and shall attend such conferences in his or her field as may be allowed by his or her budget. He or she shall prepare an annual report which shall be presented at the meeting of the Commission.

There shall be allocated a fund of operation hereinafter known as the Committee on Social Action Fund, which shall be a line item in the Connectional Budget approved by the General Conference for administration and travel.

There shall be established in each annual conference a Committee on Social Action, which shall be appointed by the presiding bishop of the district. From this committee



shall come a report hereinafter known as the Annual Conference Report on Social Action, which shall be acted upon by the current session of the Annual Conference. The contents of this report shall concern matters of social action that affect the constituency and neighbors of the Church in general. A copy of each annual report shall be forwarded to the office of the Commissioner on Social Action at the close of the annual conference. Clergy, at all levels, and appointed or elected officers shall be required to obtain a basic scientific foundation to understand HIV/AIDS. This can be summarized as 'What effective religious leaders should know about HIV/AIDS' (see content below). Mandatory training shall be provided

annually throughout each Episcopal District, at ongoing or special planned sessions as directed by the Presiding Bishop and Presiding Elders. Each clergy person or officer is required to be certified and/or updated at least once every four years through this offering. The annual training should provide at least three or more contact hours about HIV/AIDS. Content should provide understanding of: (1) current prevalence and impacts of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in local communities and globally, (2) the biology of the virus and its disease, (3) community resources available, and (4) practical ways religious leaders can help to eliminate HIV infection, AIDS and death from AIDS-related causes.

There shall be established in each local church a committee hereinafter known as the Committee on Social Action, which shall be appointed by the pastor. The pastor shall interpret for this committee the significance of its work and shall direct the course of its activity.

#### **Amended Text**

There shall be an African Methodist Department on Social Action which shall function under the direction of the General Board and elect quadrennially a Director of Social Action. The director shall be elected at the General Conference. The Director shall be elected to serve up to two terms.

The Department on Social Action shall conduct studies, make pronouncements, and issue directives embracing those issues of Christian social concern which affect the members and the neighbors of the church. It shall assist in the direction of the African Methodist Christian social witness in all matters relating to human relations and Christian citizenship.

The Social Action Director shall serve as the Officer of Social Action for the AME Church. He or she shall be ever conversant with the issues pertaining to his or her office and shall attend such conferences in his or her field as may be allowed by his or her budget. He or she shall prepare an annual report which shall be presented at the meeting of the Commission. He or she shall provide resources to support the Episcopal District, Annual Conference, and local congregation.

There shall be allocated a fund of operation hereinafter known as the Committee on Social Action Fund, which shall be a line item in the Connectional Budget approved by the General Conference for administration and travel.

There shall be established in each annual conference a Committee on Social Action, which shall be appointed by the presiding bishop of the district. From this committee shall come a report hereinafter known as the Annual Conference Report on Social Action, which shall be acted upon by the current session of the Annual Conference. The contents of this report shall concern matters of social action that affect the constituency and neighbors of the Church in general. A copy of each annual report shall be forwarded to the office of the Director on Social Action at the close of the annual conference. There shall be established in each local church a committee hereinafter known as the Committee on Social Action, which shall be appointed by the pastor. The pastor shall interpret for this committee the significance of its work and shall direct the course of its activity.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Establish Chief Communications Officer of the AME Church

**First and Last Name**

Harriett Garvey

**Email**

[info@ame-church.com](mailto:info@ame-church.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

224

**Intent**

To Develop a Chief Communications Officer of the AME Church

**Rationale**

To streamline AME Church Communications Department and develop a strategy for effective communications, marketing and Branding.

**Current Text**

C. Office of Innovation, Technology, and Development

Administration — There shall be an office of Innovation and Development with general supervision of departmental entities, which include convention/meeting planning, grant development, endowments, economic and stewardship development, and innovation. This will be an appointed position by the General Board.

Director — There shall be a Director of Innovation, Technology, and Development, who shall be responsible for developing programs to increase access to technology, and innovation. The Director shall be responsible for the research, preparation and acquisition of grants and other funding sources from both the public and private sectors, including foundations. The qualifications include the ability to work in a participatory management framework. The person must be able to facilitate teamwork approach to proposal development with bishops, and General and Connectional Officers. The person must be skilled in grant and proposal writing, facilitate the creation of business entities, have responsibility and authority to hire personnel to accomplish the objectives of the office, including stewardship education, and be able to handle multiple priorities, follow complex directions and solve problems.

Accountability — The Innovation, Technology and Development Office will be accountable to the General Board and report to the Commission on Stewardship and Finance.

Budget — The Innovation, Technology, and Development Office will have a budget of \$150,000 annually.

**Amended Text**

Chief Communications Officer of the AME Church

The African Methodist Episcopal Church shall have a Chief Communications Officer. He or she shall work under and report to the Publications Commission of the General Board

B. The representative shall be selected by the Publications Commission, subject to the approval of the General Board. The Publications Commission shall present the selected applicant's rating on a personal file to the members of the General Board.

The Chief Communications Officer shall have the threefold responsibility of publicity, press relations and corporate relations for the Connectional Church.

Expenses for this office shall come from the Administrative Fund of the General Treasury and not exceed \$150,000 annually.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Ethics in Expressing Appreciation

**First and Last Name**

Kimberly Gordon Brooks

**Email**

[kimberlysaponi@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlysaponi@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 222 – XI, Section VIII

**Intent**

To make it clear that the negotiation or receipt of any financial benefit from administering the affairs of the church is unacceptable.

**Rationale**

Church leaders should not expect, or receive, gifts or honoraria vendors or various transactions which exceed a de minimus expression, such as a flower or fruit basket having a value of less than five hundred dollars (\$500 USD). Any expression of appreciation must originate with a district, annual conference, component, or congregation with the full knowledge and consent of the gifting body.

**Current Text****SECTION VIII. APPRECIATION FOR SERVICE RENDERED**

All Episcopal Districts, Annual Conferences, departments, agencies, local churches, departments of local churches and individuals may express the Christian spirit of giving by presenting personal honorarium or benevolence of any kind to a person or group of persons whom it/ they deem deserving, provided said gift does not come from funds designated for other specific projects.

However, there should be no assessment against any local church or local church leadership to support any honorarium, gift, or benevolence.

**Amended Text**

(Add new paragraph.)

No person in leadership at any level shall receive a commission, kickback, finder's fee, or other financial benefit from the execution of church transactions. All expressions of appreciation must originate with a regular church entity (such as, a district, annual conference, component, or congregation). All gifts and honoraria must be properly reported to the relevant tax authority in the country or jurisdiction as required by law.



42 Failure to comply by both the receiving leader and/or the relevant financial officer(s)  
43 will be a chargeable offense as maladministration and disobedience to the Doctrine and  
44 Discipline.

45  
46 **Approved**

47 • No

48 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

European Conference moving out of the 16th District

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Dr. Msizi Totoma Dube Sadiki

**Email**

[totomadube@gmail.com](mailto:totomadube@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

420 (online version)

**Intent**

A. European Conference should be made up of European countries, United Kingdom is no longer part of the European Union and should therefore not be part of the European Conference.

B. The European Conference wants to move out of the 16th Episcopal District.

**Rationale**

A. European Conference is made up out of United Kingdom, The Netherlands and France. Referendum on membership of European Union, 31st January 2020 UK withdrew from EU. United Kingdom is only sovereign country that is out of EU (Brexit).

B. European Conference is made up of high income European countries and therefore does not fit into the 16th district (so called mission district – colonial language).

**Current Text**

European Conference (London, Holland and France): consists of the European Presiding Elder District. Map 407 (online version)

**Amended Text**

European Conference (The Netherlands, France, all countries within the European Union): consists of the European Presiding Elder District.

United Kingdom Conference (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland): consists of the United Kingdom Presiding Elder district.

**Clarifying:**

London is the capital city of England, England is part of the United Kingdom therefore the name should be United Kingdom.

Holland is a province in the Netherlands, therefore the name should be the

42 Netherlands. France is a county, the name is correct.

43

44 **Approved**

45 • No

46 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Evangelical Missionary Owen Kingsley Alex

**First and Last Name**

Kingsley

**Email**

[darlington4really@yahoo.com](mailto:darlington4really@yahoo.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

I am Evangelical Missionary Owen Kingsley Alex which i reach out to all Africa Country in The world and we need and support with God word and studying The bible and sharing by telling Them how God love Them

**Intent**

international Evangelical Missionary partnership

**Rationale**

Missionary work to reach out God people

**Current Text**

God will

**Amended Text**

God plans

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

EVANGELISM

**First and Last Name**

Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker &amp; Roger Richardson

**Email**[jdupontw@aol.com](mailto: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 necessary training and preparation.

### **Current Text**

page 122; Our team always insures The Course of Instruction

- a. Admissions;
- 1) Bible
- 2) Church Tradition
- b. First Year Studies;
- c. Second Year Studies;
- d. Third Year Studies;
- e. Fourth Year Studies;

page 144

E Evangelist

1. Each Evangelist licensed by our bishop and Annual Conferences shall be required to be of good moral character.
2. An evangelist must hold, at least, a local preacher's license.
3. An evangelist must be a member of the local church, assisting with class meetings, and cooperating with the pastor for the good of the work.
4. Evangelists are amenable to the Quarterly, District and Annual Conferences and are required to report to all. All evangelists shall be subject to the authority of the minister-in-charge.

### **Amended Text**

Recommended Course of Study

## A. Evangelism

### 1. Bible

### 2. Christian Apologetics

### 3. Program Development

### 4. Marketing/Advertising

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A person who is zealous in preaching, teaching and spreading the Gospel in order to lead the unsaved, unchurched and unconcerned to active participation in the work of the Lord and the Church. A person who seeks to win souls for Christ through conversions and expanding the body of Christ through accessions.

### Scope of Ministry

1) Must be able to communicate a clear understanding of the Bible's message of forgiveness and

salvation through Christ and to convey the message in his/her own style.

2) Must be able to effectively share and establish relationships with the unsaved, unchurched and unconcerned.

3) Must be able to use her/his talents to fulfill this Calling through preaching, programs, witnessing, teaching and other activities that spread the Gospel beyond the walls of the church.

### License

1) An Evangelist must be amenable to the Quarterly, District and Annual Conferences, and is required to report to all. All Evangelists shall be subject to the authority of the minister-in-charge of their local congregations.

2) An Evangelist may hold, a license to preach from the quarterly conference prior to licensing by the Annual Conference.

3) An Evangelist must successfully complete the Class on Evangelism prior to licensing by the Annual Conference.

4) Evangelist shall be licensed by our bishops and Annual Conferences. Each shall be required to be of good and moral character.

5) Must be a member of the local church, assisting with class meetings and cooperating with the pastor for the good of the work.

### Training

1. The Board of Examiners Class on Evangelism shall ensure that each applicant for license has completed a course of study that includes: readings, papers, presentations, and projects. The class should prepare each student for: a. preaching, b. program

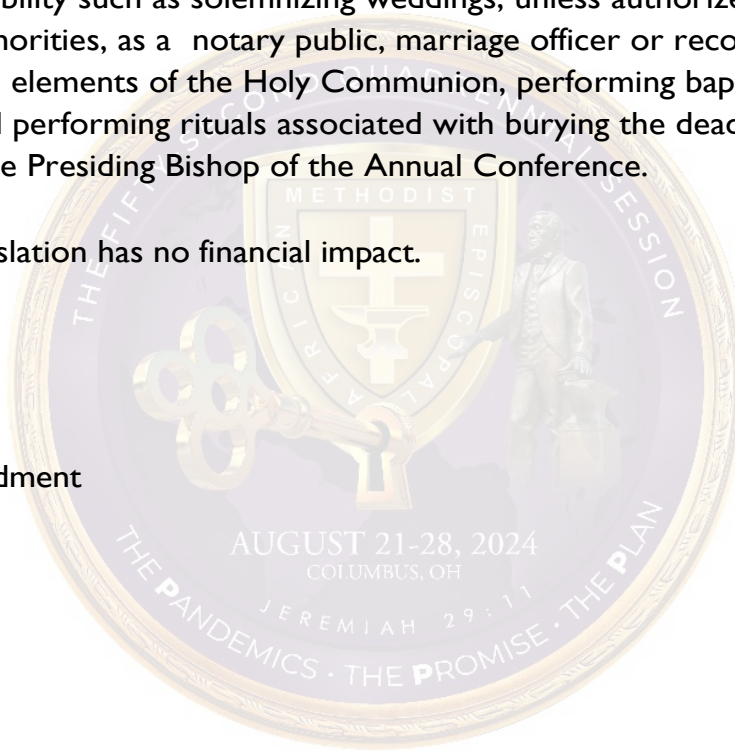
development, c. witnessing, d. marketing,  
 e. teaching and f. other activities that spread the Gospel and bring  
 people to Christ. Readings  
 1) The Heart of Evangelism - Jerram Barrs  
 2) Evangelism in the Early Church - Michael Green  
 3) The Unchurched Next Door: Understanding Faith Stages as Keys to Sharing Your  
 Faith - Thom S. Rainer  
 4) Lost in America: How You and Your Church Can Impact the World Next  
 Door - Tom Clegg Restrictions  
 1) They may; conduct devotional exercises, participate in services of worship, preach  
 the gospel and conduct acts of ministry from the lectern, except that;  
 2) Evangelists shall not perform those functions of ministry generally regarded as  
 priestly responsibility such as solemnizing weddings, unless authorized by  
 government authorities, as a notary public, marriage officer or recorder of deeds,  
 consecrating the elements of the Holy Communion, performing baptisms, unveiling  
 tombstones, and performing rituals associated with burying the dead except when  
 authorized by the Presiding Bishop of the Annual Conference.

NOTE: This legislation has no financial impact.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

EVANGELISM

**First and Last Name**

JACQUELYN DUPONT-WALKER

**Email**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 (NKLV)

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**

page 144

#### **E. Evangelist**

1. Each Evangelist licensed by our bishop and Annual Conferences shall be required to be of good moral character

2. An Evangelist must hold, at least a licence to preach

3. An Evangelist must be a member of the local church, assist with class meetings and and cooperating with the pastor for the good of the work.

4. Evangelists are amenable to the Quarterly District and Annual Conferences and are required to report to all. All evangelists shall be subject to the authority of minister-in-charge.

#### **Amended Text**

Evangelism

Evangelist

Definition

A person who is zealous in teaching, proclaiming and spreading the Gospel in order to lead the unsaved, unchurched, and unconcerned to active participation in the work of the Lord and the Church. A person who seeks to tell the story of a liberating faith and win souls for Christ through conversations and expanding the body of Christ through accessions.

Scope of Ministry

1. Be able to communicate a clear understanding of the Bible's message of forgiveness and salvation through Christ and to convey the message in his/her own style.

2. Be able to effectively share and establish relationship with the unsaved, unchurched, and unconcerned.

3. Be able to use his/her talents to fulfill the Calling through programs, witnessing,



teaching and other activities that spread the Gospel beyond the walls of the church.  
License

1) An evangelist must be amenable to the Quarterly, District, and Annual Conferences and is required to report to all. All Evangelists shall be subject to the authority of the minister-in-charge of their local congregations.

2) An Evangelist may hold a license to preach from the Quarterly Conference prior to licensing by the Annual Conference.

3) An Evangelist must successfully complete the Class on Evangelism prior to licensing by the Annual Conference

4) Evangelists shall be licensed by the bishop and annual conference. Each shall be required to be of good and moral character.

5) An Evangelist must be a member of a local church, assisting with class meetings and cooperating with the pastor for the good of the work.

#### Training and Recommended Course of Study

The Board of Examiners Class on Evangelism shall ensure that each applicant for license has completed a course of study to include readings, papers, presentations, and project. The shall should prepare each student for a. teaching, b. witnessing, c. program development, d. preaching, e. social justice intervention, f. other activities that spread the Gospel and bring people to Christ. The Evangelism class would include, but not be limited to:

#### A. Evangelism

1. Bible

2. Christian Apologetics

3. Program Development

4. Marketing/Advertising

5. Civic Engagement, Equity and Advocacy Readings

The course should identify the best resources,, and update the reading list as needed.

Core readings would include, such as:

1)The Heart of Evangelism - Jerram Barrs

2) Evangelism in the Early Church - Michael Green

3) The Unchurched Next Door - Understanding Faith Stages as Keys to Sharing Your Faith- Thom S Rainer

4) Lost in America - How You and Your Church Can Impact the World Next Door - Tom Clegg

5) Moving In the Right Direction - Earl R.Jefferson

6) The Laity in Ministry - Gregory Peck, John Hoffman

7) Freedom's Prophet - Richard S Newman

8) A Black Theology of Liberation - James Cone

9) The Bible - any translation but

NRSV preferred Restrictions

Evangelists may conduct devotional exercises, participate in services of worship, preach the gospel and conduct acts of ministry from the lectern, except that

Evangelists shall not perform those function of ministry generally regarded as priestly responsibility such as solemnizing weddings, unless authorized by government authorities, as a notary public; marriage officer or recorder of deeds, consecrating the elements of the Holy Communion, performing baptisms, unveiling tombstones, and perform rituals associated with burying the dead except when authorized by the Presiding Bishop of the Annual Conference.

NOTE: This legislation has no financial

impact. Submitted by the 5th District

Legislative Task Force

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

EVANGELISM

**First and Last Name**

JACQUELYN DUPONT-WALKER

**Email**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 (NKLV)

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**

page 144

#### **E. Evangelist**

1. Each Evangelist licensed by our bishop and Annual Conferences shall be required to be of good moral character

2. An Evangelist must hold, at least a licence to preach

3. An Evangelist must be a member of the local church, assist with class meetings and and cooperating with the pastor for the good of the work.

4. Evangelists are amenable to the Quarterly District and Annual Conferences and are required to report to all. All evangelists shall be subject to the authority of minister-in-charge.

#### **Amended Text**

Evangelism

Evangelist

Definition

A person who is

zealous in teaching,

proclaiming and

spreading the Gospel in order to lead the unsaved, unchurched, and unconcerned to active participation in the work of the Lord and the Church. A person who seeks to tell the story of a liberating faith and win souls for Christ through conversations and expanding the body of Christ through accessions.

Scope of

Ministry

Try

An

Evangelist

must

1. Be able to communicate a clear understanding of the Bible's message of forgiveness and salvation through Christ and to convey the message in his/her own style.

2. Be able to effectively share and establish relationship with the unsaved, unchurched, and unconcerned.

3. Be able to use his/her talents to fulfill the Calling through programs, witnessing,



teaching and other activities that spread the Gospel beyond the walls of the church.  
License

1) An evangelist must be amenable to the Quarterly, District, and Annual Conferences and is required to report to all. All Evangelists shall be subject to the authority of the minister-in-charge of their local congregations.

2) An Evangelist may hold a license to preach from the Quarterly Conference prior to licensing by the Annual Conference.

3) An Evangelist must successfully complete the Class on Evangelism prior to licensing by the Annual Conference

4) Evangelists shall be licensed by the bishop and annual conference. Each shall be required to be of good and moral character.

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#### Training and Recommended Course of Study

The Board of Examiners Class on Evangelism shall ensure that each applicant for license has completed a course of study to include readings, papers, presentations, and project. The shall should prepare each student for a. teaching, b. witnessing, c. program development, d. preaching, e. social justice intervention, f. other activities that spread the Gospel and bring people to Christ. The Evangelism class would include, but not be limited to:

#### A. Evangelism

1. Bible

2. Christian Apologetics

3. Program Development

4. Marketing/Advertising

5. Civic Engagement, Equity and Advocacy Readings

The course should identify the best resources,, and update the reading list as needed. Core readings would include, such as:

1)The Heart of Evangelism - Jerram Barrs

2) Evangelism in the Early Church - Michael Green

3) The Unchurched Next Door - Understanding Faith Stages as Keys to Sharing Your Faith- Thom S Rainer

4) Lost in America - How You and Your Church Can Impact the World Next Door - Tom Clegg

5) Moving In the Right Direction - Earl R.Jefferson

6) The Laity in Ministry - Gregory Peck, John Hoffman

7) Freedom's Prophet - Richard S Newman

8) A Black Theology of Liberation - James Cone

9) The Bible - any translation but

NRSV preferred Restrictions

Evangelists may conduct devotional exercises, participate in services of worship, preach the gospel and conduct acts of ministry from the lectern, except that



Evangelists shall not perform those function of ministry generally regarded as priestly responsibility such as solemnizing weddings, unless authorized by government authorities, as a notary public; marriage officer or recorder of deeds, consecrating the elements of the Holy Communion, performing baptisms, unveiling tombstones, and perform rituals associated with burying the dead except when authorized by the Presiding Bishop of the Annual Conference.

NOTE: This legislation has no financial

impact. Submitted by the 5th District

Legislative Task Force

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

EVANGELISM

**First and Last Name**

Jacquelyn DUPONT-WALKER / ROGER RICHARDSON

**Email**[jdupontwalker@gmail.com](mailto:jdupontwalker@gmail.com)**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

page 121 - Course of Instruction  
for Preachers page 122 - The  
Course of Instruction cont'd page  
144 - Evangelism

**Intent**

The 2021 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. The 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 only elaborates on the diversity of callings, but he also lists several. He writes:

There is one body and one Spirit, but 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 calling. Furthermore Christ changes 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 you 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 Evangelists 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 wandering, 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 by our bishops and Annual Conferences shall be required to e of good moral character.
4. 2. An Evangelist mut hold, at least, a local preacher's license.
5. 3. An Evangelist must be a member of the local church assisting with class meetings, and cooperating with the pastor
6. for the good of the work
7. 4. Evangelists are amenable to the Quarterly, District and Annual Conferences, and are required to report to all. All
8. evangelists shall be subject to the authority of the minister-in-charge..

#### **Amended Text**

1. Evangelism
2. Evangelist Definition
3. A person who is zealous in teaching, proclaiming, and spreading the Gospel in order to lead the unsaved, unchurched,
4. and unconcerned to active participation in the work of the Lord and the Church.
5. A person who seeks to tell the story of a liberating faith and win souls for Christ through conversations and expanding
6. the body of Christ through accession.
7. Scope of Ministry
8. An Evangelist must:
  9. 1. Be able to communicate a clear understanding of the Bible's message of forgiveness and salvation through Christ
  10. and to convey the message in his/her own style;
  11. 2. Be able to effectively share and establish relationship with the unsaved, unchurched,, and unconcerned;
  12. 3. Be able to use his/her talents to fulfill the Calling through programs, witnessing, teaching, and other activities that
  13. spread the Gospel beyond the walls of the church;
  14. License
  15. 1) An Evangelist must be amenable ot the Quarterly, District, and Annual Conferences, and is required to report to all.
  16. All Evangelists shall be subject to the authority of the minister-in-charge of their local congregaetions

17. 2) An evangelist must hold a license to preach from the Quarterly Conference, prior to licensing by the Annual

18. Conference

19. 3) An Evangelist must successfully complete the class on Evangelism prior to licensing by the Annual Conference

20. 4) Evangelists shall be licensed by the bishop and Annual Conference. Each shall be required to be of good and

21. moral character

22. 5) An Evangelist must be member of a local church, assisting with class meetings, and cooperating with the pastor

23. for the good of the work

24. Training and Recommended Course of Study

25. The Board of Examiners Class on Evangelism shall ensure that each applicant for license has completed a course of

26. study to include readings, papers, presentations and a project. The board shall prepare each applicant for:

27. a. teaching; b. witnessing; c. program development; d. preaching; e. social justice intervention; f. other activities that

28. spread the Gospel and bring people to Christ. The evangelism class would include, but not be limited to:

29. A. Evangelism

30. 1. Bible

31. 2. Christian Apologetics

32. 3. Program Development

33. 4. Marketing/Advertising

34. 5. Civic Engagement, Equity and Advocacy

35. Readings

36. The course should identify the best resources and update the reading list as needed. Core readings would include

37. works such as:

38. 1) The Heart of Evangelism - Jerram Barrs

39. 2) Evangelism in the Early Church - Michael Green

40. 3) The Unchurched Next Door: Understanding Faith Stages as Keys to Sharing Your Faith - Thom

S. Rainer

41. 4) Lost In America - How You and Your Church Can Impact the World Next Door - Tom Clegg

42. 5) Moving In The Right Direction - Earl R. Jefferson

43. 6) The Laity In Ministry- Gregory Peck/ John Hoffman

44. 7) Freedom's Prophet - Richard S Newman

45. 8) A Black Theology of Liberation - James Cone

46. 9) The Bible - any translation but NSRV is preferred

47. Restrictions

48. Evangelists may conduct devotional exercises, participate in services of worship, preach the gospel, and conduct

49. acts of ministry from the lectern, except Evangelists shall not perform those functions of ministry generally

50. considered to be priestly responsibilities (e.g. solemnizing marriages unless authorized by government authorities,

51. as a notary public, marriage officer or recorder of deeds; consecrating the elements of the Holy Communion;

52. performing baptisms, unveiling cornerstones, and performing rituals associated with burying the dead, except

53. when authorized by the presiding bishop of the annual conference

54. This legislation has no financial impact.

56. Submitted by the Fifth Episcopal District Legislative Task Force

**Approved**

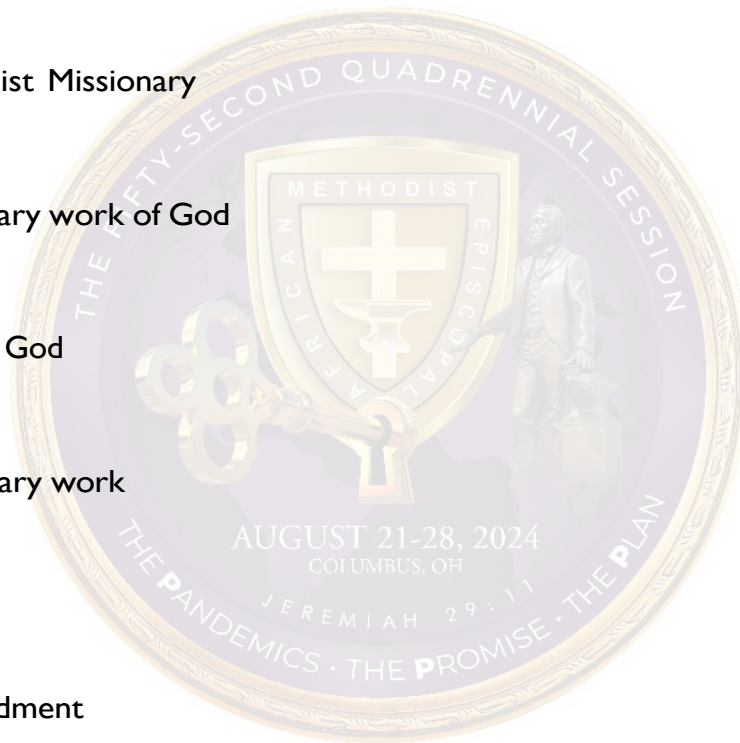
- No

Read Full Amendment





1     **Title**  
2     Evangelist Missionary  
3  
4     **First and Last Name**  
5     Owen Kingsley Alex  
6  
7     **Email**  
8     [darlington4really@yahoo.com](mailto:darlington4really@yahoo.com)  
9  
10    **Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**  
11    Evangelist Missionary  
12  
13    **Intent**  
14    Support Evangelist Missionary  
15  
16    **Rationale**  
17    Support missionary work of God  
18  
19    **Current Text**  
20    Support work of God  
21  
22    **Amended Text**  
23    Support Missionary work  
24  
25    **Approved**  
26    • No  
27  
28    Read Full Amendment



1     **Title**  
2     Evangelist Missionary youth leader africa  
3  
4     **First and Last Name**  
5     Owen Kingsley Alex  
6  
7     **Email**  
8     [darlington4really@yahoo.com](mailto:darlington4really@yahoo.com)  
9  
10    **Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**  
11    Evangelist Missionary  
12  
13    **Intent**  
14    Missionary  
15  
16    **Rationale**  
17    Evangelist  
18  
19    **Current Text**  
20    Christian support work of God  
21  
22    **Amended Text**  
23    Support work of God  
24  
25    **Approved**  
26    • No  
27  
28    Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Evangelist Missionary youth leader of Africa youth

**First and Last Name**

Owen Kingsley Alex

**Email**

[owen\\_ki@yahoo.com](mailto:owen_ki@yahoo.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Evangelist Missionary youth leader of Africa youth

**Intent**

Evangelical Missionary world while

**Rationale**

Evangelist Missionary youth leader of Africa youth

**Current Text**

Evangelist Missionary youth leader of Africa youth

**Amended Text**

Evangelist Missionary youth leader of Africa youth

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



1     **Title**  
2     Evangelist Missionary  
3  
4     **First and Last Name**  
5     Owen Kingsley Alex  
6  
7     **Email**  
8     [Darlington4really@yahoo.com](mailto:Darlington4really@yahoo.com)  
9  
10    **Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**  
11    Evangelist Missionary  
12  
13    **Intent**  
14    Missionary  
15  
16    **Rationale**  
17    Evangelist Missionary  
18  
19    **Current Text**  
20    Missionary  
21  
22    **Amended Text**  
23    Missionary  
24  
25    **Approved**  
26    • No  
27  
28    Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Extending the General Officers' term of service between elections

**First and Last Name**

General Officers' Council

**Email**

[Gpierce@ameced.com](mailto: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**

Pg. 174, C. Election (The section speaks of the modalities for election but is silent regarding length of term.)

**Amended Text**

Section C should begin: A General Officer shall be elected by the General Conference to a term of eight (8) years and can be subsequently re-elected to additional terms of eight years each up to the time of retirement. Regarding retirement, Section IV, J (pg. 193, BoDD2016) shall apply. (Current text of section C should follow this amended text.)

**Approved**

- No



42

43 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Extending the General Officers' term of service between elections

**First and Last Name**

General Officers' Council

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto:gpierce@ameced.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Pg. 189

**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**

Pg. 189, C. Election (The section speaks of the modalities for election but is silent regarding length of term.)

**Amended Text**

Section C should begin: A General Officer shall be elected by the General Conference to a term of eight (8) years and can be subsequently re-elected to additional terms of eight years each up to the time of retirement. Regarding retirement, Section IV, J (pg. 208, BoDD2021) shall apply. (The current text of section C should follow here.)

**Approved**

- No

42 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Filling Episcopal Vancancies in Episcopal Districts

**First and Last Name**

Kimberly Gordon Brooks

**Email**

[kimberlysaponi@gmail.com](mailto: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**

2. Should a vacancy occur in the supervision of an episcopal district by suspension, resignation, death or otherwise, the Council of Bishops is authorized to assign one of its number to the said district.

No assignment shall be made, however, until the members of the said episcopal district shall have the opportunity to make a request to the Council of Bishops regarding the assignment.

**Amended Text**

2. Should a vacancy occur in the supervision of an episcopal district by suspension, resignation, death or otherwise, the Council of Bishops is authorized to assign one of its number to the said district.

No assignment shall be made, however, until the members of the said episcopal district shall have the opportunity to make a request to the Council of Bishops regarding the assignment

The President of the Council of Bishops, or his/her designee, shall convene a meeting of the district's clergy and lay delegates from the last session of the general conference. The group so constituted, after due notice, shall agree on a recommendation by majority vote determined by a secret ballot.

42 The district shall convey its request to the Council of Bishops through the clergy and  
43 lay leaders of the delegation.  
44 In the event of the death of the presiding bishop, the district shall not meet prior to a  
45 religious ceremony and/or the resting of the remains, except when such ceremony has  
46 been delayed beyond a reasonable time of respect.

47

48 **Approved**

49 • No

50 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

General Church Property

**First and Last Name**

Terrence Evans

**Email**

[evans.terrence@gmail.com](mailto:evans.terrence@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Discipline 72

**Intent**

.IA: 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. IB: To correct a grammatical error.

**Rationale**

IA: 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. IB: To correct a grammatical error at the end of the final sentence.

**Current Text**

Section C: Mortgaging Property

1. The Board of Trustees and Incorporators of the local
2. church, elected, and organized as prescribed in The
3. Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal
4. Church, shall have the power to mortgage or encumber the
5. property of the local church or corporation, PROVIDED
6. such action has been authorized by majority vote of the
7. membership present in a duly called Church Conference for

8. this specific purpose. It shall be required that NOTICE of  
 9. such meeting must be given fourteen (14) days previously,  
 10. including two (2) Sundays, and such action must be  
 11. approved by Resolution in a regular session of the Quarterly  
 12. Conference. When a local church complies with the  
 13. requirements set forth in this section, consent for the same  
 14. is not necessary to be obtained from the African Methodist  
 15. Episcopal Church Incorporated.  
 16. Wherever these laws conflict with the laws of the legal  
 17. jurisdiction (local, state/comparable division or national) in  
 18. which the property is located, the pastor and the Trustees  
 19. shall proceed in a manner to conform with these laws).

#### **Amended Text**

##### **Section C: Mortgaging Property**

1. The Board of Trustees and Incorporators of the local  
 2. church, elected, and organized as prescribed in The  
 3. Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal  
 4. Church, shall have the power to mortgage or encumber the  
 5. property of the local church or corporation, PROVIDED  
 6. such action has been authorized by a majority vote of the  
 7. membership present in a duly called Church Conference for  
 8. this specific purpose. It shall be required that NOTICE of  
 9. such meetings must be given fourteen (14) days previously,  
 10. including two (2) Sundays, and such action must be  
 11. approved by Resolution in a regular session of the Quarterly  
 12. Conference. The Board of Trustees and Incorporators of the  
 13. local church shall inform the Annual Conference Board of  
 14. Trustees of the intent to mortgage or encumber the property  
 15. of the local church within twenty-one (21) days of the  
 16. resolution approved by the Quarterly Conference. When a  
 17. local church complies with the requirements set forth in this  
 18. section, consent for the 11. same is not necessary to be  
 19. obtained from the African Methodist Episcopal Church,  
 20. Incorporated.  
 21. Wherever these laws conflict with the laws of the legal  
 22. jurisdiction (local, state, comparable division or national) in  
 23. which the property is located, the pastor and the Trustees  
 24. shall proceed in a manner to conform with these laws.  
 25. (Remove parentheses at the end of the final sentence)

#### **Approved**

- 84 • No
- 85
- 86 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

General Church Property

**First and Last Name**

Terrence Evans

**Email**

[evans.terrence@gmail.com](mailto:evans.terrence@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline 72

**Intent**

IA: 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. IB: To correct a grammatical error.

**Rationale**

IA: 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. IB: To correct a grammatical error at the end of the final sentence.

**Current Text**

Section C: Mortgaging Property

1. The Board of Trustees and Incorporators of the local
2. church, elected, and organized as prescribed in The
3. Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal
4. Church, shall have the power to mortgage or encumber the
5. property of the local church or corporation, PROVIDED
6. such action has been authorized by majority vote of the
7. membership present in a duly called Church Conference for

8. this specific purpose. It shall be required that NOTICE of  
 9. such meeting must be given fourteen (14) days previously,  
 10. including two (2) Sundays, and such action must be  
 11. approved by Resolution in a regular session of the Quarterly  
 12. Conference. When a local church complies with the  
 13. requirements set forth in this section, consent for the same  
 14. is not necessary to be obtained from the African Methodist  
 15. Episcopal Church Incorporated.  
 16. Wherever these laws conflict with the laws of the legal  
 17. jurisdiction (local, state/comparable division or national) in  
 18. which the property is located, the pastor and the Trustees  
 19. shall proceed in a manner to conform with these laws).

#### **Amended Text**

##### **Section C: Mortgaging Property**

1. The Board of Trustees and Incorporators of the local  
 2. church, elected, and organized as prescribed in The  
 3. Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal  
 4. Church, shall have the power to mortgage or encumber the  
 5. property of the local church or corporation, PROVIDED  
 6. such action has been authorized by a majority vote of the  
 7. membership present in a duly called Church Conference for  
 8. this specific purpose. It shall be required that NOTICE of  
 9. such meetings must be given fourteen (14) days previously,  
 10. including two (2) Sundays, and such action must be  
 11. approved by Resolution in a regular session of the Quarterly  
 12. Conference. The Board of Trustees and Incorporators of the  
 13. local church shall inform the Annual Conference Board of  
 14. Trustees of the intent to mortgage or encumber the property  
 15. of the local church within twenty-one (21) days of the  
 16. resolution approved by the Quarterly Conference. When a  
 17. local church complies with the requirements set forth in this  
 18. section, consent for the 11. same is not necessary to be  
 19. obtained from the African Methodist Episcopal Church,  
 20. Incorporated.  
 21. Wherever these laws conflict with the laws of the legal  
 22. jurisdiction (local, state, comparable division or national) in  
 23. which the property is located, the pastor and the Trustees  
 24. shall proceed in a manner to conform with these laws.  
 25. (Remove parentheses at the end of the final sentence)

#### **Approved**



- 84 • No
- 85
- 86 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

General Conference Committees I. The Episcopal committee

**First and Last Name**

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Sixth Episcopal District

**Email**

[Sbrown@ame6.church](mailto:Sbrown@ame6.church)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page Reference 2021 AMEC Book of Discipline Part XIV: Conference, G. General Conference, committees, I. The Episcopal Committee, a. period Composition, PG. 268

**Intent**

To limit the number of consecutive terms a person from any Episcopal District may serve as a member of the Episcopal Committee.

**Rationale**

Currently a person may be elected by any number of times from their Episcopal District as a member of the Episcopal committee. This could limit the number of people who have the opportunity to serve on the Episcopal committee and the same people serving over which may lead to manipulation, lack of integrity, or failure to comply with the positive law of the AME church.

**Current Text**

1. The Episcopal Committee
2. a. Composition
3. The Episcopal committee shall be composed of two
- (2) ministerial delegates and
4. two (2) lay delegates, at least one of whom must be
- a young adult between the
5. ages of eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35) from each episcopal district

**Amended Text**

1. The Episcopal Committee
2. a. Compensation
3. The Episcopal committee shall be composed of 2 (2
- ) ministerial delegates and
4. two (2 ) lay delegates, at least one of
- whom must be a young adult between the
- ages

- 42 5. of eighteen (18) and thirty-five ( 35 )  
43 elected from each episcopal district. No  
44 episcopal  
45 6. district shall elect A delegate, ministerial  
46 or lay to more than three consecutive  
47 7. quadrennials as a member of the Episcopal committee  
48 8. This shall go into effect at the close of the  
49 2024 General Conference

50

51 **Approved**

- 52 • No

53

54 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

General Conference Committees I. The Episcopal committee

**First and Last Name**

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Sixth Episcopal District

**Email**

[Sbrown@ame6.church](mailto:Sbrown@ame6.church)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page Reference: 2021 AMEC Book of Discipline Part XIV: Conference, G. General Conference, committees, I. The Episcopal Committee, a. period Composition, PG. 268

**Intent**

To limit the number of consecutive terms a person from any Episcopal District may serve as a member of the Episcopal Committee.

**Rationale**

Currently a person may be elected by any number of times from their Episcopal District as a member of the Episcopal committee. This could limit the number of people who have the opportunity to serve on the Episcopal committee and the same people serving over which may lead to manipulation, lack of integrity, or failure to comply with the positive law of the AME church.

**Current Text**

1. The Episcopal Committee
2. a. Composition
3. The Episcopal committee shall be composed of two ( 2 ) ministerial delegates and
4. two ( 2 ) lay delegates, at least one of whom must be a young adult between the
5. ages of eighteen ( 18 ) and thirty-five ( 35 ) from each episcopal district.

**Amended Text**

1. The Episcopal Committee
2. a. Compensation
3. The Episcopal committee shall be composed of 2 ( 2 ) ministerial delegates and
4. two ( 2 ) lay delegates, at least one of whom must be a young adult between the ages
5. of 18 (18) at thirty five (35 ) elected from each episcopal district. No Episcopal
6. district shall elect A delegate, ministerial or lay to more than three consecutive
7. quadrennial as a member of the Episcopal Committee.
8. This shall go into effect at the close of the 2024 General Conference.

- 42 **Approved**
- 43 • No
- 44
- 45 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

General Conference Composition

**First and Last Name**

Judicial Council

**Email**

[JCAMESecretary@gmail.com](mailto: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 Discipline's 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**

The composition of the General Conference shall be the bishops, general officers elected by the General Conference

**Amended Text**

The composition of the General Conference shall be the bishops, general officers and members of the Judicial Council elected by the General Conference

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

General Conference Composition

**First and Last Name**

Robin Porter Smith

**Email**

[rps14069@msn.com](mailto: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**

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

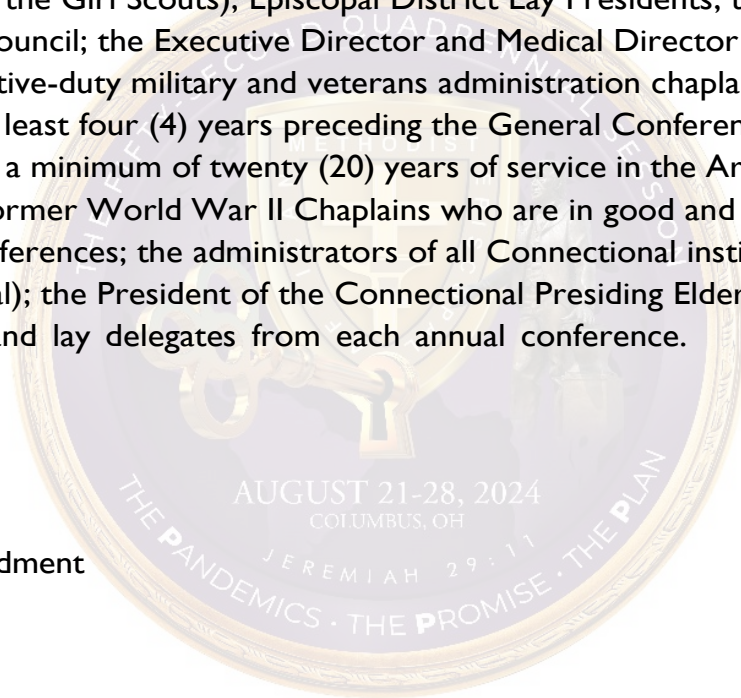
**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

GENERAL CONFERENCE COMPOSITION

**First and Last Name**

JOELYNN STOKES FOR CONNECTIONAL AMEWIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto:jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Part XIV CONFERENCES, Section I General Conference, A Composition Page 26I, Kindle Edition page 370

**Intent**

To bring fair representation of Connectional components

**Rationale**

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

**Current Text**

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

**Amended Text**



The composition of the General Conference shall be the bishops; the general officers elected by the General Conference; the general secretary/CIO of the General Conference; the presidents of the universities and colleges; the deans of seminaries that have been in operation continuously for four (4) or more years prior to the General Conference; the president and treasurer of the Women's Missionary Society; the editor of the Women's Missionary Magazine; the director of the Young People's and Children's Division and one at large seat; the Connectional Women In Ministry (WIM) President; the Connectional WIM Africa Regional Coordinator and one Connectional WIM at large seat), the connectional presidents of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC); and one at large seat, Young People's and Children's Division (YPD) and Lay Organization; Episcopal District Lay Presidents; the president of the Connectional Council; the Executive Director and Medical Director of the Health Commission; active-duty military and veterans administration chaplains who have been ordained for at least four (4) years preceding the General Conference and those who are retired with a minimum of twenty (20) years of service in the Armed Forces of the United States; former World War II Chaplains who are in good and regular standing in their annual conferences; the administrators of all Connectional institutions (i.e., the Bishop Sarah Frances Davis Connectional Women's Missionary Society Outpatient Health Clinic); the President of the Connectional Presiding Elders Council, and elected clergy and lay delegates from each Annual Conference.

#### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Global Development Council Financial Management Act

**First and Last Name**

Global Development Council

**Email**

[gdcsecretariat2023@gmail.com](mailto:gdcsecretariat2023@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

I The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021, Page 193  
- 197.

**Intent**

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

**Rationale**

3 No current mechanism exists for collaboration with the Treasurer/CFO of the Church.

**Current Text**

4 New text to be inserted under the duties of the Treasurer/CFO "2"

**Amended Text**

5 The CFO shall serve as a resource and financial advisor to the GDC

6 for instituting a system of financial management for the GDC and a plan for

7 investing/management of GDC finances.

8 The CFO shall assist the GDC Treasurer in receiving the annual financial commitment

9 payments from districts 14-20.

10 The CFO shall receive yearly finance reports from the GDC and assist the GDC in

11 producing an annual Audit.

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Global Development Council Financial Management Act

**First and Last Name**

J. Cooper

**Email**

[cio@ame.nashvilleinteractive.com](mailto:cio@ame.nashvilleinteractive.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**

: New text to be inserted under the duties of the Treasurer/CFO “ii”.

**Amended Text**

The CFO shall serve as a resource and financial advisor to the GDC for instituting a system of financial management for the GDC and a plan for investing/management of GDC finances.

The CFO shall assist the GDC Treasurer in receiving annual financial commitment payments from districts 14-20.

The CFO shall receive yearly finance reports from the GDC and assist the GDC in producing an annual Audit.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Global Development Council Record Keeping

**First and Last Name**

J. Cooper

**Email**

[cio@ame.nashvilleinteractive.com](mailto:cio@ame.nashvilleinteractive.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**

No existing text. New text to be inserted under the duties of the General Secretary/CIO as item "W".

**Amended Text**

The General Secretary/CIO shall serve as a resource and technical support for the duly elected Secretary of the Global Development Council. The General Secretary/CIO shall also assist in the formation, archiving, and dissemination of minutes of GDC meetings. The administrative budget of the General Secretary/CIO shall be adjusted by the Commission on Statistics and Finance to account for these additional duties and responsibilities.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Group Life Insurance

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Marvin Colbert

**Email**

Marvinclub270@gmail.com

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

AMEC Book of Discipline, 2021, b. c. Pg. 231

**Intent**

To clearly state information to obtain group life insurance policy and procedures to verify coverage, request certificate of insurance (proof of insurance, face value, claims process, change of beneficiaries).

**Rationale**

Eliminate vague language and/or provide plain language that defines the policy of purging plan participants after seven years; define “established Purging Schedule.” Lay people outside of the insurance industry may not be familiar with these phases unless otherwise given specific clarity. Removing vague phrases will bring clarity, openness and accountability to a department undergoing negatively in public view.

**Current Text**

1. Group Life Insurance
2. The Department of Retirement Services shall make available a
3. Group Life Insurance Plan.
4. Maintenance of Employee Benefit Program Records
5. The Department of Retirement Services shall be required to
6. maintain all employee benefit program records for each participant
7. for a period of seven (7) years, which shall be known as the
8. established Purging Schedule of the Department. Any participant
9. inquiries and / or claims for benefits that exceed this schedule shall
10. be diligently addressed by the Department of Retirement
11. Services in its best effort to provide an adequate response and
12. / or achieve an equitable resolution of the claim.

**Amended Text**

1. Group Life Insurance
2. The Department of Retirement Services shall make available a

3. Group Life Insurance Plan. The Department of Retirement  
4. Services shall be required to maintain all employee benefit  
5. program records for each participant. The Department of  
6. Retirement Services shall annually provide to participants proof of  
7. eligibility / coverage, plan value and give explanation of  
8. established Purging Schedule if applicable. Annually, each  
9. participant shall have an option to select a new plan coverage and  
10. / or change beneficiaries. It is the Department of Retirement  
11. Services' responsibility to process participant inquiries and /  
12. or claims for benefits within 45 days of receipt of inquiry and  
13. / or claim.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment





**Title**

Growing the Local Lay Organization

**First and Last Name**

Bill Dickens

**Email**

[dickensb@comcast.net](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- 42 • No
- 43
- 44 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Human Resources Committee

**First and Last Name**

Gaylis Shakir

**Email**gaylis21@gmail.com**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

NONE

**Intent**

To create a formal entity within the local church to create and implement policies and procedures that govern and impact church employees.

**Rationale**

Due diligence, consistency and care should be applied to the coordinating, organizing and management of church employees. This includes recruitment, hiring, training, compensation, supervision, retaining and motivating employees. Local churches should employ best human resources practices and follow IRS tax laws to minimize legal threats and litigation and to create a positive and productive work environment.

**Current Text**

NONE

**Amended Text**

SECTION I. LOCAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION-REQUIRED A. Boards, Licensed Missionary Workers, and Organizations and Ministries 4. Organizations and Ministries (add a new section and letter after “choirs”)

## 1) Chairperson

The pastor shall be the chairperson of the Human Resources Committee

## 2) Composition

The Committee shall consist of at least one trustee and at least one steward; a member of the church’s stewardship and finance committee/organization/commission and/or the church treasurer and an optional member-at-large. The Committee shall consist of no fewer than three (3) members and no more than seven (7). Church employees who are church members may not serve on this Committee.

### 3) Qualifications

All members must be in good and regular standing of the local AME Church and eighteen (18) years of age or older. In addition, it is a desired qualification that one or more members have human resources training or experience.

### 4) Duties and Responsibilities

For employees excluding the pastor

- a) Conduct employment searches, e.g., post job announcements, develop job descriptions
- b) Establish guidelines for employee evaluations
- c) Determine salary and raises in conjunction with the stewardship and finance organization/ministry of the church and the Pastor. Salary and raises for church employees must be approved by the Official Board
- d) Ensure that each employee has a job description and an employment contract that outlines his/her responsibilities and duties
- e) Establish that employees report to the Pastor or his/her designee
- f) Ensure that employees are properly trained, supervised and afforded opportunities for growth and development that align with the church's ability to support such opportunities
- g) Maintain confidential employee records and honor the confidentiality of Committee deliberations and discussions

For employees, including the pastor

- a) Work with the church treasurer to ensure that Federal Insurance and Contributions Act (FICA) taxes are withheld for each employee
- b) Utilize the Internal Revenue Service's Employer's Supplemental Tax Guide, to understand the church's income tax obligations for employees, independent contractors and those who may be considered self-employed for tax purposes.
- c) Consult a tax expert(s) for guidance regarding the church's income tax obligations; utilization of forms such as W2, W4, 1099, other tax forms; when receipts from clergy are required; and other income tax related matters
- d) The Committee shall be familiar with the AME Church's policy and procedures for Sexual Misconduct (see XVI Judicial Administration, Section X, Sexual Misconduct) and take the appropriate action as directed by the policy/procedures as needed.

### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Dr. Donna Melynda Clarke

**Email**

[revmelyndaclarke@gmail.com](mailto: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 immigrants, refugees and asylees. The church, therefore, should be a refuge for those who are seeking healing, restoration, and community.

**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**

None

**Amended Text**

Add SECTION III To PART VI STARTING AND MERGING  
CONGREGATIONS. SECTION III: INCLUSION OF AN  
EXISTING IMMIGRANT CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS



42 INTO THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

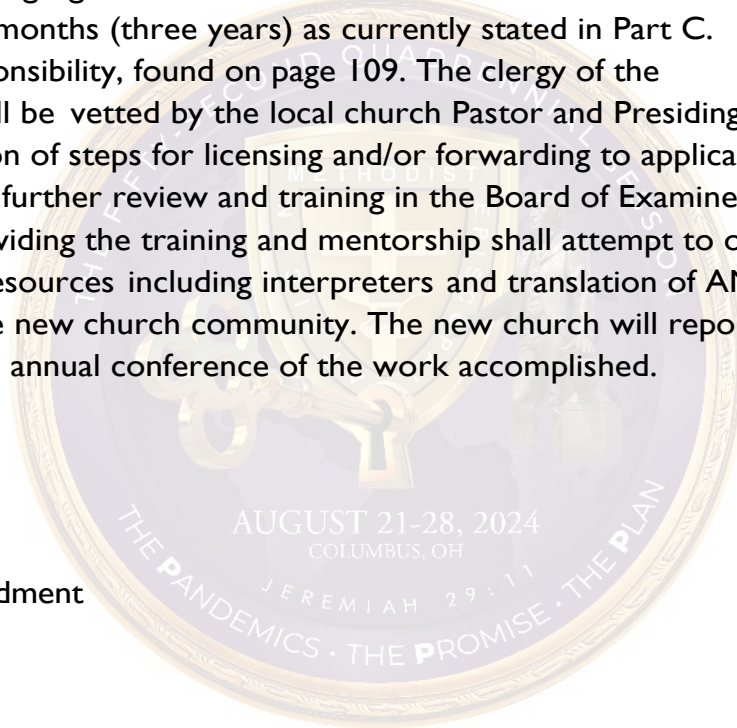
43 The pastor along with the congregation of the immigrant church, shall  
 44 strive to abide to the requirement of starting a new congregation outlined  
 45 in SECTION I, Part A, by submitting a letter requesting consideration to  
 46 become part of the AME Church. The Presiding Prelate of the District in  
 47 which the congregation resides will assign a Presiding Elder and local  
 48 church to provide training on the AME Church. The organization of the  
 49 church found in Part B. Organizational Meeting, beginning on page 107, will  
 50 adjusted to

51 accommodate language differences and the need for interpreters and  
 52 translation of any needed documentation. Training classes will be offered  
 53 to the new congregation by direction of the appointed Presiding Elder.  
 54 The incoming congregation will be considered a mission church for a  
 55 minimum of 36 months (three years) as currently stated in Part C.  
 56 Budgetary Responsibility, found on page 109. The clergy of the  
 57 congregation will be vetted by the local church Pastor and Presiding Elder  
 58 for determination of steps for licensing and/or forwarding to applicable  
 59 conferences for further review and training in the Board of Examiners.  
 60 The district providing the training and mentorship shall attempt to obtain  
 61 any necessary resources including interpreters and translation of AME  
 62 materials for the new church community. The new church will report  
 63 each year to the annual conference of the work accomplished.

64  
 65 **Approved**

- 66 • No

67  
 68 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Integration of Federal and Military Chaplains in the Episcopal Committee of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

**First and Last Name**

HMTCA Executive Board

**Email**

[kaybyfaith@yahoo.com](mailto:kaybyfaith@yahoo.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Pages 268-270

**Intent**

This amendment seeks to amend the composition of the Episcopal Committee of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church to include Federal and Military Chaplains. By acknowledging their significant role and unique perspective, this inclusion addresses a critical oversight in the current structure. It brings the specialized skills and experiences of these chaplains into the church's decision-making processes, enhancing the effectiveness of the Episcopal Committee.

**Rationale**

Federal and Military Chaplains bring a unique set of skills to the AME Church. They operate in high- pressure environments, providing spiritual guidance, emotional support, and crisis intervention to those serving in the armed forces and federal roles. They are accustomed to following strict policies and advising senior leaders on critical matters, demonstrating a high level of discipline and commitment. Their specialized training in trauma care, conflict resolution, and cross-cultural communication makes them invaluable to the church.

Despite their considerable contributions, Federal and Military Chaplains have historically been underrepresented in the Episcopal Committee, which limits the diversity of viewpoints in the church's governance. Including them in the Episcopal Committee not only corrects this imbalance but also allows the AME Church to leverage their insights to make informed, compassionate, and strategic decisions.

**Current Text**

The current composition of the Episcopal Committee, as defined in the AME Discipline, does not explicitly include Federal and Military Chaplains. This omission creates a gap in representation, overlooking a group of chaplains who contribute significantly to the church's mission and who possess unique skills and experiences.

**Amended Text**

This amendment proposes to include Federal and Military Chaplains in the Episcopal Committee, with an exception for two clergy appointees, due to the requirement that laypersons cannot serve as chaplains. This change ensures that the extensive education, training, and advisory experience of

Federal and Military Chaplains are represented in the Episcopal Committee's decision-making processes. Their participation enriches the committee with broader perspectives and strengthens the AME Church's ability to navigate complex governance issues.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

KEA LUMELA No Poverty

**First and Last Name**

Eric Stradford

**Email**[isaiah617@fas2.net](mailto:isaiah617@fas2.net)**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

394

**Intent**

Engage The Church in believing United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1, #NoPoverty2030 is possible.

**Rationale**

The 2020 - 2024 Quadrennial established mountain moving faith as the body's fourth and final annual emphasis. "Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said why could we not cast it out? He said to them because of your little faith for truly I tell you if you have faith the size of a mustard seed you will say to this mountain move from here and there and it will move and nothing will be impossible for you." Matthew 17:19-21

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Section VII, A establishes tithing as the church's official doctrinal position on stewardship under (Rules For Giving). The doctrine embraces an established fundraising strategy, "bring your tithes to the storehouse..." The doctrine further justifies the temporal strategy as "God's Mandate."

The 21st century application of the Malachi rule might emphasize the "trust" evidenced in The Gospels. "God's Mandate," as established by Jesus The Christ, through whom all things are possible, is to "love one another." (John 15:12). True, "the tithe is in no place in the New Testament challenged, disproved or set-aside." In context, references to tithing in the Gospels appear to admonish the receivers of tithes to do more. (Matthew 23:23 ICB). Global Capacity Building transforms fund-raising into friend-raising. (What a friend we have in Jesus as two or more of 2.4 billion believers) Matthew 18:20.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations. It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals. It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.

The Women's Missionary Society is the A.M.E. Church's registered representative of ESOSOC (BOD Page 394).

This proposal seeks to include Free African Society (FAS2) as a partner specifically focused on believing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are possible.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, are a set of seventeen interconnected objectives aimed at promoting sustainable development across economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

The SDGs were formulated in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) as part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which sought to create a future global development framework to succeed the Millennium Development Goals, a similar set of eight goals adopted in 2000 to address poverty, health, education, gender equality and other issues, which ended that year.

Engagement as a body of believers in achieving No Poverty is consistent with the state vision to carry out the spirit of the original Free African Society

#### **Current Text**

Page 394 Article II Women's Missionary Society African Methodist Episcopal Church Connectional Bylaws

Section I: ...representatives of the Economic and Social Council ECOSOC of the United Nations a nongovernmental organization shall be members of the women's missionary society.

Representatives to the United Nations shall be the Connectional President, one main representative, two alternate representatives and one youth representative 18 to 24 years old.

#### **Amended Text**

The representatives of Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations shall be certified trustees of the Free African Society for the 21st Century. FAS2 shall support the existing WMS delegation with capacity building strategies aimed at achieving UN SDGs. Trustee certification shall commence with intentional, prosocial, leadership development of Generation Z and A believers.

#### **Approved**



- 84 • No
- 85
- 86 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Lay Delegate Electoral College Qualifications

**First and Last Name**

Penny Oliver -Second Episcopal District

**Email**

[penny.oliver52@yahoo.com](mailto:penny.oliver52@yahoo.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021; Part XIV, Page 262 & 264, Section I, C2 and D2.

**Intent**

To clarify the qualifications of the Lay members to be elected to the Electoral College.

**Rationale**

There are occasions where the pool of candidates to be elected to the Lay Electoral College are not knowledgeable of the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church or the process of the General Conference. To ensure the Lay Delegates to the Electoral College are deemed qualified they should participate in various training activities on the local, District of the Annual Conference, where one exists, and the Annual Conference of the Church.

**Current Text**

Every lay member elected a delegate by an Electoral College shall be a member of said college and a person of good, natural or acquired ability who knows and loves The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and has maintained a full, good and regular membership in said church four (4) consecutive years next preceding the General Conference, and shall have been a member of his or her local church for six (6) months next preceding the meeting of the Electoral College. No lay member shall vote—or be voted for—more than once in a quadrennium as a delegate to the Electoral College.

**Amended Text**

Every lay member elected a delegate by an Electoral College shall be a member of said college and a person of good, natural or acquired ability who knows and loves The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and has participated in various training activities on the local, District of the Annual Conference, where one exists, and the Annual Conference of the Church, maintained a full, good and regular membership in said church four (4) consecutive years next preceding the General

Conference, and shall have been a member of his or her local church for six (6) months next preceding the meeting of the Electoral College. Attendance and training activities on all levels should be verified by the local church. No lay member shall vote—or be voted for—more than once in a quadrennium as a delegate to the Electoral College.

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Letter of Good and Regular Standing

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto:jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 269, Section II Annual Conference F (I)

**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**

It shall be the duty of every member of the Annual Conference to attend its sessions.

**Amended Text**

It shall be the duty of every member of the Annual Conference to attend its sessions.

Upon request, a member in good and regular standing of the Annual Conference may request a letter stating same.

Absent extenuating circumstances, the letter of good and regular standing or denial of a letter shall be issued within 90 days of the request. The written denial must include why the requesting member is not considered in good and regular standing.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Letter of Good and Regular Standing

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes for Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto:jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Part XIV Conferences, Section II The Annual Conference paragraph F I Page 283, Kindle Page 399

**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**

It shall be the duty of every member of the Annual Conference to attend its sessions.

**Amended Text**

It shall be the duty of every member of the Annual Conference to attend its sessions. A member in good and regular standing of the Annual Conference may request a letter stating same. Absent extenuating circumstances, the letter of good and regular standing or denial of a letter shall be issued within 30 days of the request. The written denial must include why the requesting member is not considered in good and regular standing.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Licentiate

**First and Last Name**

Veronica Finney

**Email**

[vmfinney@comcast.net](mailto: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 Bishop's 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**

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

**Amended Text**

Candidates for orders shall be examined twice a year by the Annual Conference Board of

Examiners. These examinations shall take place at the Annual Conference and before the expiration of a period not exceeding six (6) months after the close of the Annual Conference. The candidates who plan to physically attend the Annual Conference shall be notified by mail thirty (30) days before the scheduled examinations.

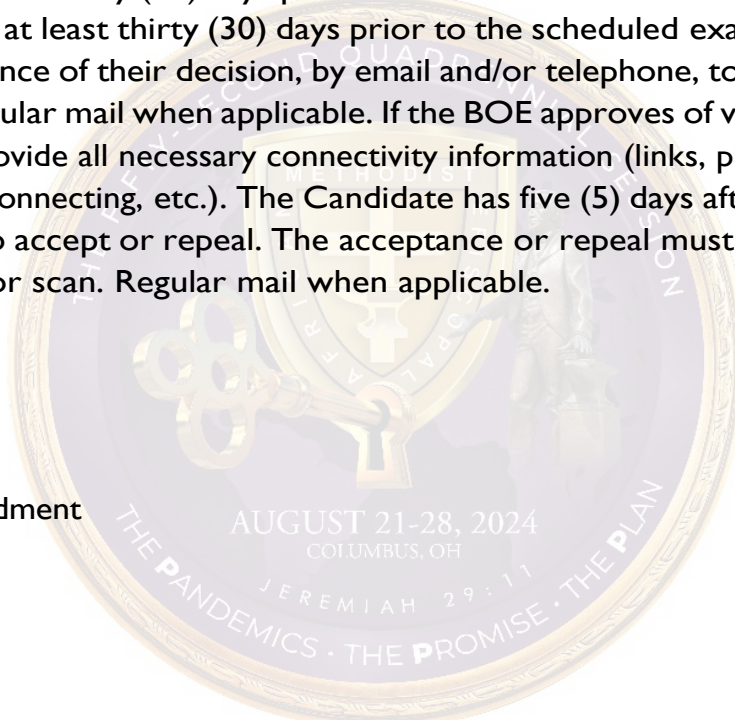
When physical attendance to the Annual Conference and/or other conferences as outlined in part VII Procedures for Ministerial Service is not possible due to extenuating circumstances, i.e. living outside

of the continental United States in an area where there are no AMEC, military, DoD, or other justifiable obligations or circumstances, candidates can meet the examination requirements virtually via Zoom, Go2Meeting, Skype, Google Hangout, Conference Calls, or some other appropriate virtual venue established by the BOE. Candidates are responsible to inform and provide evidence of extenuating circumstances to their pastor and the BOE sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Conference. The candidates shall be notified at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled examinations and/or Annual Conference of their decision, by email and/or telephone, to allow for virtual attendance. Regular mail when applicable. If the BOE approves of virtual attendance, the BOE will provide all necessary connectivity information (links, phone numbers, instruction for connecting, etc.). The Candidate has five (5) days after receiving the BOE decision to accept or repeal. The acceptance or repeal must be in writing via email, fax, and/or scan. Regular mail when applicable.

### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Liturgy for Cremation

**First and Last Name**

Myron D Hill

**Email**

[myrondavidhill@comcast.net](mailto:myrondavidhill@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

new legislation

**Intent**

provide verbiage for cremation

**Rationale**

More people are opting for cremation; therefore, committing a body to the ground is inappropriate.

**Current Text**

new legislation

**Amended Text**

“For as much as it pleases Almighty God to take out of the world the soul of this brother/sister, we therefore commend his/her spirit back to God, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust ... (then complete the rest of the liturgy as listed on page 682 of the 2021 Discipline)

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

LOVE FEAST TICKET LANGUAGE CHANGE

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Dr. Clay Barrow

**Email**

[Revb614@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

The pastor is encouraged to conduct Love Feast before each Communion service. Those who participate in Love Feast will be invited to the first table at

42 Communion when feasible.

43

44 **Approved**

45 • No

46

47 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

Management of Commission Audits

**First and Last Name**

Gloria Byrd

**Email**

[hiejr1137@gmail.com](mailto:hiejr1137@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

5 Resource -Institutional Development. Section 7a -c. Commission on Financial  
Management  
6 Program. Pages 254-256.

**Intent**

To develop a useful responsibility for The Commission on Financial  
Management and Program that has never been used as intended.

**Rationale**

Every June, the General Board meets and each Commission is responsible for their own official audit to be presented to the Statistics and Finance Committee who in turn present  
11 to the General Board. Forensic Audits are not always presented and the selection of  
an audit  
12 person or company can easily become a friend helping out to reduce the fee for an  
audit but  
13 can lead to complications and fraud. To avoid inconsistency, it is recommended that  
a selection  
14 of one company to provide audits for the General Board be managed by a reliable  
qualified  
15 committee.

**Current Text**

: Delete the current text for this Commission On Financial Management  
and Programs substituting the following responsibilities.

**Amended Text**

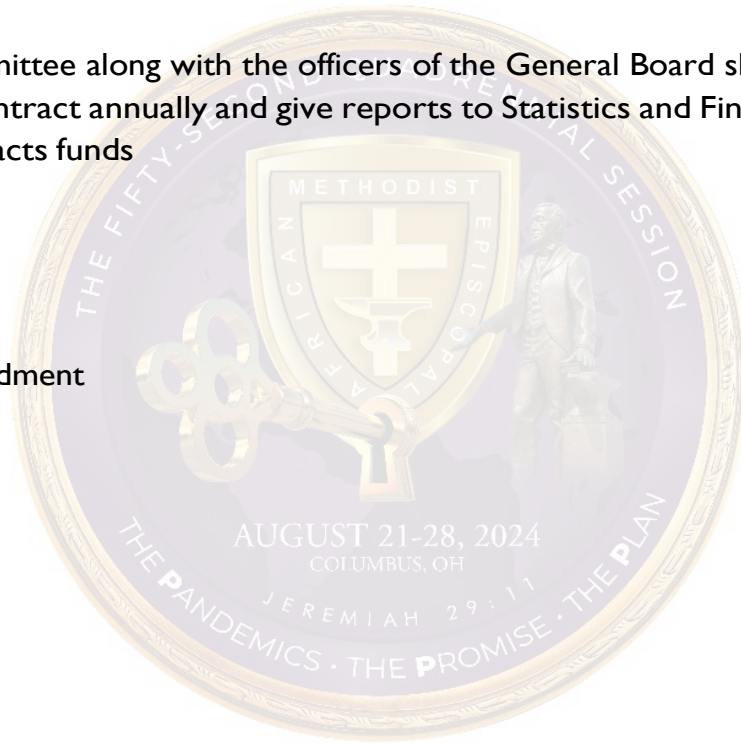
20 a. Composition. The General Board of the AME Church shall appoint a five (5)-person  
21 committee to constitute the management of audits of all commissions. The chair of  
the  
22 General Board and Treasurer shall serve as ex officio member of this committee.  
23 b. Qualification: These appointees must possess the formal education and

professional  
 24 experience to provide the expertise required to perform the duties of this committee.  
 25 c. Duties: It shall be the duty of this Committee to perform the following functions:  
 26 1) This committee shall select a company to perform an audit of all Commissions of  
 the  
 27 church with the approval of the General Board. Together they must determine the  
 28 length of the contract.  
 29 2) This audit should be performed at least 90 days prior to the scheduled General  
 Board  
 30 meeting.  
 31 3) The committee is responsible for presenting the audits to Statistics and Finance  
 for  
 32 review prior to opening of the board meeting who in turn will present to the full  
 33 Board.  
 34 4) This committee along with the officers of the General Board shall review the audit  
 35 company contract annually and give reports to Statistics and Finance.  
 36 This bill impacts funds

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Jeffrey Leath

**Email**

[jeffreynleath@aol.com](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

Add New Paragraph:

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

- 42     **Approved**
- 43     • No
- 44
- 45     Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Mandatory Inclusion of the Connectional Budget in the Printed Discipline

**First and Last Name**

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

**Email**

[rev\\_glenn@yahoo.com](mailto: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**

None.

**Amended Text**

The Connectional Budget (2021-2024) should follow the "Bibliography" and precede the "Glossary."

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Mandatory Inclusion of the Connectional Budget in the Printed Discipline

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Dr. V. Gordon Glenn, III and Rev. Rachel E. Williams-Glenn

**Email**

[rev\\_glenn@yahoo.com](mailto: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 and 2021 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.

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.

**Current Text**

none

**Amended Text**

The Connectional Budget (2025-2028) should follow the "Bibliography" and precede the "Glossary."

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Member

**First and Last Name**

Ombeni Namulolo

**Email**[mosecemvg@yahoo.fr](mailto:mosecemvg@yahoo.fr)**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Membership card # 518351-107

**Intent**

I'm intention is to get more knowledge and experience.

**Rationale**

To more knowledge that can make me get something spiritual and that can make me grow and grow the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Current Text**

From the conference, I know I will learn more that will push to teach others about God and Methodist Episcopal Church. My opinion is to be missionary that will teach others

**Amended Text**

To participate in a conference make me to learn more that I didn't know. I'm a Christian I have to know about God.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Member

**First and Last Name**

Ombeni Namulolo

**Email**[mosecemvg@yahoo.fr](mailto:mosecemvg@yahoo.fr)**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Membership card #518351-107

**Intent**

My intention is to participate on this conference I know I will get some knowledge and menu things that it will change my life

**Rationale**

The reason why I want to attend on this conference is to learn, some things I don't know to get a knowledge and experience from other peoples to get a knowledge is very important

**Current Text**

From this conference I will learn menu things that it will help me in my career and my life, it will help me to grow spiritual as Christian

**Amended Text**

To participate in this conference it will bring more change in my life I know when I will be back I will not be the same it will push me to teach Others what I have learned from the conference when we will be trainer we will be able to trainer Others because the Bible says in Hosea 4: my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge knowledge is very important to my life

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Mileage Reimbursement for Minister's Church Travel

**First and Last Name**

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

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto: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 minister's 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. Minister's 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 CURRENT TEXT: Page 139, Section C, Note: It shall be understood that the term

2 "pastoral charge" shall be interpreted to mean an individual church or group of

3 churches (circuit) that a pastor serves on a Presiding Elder's District. In the case

4 of circuits and Presiding Elder's Districts, the travel expenses of the minister,

5 unless otherwise provided for, shall be computed on the basis of thirty-five (35)

6 cents per mile one way, and these expenses shall be an allowable deduction from

7 the minister's income from the pastoral charge.

**Amended Text**

I AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Page 139, Section C. Note: It shall be understood that  
the term “pastoral charge” shall be interpreted to mean an individual church or  
3 group of churches (circuit) that a pastor serves on a Presiding Elder’s District. In  
the case of circuits and Presiding Elder’s Districts, the travel expenses of the  
minister, unless otherwise provided for, shall be computed on the basis of  
6 fifty-seven and one half (57.5) cents per mile one way, and these expenses shall be  
an allowable deduction from the minister’s income from the pastoral charge. The  
rate shall be in accordance with the current rate the federal government pays and  
the rate adjusted as the Internal Revenue Service changes its’ rate and thus  
becoming  
the current law.

II

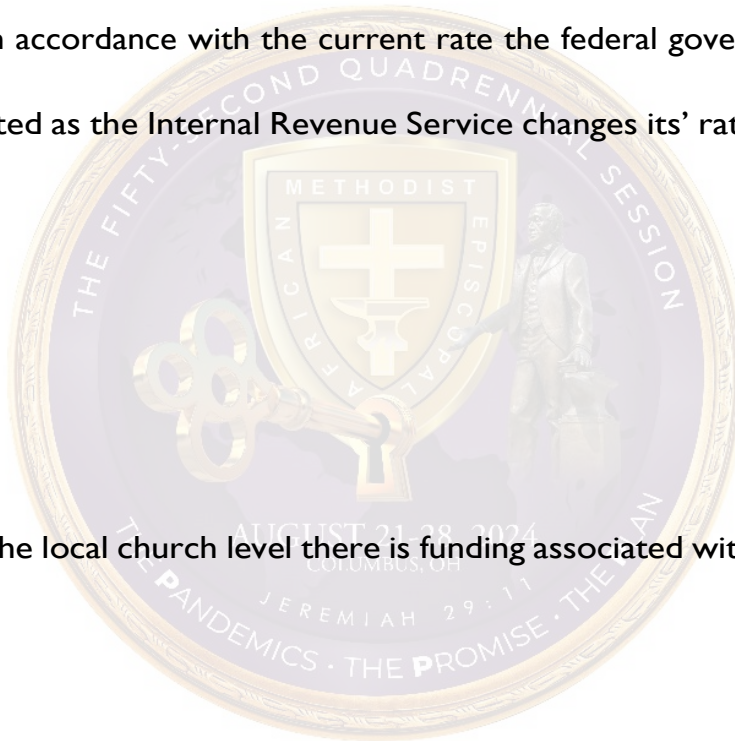
12

13 Funding: At the local church level there is funding associated with this Bill.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment





**Title**

Mileage Reimbursement for Minister's Church Travel

**First and Last Name**

Angela Pettis

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine & Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2021, page 153 and Internal Revenue Service

**Intent**

To ensure mileage reimbursement for the minister's 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. Minister's 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**

CURRENT TEXT: Page 153, Section C.

Note: It shall be understood that the term "pastoral charge" shall be interpreted to mean an individual church or group of churches (circuit) that a pastor serves on a Presiding Elder's District. In the case of circuits and Presiding Elder's Districts, the travel expenses of the minister, unless otherwise provided for, shall be computed on the basis of thirty-five (35) cents per mile one way, and these expenses shall be an allowable deduction from the minister's income from the pastoral charge.

**Amended Text**

AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Page 153, Section C.

Note: It shall be understood that the term "pastoral charge" shall be interpreted to mean an individual church or group of churches (circuit) that a pastor serves on a Presiding Elder's District. In the case of circuits and Presiding Elder's Districts, the

travel expenses of the minister, unless otherwise provided for, shall be computed on the basis of sixty-seven (67) cents per mile one way, and these expenses shall be an allowable deduction from the minister's income from the pastoral charge. The rate shall be in accordance with the current rate the federal government pays and the rate adjusted as the Internal Revenue Service changes its' rate and thus becoming the current law.

Funding: At the local church level there is funding associated with this

Bill. Submitted by Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th

Episcopal District

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Minimum in-person Quarterly Conference meetings for Presiding Elders

**First and Last Name**

Mark Johnson & Penny Oliver

**Email**

[mrkl9732000@yahoo.com](mailto:mrkl9732000@yahoo.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 162. Part VIII, Section V. The Presiding Elder, C. Administrative Functions

**Intent**

The requirement that a Presiding Elder (PE) at least meet once in-person will enhance the PE's ability to assess the pastor's efficiency and the effectiveness of the ministry of the local church. An in-person visit shall also assist in the interpersonal relations among the PE, local leadership, as well as the members of the local church, and provide for the physical assessment of the property.

**Rationale**

Now that the Covid 19's grip is loosening, the pandemic has certainly forced us to incorporate new ways to operate and administer church business. The incorporation of virtual meetings helped us to adapt, survive, and in some cases, thrive these last few years. While it is true that virtual meetings will never have the depth of connection that a face-to-face meeting provides, many have learned that virtual meetings should play a more significant role in our church business affairs in the future. However, we should not allow the new model to replace necessary interpersonal relations and practices among the leadership and their members.

During the pandemic, most Quarterly Conferences were held virtually. Considering virtual meetings will likely continue to be an alternative meeting option, an in-person Quarterly Conference is still necessary and has significant value. As administrator, advisor, and supervisor, the PE's personal viewing and assessment of the local church's members and its temporal/property assessment over a year is valuable and a reasonable expectation to ideally fulfill the role of the PE (not just a financial and or statistical reporting at the Quarter).

**Current Text**

C. Administrative Functions

1. The presiding elder holds a Quarterly Conference in every church and circuit every three (3) months, four (4) times a year to determine the efficiency of the pastor, the

effectiveness of the ministry of the churches, and “to give proper direction to all the affairs of the churches in the Presiding Elder District.”

#### **Amended Text**

##### **C. Administrative Functions**

I. The presiding elder holds a Quarterly Conference in every church and circuit every three (3)

months, four (4) times a year to determine the efficiency of the pastor, the effectiveness of the ministry of the churches, and “to give proper direction to all the affairs of the churches in the Presiding Elder District.” The time and method of meetings (in-person or virtual) shall be selected by the presiding elder after consultation with the pastor. At least one (1) of the four (4) Quarterly Conferences shall be in person.

#### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Ministerial Efficiency as a Standing Committee

**First and Last Name**

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

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto: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**

Current Text: None exists pertaining to Ministerial Efficiency Committee as Standing Committee.

Glossary, page 821

Current Text: An annual conference committee level committee appointed by the Bishop to review the efficiency and moral conduct of those ministers referred to it.

**Amended Text**



42 Page 271

43 J.

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50 add c. The Ministerial Efficiency Committee as a standing committee shall meet at the  
51 call of the Committee chairperson as s/he may deem necessary for carrying out the work  
52 of the Committee.

53 Glossary, page 821

54 An annual conference committee level standing committee appointed by the Bishop to  
55 review the efficiency and moral conduct of those ministers referred to it.

56

57 **Approved**

58 • No

59

60 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Ministerial Efficiency as a Standing Committee

**First and Last Name**

Angela Pettis

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine & Discipline of the AMEC 2021, Part XIV Section II - The Annual Conference J I., page 285 and The Glossary, Page 894

**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**

Current Text: None exists pertaining to Ministerial Efficiency Committee as Standing Committee.

Current Text:

Glossary, page 894

An annual conference committee level committee appointed by the Bishop to review the efficiency and moral conduct of those ministers referred to it.

**Amended Text**

New Text: J. Committees, page 285

**I. Ministerial Efficiency**

add c. The Ministerial Efficiency Committee as a standing committee shall meet at the call of the

Committee chairperson as he/she may deem necessary for carrying out the work of the

Committee. Amended/New Text: Glossary, page 894

An annual conference committee level standing committee appointed by the Bishop to review the efficiency and moral conduct of those ministers referred to it.

**FUNDING:** There is no budgetary impact associated with this Bill.

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

MINISTERIAL LOCATION, RETIREMENT AND TERMINATION

**First and Last Name**

TYRONE HICKS

**Email**

[pastorhicks@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

- 42  
43 **Approved**  
44 • No  
45  
46 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

Ministerial Location, Retirement And Termination

**First and Last Name**

Dwight E. Dillard

**Email**

[elderbftd@yahoo.com](mailto:elderbftd@yahoo.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Pages 170- 171

**E. Mandatory Location****Section II. The Retired Minister****A. Mandatory Retirement****B. Voluntary Retirement****Intent**

Change the Mandatory Retirement age for itinerant ministers.

**Rationale**

The age for entering the itinerant ministry was changed to 60. Not many if any in cases, applying for Admission. There are those ordained are not willing to serve to serve in the pastoral ministry. There is a shortage of ministers to fill the charges of the Annual Conferences.

Unordained person are supplying charges. The members have to wait for the sacraments to be administered. And in some cases members of local churches resent having unordained supplying their churches consistently.

**Current Text**

E. Mandatory Location, page 170

" No itinerant minister who is seventy-five (75) year of age by his or her Annual Conference shall receive an appointment as presiding elder or pastor."

Section II. The Retired Minister, page 171

**A. Mandatory Retirement**

" An itineerant minister must be relieved from traveling and is not to receive an appointment as presiding elder or pastor, at the age of seventy-five (75) yeques by his / her

Annual Conference."

#### B. Voluntary Retirement

" Those who desire to retire before age seventy-five (75)..."

#### **Amended Text**

E. Mandatory Location, page 170

No itinerant minister who is seventy-nine (79) years of age by his or her Annual Conference shall receive an appointment as presiding elder or pastor.

### Section II. The Retired Minister

#### A. Mandatory Retirement

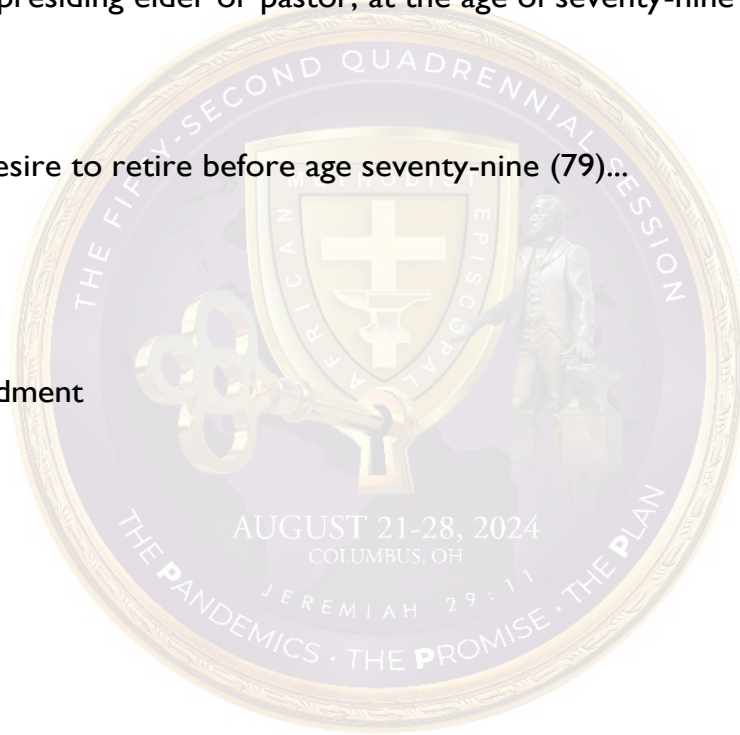
An itinerant minister must be relieved from traveling, and is not to receive an appointment as presiding elder or pastor, at the age of seventy-nine (79) years by his/her Annual Conference.

B. Those who desire to retire before age seventy-nine (79)...

#### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Ministerial Retirement Investment Portfolio for Required and Eligible Clergy Participants  
Outside of the United States

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Kenesha Blake-Newell, Rev. Jennifer S. Leath, Rev. James F. Miller, Fourth District  
Legislative Task Force, and Department of Retirement Services

**Email**

[jennifer.s.leath@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.s.leath@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

p.157 (PART VIII MINISTERIAL CLASSIFICATIONS, RULES AND SUPPORT; SECTION III.  
MINISTERS' BILL  
OF RIGHTS; B. Basic Rights of

Itinerant Ministers) and

p.228-232 (PART XIII CONNECTIONAL DEPARTMENTS AND COMMISSIONS; SECTION I.  
CONNECTIONAL  
DEPARTMENTS; D. Department of Retirement Services)

**Intent**

This bill is designed to facilitate and codify the retirement investment portfolio development for AME clergy serving and residing outside of the United States while maintaining the spirit of the current AME law as it pertains to the provision of retirement investment portfolio development for specified designees. Appropriate retirement programs will be developed for those living and serving outside of the United States. This bill is of highest priority and should be applied within six months of the close of the 2024 General Conference.

**Rationale**

While essential reforms and improvements have been made to the retirement investment portfolio management of the AME Church within the past year, these reforms and improvements have limited or no value and benefit for required and qualified participants living outside of the United States. Clergy outside of the United States have not been able to access their accounts or fully set them up without a United States address or phone number, and, most significantly, when contributions are made in a currency other than U.S. Dollars, these are charged conversion fees going into the account and then when they are withdrawn. Moreover, these funds can also be subjected to double-taxing at various levels depending on each country's taxation standards and relationship with U.S. tax codes. This perpetuates

and worsens disadvantages to participants outside of the United States.

## **Current Text**

### **12. Retirement Benefits**

A retired pastor of the AME Church is entitled to the benefits of his or her annuity and the benefits of a qualified retirement program for pastors of the AME Church, as enacted by the 1996 General Conference.

and

## **2. Duties and Responsibilities**

### **a. Ministerial Annuities Plan**

1) The Department of Retirement Services shall direct the Ministerial Annuity Plan of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, as directed by the General Board. There is hereby established annuity coverage for the salaried personnel of the AME Church. Included in this coverage shall be all bishops, general officers, college presidents, deans of theological seminaries, itinerant elders and salaried personnel of the connectional departments of the AME Church, including our hospitals, church schools and colleges. In addition, full-time employees of the local churches may elect to participate in the Annuity Plan. A full-time employee is defined as one working a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week on a continual and consistent basis. The pastor and the board of stewards must confirm this status.

2) The Commission on Retirement Services of the General Board shall serve as the trust committee for the annuity coverage for the AME Church. There shall be, and is hereby established, an annuity fund within the AME Church.

3) The established contribution amount for each enrolled participant shall be twelve percent (12%) of annual salary and the minimum contribution amount shall be \$312.00, due at each Annual Conference and Mid-Year Convocation and based on minimum average annual salary of \$5,250.00. Two percent (2%) of reported contributions shall be allocated to the Department of Retirement Services for administration. Payments are to be remitted to the Department of Retirement Services within seven (7) calendar days after they are received.

4) All participants in the AME Church Retirement Annuity Plan shall have the option to self-direct the investment of their annuity account assets, up to a maximum of thirty percent (30%) of the total account balance.

a) When exercising this option, the participant assumes full responsibility for the investment decisions subsequently made and the performance of the



83 chosen investment products.

84  
85 b) Each participant electing to self-direct must complete and submit an Investment  
86 Waiver to the Department of Retirement Services, which shall be thereafter  
87 indemnified, held harmless and released from its fiduciary responsibilities in such  
88 instances.

89  
90 5) All bishops, general officers, college presidents/deans of theological seminaries,  
91 itinerant elders and all other ordained persons receiving an appointment to a  
92 pastoral charge, must enroll and participate in the Annuity Plan of the AME Church.  
93 All of the above will be included in the Annuity Plan, regardless of attained age. Any  
94 participants in the Annuity Plan may elect to retire at age sixty- five (65) or at any  
95 age thereafter.

96  
97 6) All eligible and enrolled participants in the AME Church Ministerial Retirement  
98 Plan, upon official retirement or separation from active service, shall be eligible to  
99 receive the total amount of funds

100 vested in their personal annuity account, plus accrued interest, irrespective of their years  
101 of active service.

102  
103 7) The bishop of an episcopal district shall use the same diligence and have the  
104 same authority and obligation in the collecting of annuity coverage premiums as he  
105 or she has in the collection of the General Budget Funds.

106  
107 a) Itinerant elders shall also report their premiums during the midyear and annual  
108 conferences, along with their "General Budget Funds."

109  
110 b) The Church or other sources paying the salary shall pay the total twelve percent  
111 (12%) required by the plan. In the case of the presiding elder, an amount equal to 12  
112 percent (12%) of the quarterly conference assessment will be added.

113  
114 c) The contributions payable by the ministers shall be paid and reported to their  
115 presiding elder prior to their midyear and annual conferences, and shall be part of  
116 each minister's and presiding elder's report. All premiums shall be paid to the  
117 finance committee of the annual conference, which shall forward the premiums,  
118 along with the participants' names and amount of payments, to the Executive Director  
119 of the Department of Retirement Services, with the report of the finance committee in  
120 the midyear and annual conference. The full names of the employees for which the  
121 charge has paid premiums, their current residential addresses, current annual  
122 salaries and last four (4) digits of their social security numbers, and amounts for each  
123 participant, will be submitted to the Department of Retirement Services on each and  
124 every report.



8) The Department of Retirement Services shall provide each participant with a quarterly statement of their respective ministerial annuity account, to include all contributions credited, accrued interest earned and ending account balance for the respective quarters. Said quarterly statements shall be distributed within thirty (30) days after the close of each calendar quarter, ending March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31 of each year.

9) Effective with the close of the 47th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (2004), the Retirement Annuity Computerized Online Reporting System shall become the primary method of the reporting of annuity contributions to the Department of Retirement Services by the annual conference. All annual conference paper report forms shall be used only in the case of emergency and as a last resort, and shall be furnished exclusively by the Department of Retirement Services when needed, and no other such forms shall be deemed acceptable.

10) All local (non-clergy) and institutional full-time employees working regularly and consistently for a minimum twenty (20) hours per week shall be eligible to enroll and participate in the Annuity Plan on a voluntary basis. Full-time employment must be confirmed in writing by the appropriate pastor, presiding elder, bishop or general officer serving as the ultimate supervisor of said non-clergy employee. Said participation shall be on a voluntary basis and shall be contingent upon the agreement and financial capacity of the payer of their respective salary. The minimum salary required for voluntary participation is \$5,200 per annum, and the minimum contribution is twelve percent (12%) of said salary or \$312 semi-annually. Upon termination or retirement from the Church,

annuity distributions shall be governed by the Vesting Schedule, as stated in the Annuity Plan Document.

11) The personal accounts of all eligible and officially enrolled participants in the AME Church Ministerial Retirement Annuity Plan shall be become vested (owned) at the rate of twenty percent (20%) per year of participation. Under Plan Document guidelines, one-hundred percent (100%) vesting is achieved after five (5) years of participation. Only the vested assets of the participant's account shall be eligible for disbursement. All disbursements, excluding direct rollover disbursements, shall be subject to twenty percent (20%) federal-tax withholdings.

b. Group Life Insurance

The Department of Retirement Services shall make available a Group Life Insurance Plan.

c. Maintenance of Employee Benefit Program Records

The Department of Retirement Services shall be required to maintain all employee benefit program records for each participant for a period of seven (7) years, which shall be known as the established Purging Schedule of the Department. Any participant inquiries and/or claims for benefits that exceed this schedule shall be diligently addressed by the Department of Retirement Services in its best effort to provide an adequate response and/or achieve an equitable resolution of the claim.

d. Retirement Plan for Pastors and Presiding Elders

1) The Retirement Plan for Pastors and Presiding Elders, created and established by the General Conference of 1996, is a plan designed to provide retirement contributions for each participant through annual allocations from the General Budget Fund at no cost to participants.

2) The Retirement Plan for Pastors and Presiding Elders shall be administered by the Department of Retirement Services, under the direction of its Executive Director. The Commission on Retirement Services of the General Board shall serve in an advisory capacity.

3) The Program shall be consistent with and comply with all requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) as it presently exists and as it may be amended from time to time.

**Amended Text**

12. Retirement Benefits

A retired pastor of the AME Church is entitled to the benefits of his or her retirement investment portfolio and the benefits of a qualified retirement program for pastors of the AME Church, as enacted by the 2024 General Conference.

and

2. Duties and Responsibilities

b. Ministerial Retirement Investment Portfolio

1) The Department of Retirement Services shall direct the Ministerial Retirement Investment Portfolio of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, as directed by the General Board. There is hereby established a retirement investment portfolio for the salaried personnel of the AME Church. Included

in this coverage shall be all bishops, general officers, college presidents, deans of theological seminaries, itinerant elders and salaried personnel of the connectional departments of the AME Church, including our hospitals, church schools and colleges. In addition, full-time employees of the local churches may elect to participate in the retirement investment portfolio. A full-time employee is defined as one working a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week on a continual and consistent basis. The

pastor and the board of stewards must confirm this status.

2) The Commission on Retirement Services of the General Board shall serve as the trust committee for the retirement investment portfolio for the AME Church. There shall be, and is hereby established, a retirement investment portfolio within the AME Church.

3) The established contribution amount for each enrolled participant shall be twelve percent (12%) of annual salary and the minimum contribution amount shall be six (6%), due at each Annual Conference and Mid-Year Convocation. Two percent (2%) of reported contributions shall be allocated to the Department of Retirement Services – or the episcopal district appropriate and Department of Retirement Services approved designee – for administration. Payments are to be remitted to the Department of Retirement Services – or the Episcopal District Representative – within seven (7) calendar days after they are received.

4) All participants in the AME Church retirement investment portfolio shall have the option to self- direct the investment of their retirement portfolio assets, up to a maximum of thirty percent (30%) of the total account balance.

a) When exercising this option, the participant assumes full responsibility for the investment decisions subsequently made and the performance of the chosen investment products.

b) Each participant electing to self-direct must complete and submit an Investment Waiver to the Department of Retirement Services, which shall be thereafter indemnified, held harmless and released from its fiduciary responsibilities in such instances.

5) All bishops, general officers, college presidents/deans of theological seminaries, itinerant elders and all other ordained persons receiving an appointment to a pastoral charge, must enroll and participate in the retirement investment portfolio of the AME Church which includes authorized alternatives established for those serving and residing outside of the United States. All of the above, will be included in the retirement investment portfolio, regardless of attained age. Any participants in the retirement investment portfolio may elect to retire at age sixty-five (65) or at any age thereafter.

6) All eligible and enrolled participants in the AME Church Ministerial Retirement Plan, upon official retirement or separation from active service, shall be eligible to receive the total amount of funds vested in their personal retirement investment account, plus accrued interest, irrespective of their years of active service.

7) The bishop of an episcopal district shall use the same diligence and have the same authority and obligation in the collecting of retirement investment portfolio coverage premiums as he or she has in the collection of the General Budget Funds.

a) Itinerant elders shall also report their premiums during the midyear and annual conferences, along with their “General Budget Funds.”

b) The Church or other sources paying the salary shall pay the total twelve percent (12%) required by the plan. In the case of the presiding elder, an amount equal to 12 percent (12%) of the quarterly conference assessment will be added.

c) The contributions payable by the ministers shall be paid and reported to their presiding elder prior to their midyear and annual conferences, and shall be part of each minister’s and presiding elder’s report. All premiums shall be paid to the finance committee of the annual conference, which shall forward the premiums, along with the participants’ names and amount of payments, to the Executive Director of the Department of Retirement Services, with the report of the finance committee in the midyear and annual conference. The full names of the employees for which the charge has paid premiums, their current residential addresses, current annual salaries and last four (4) digits of their social security numbers (or equivalent governmentally recognized numbers), and amounts for each participant, will be submitted to the Department of Retirement Services on each and every report.

8) The Department of Retirement Services shall provide each participant with a quarterly statement of their respective ministerial retirement investment portfolio account, to include all contributions credited, accrued interest earned and ending account balance for the respective quarters. Said quarterly statements shall be distributed within thirty (30) days after the close of each calendar quarter, ending March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31 of each year. As necessary, The Department of Retirement Services will collaborate and be in correspondence with episcopal district representatives to provide a full and accurate connectional report.

9) Effective with the close of the 52nd Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (2024), the retirement investment portfolio facilitated by Westpath shall become the primary method of the reporting of retirement contributions to the Department of Retirement Services by the annual conference. All annual conference paper report forms shall be used only in the case of emergency and as a last resort, and shall be furnished exclusively by the Department of Retirement Services when needed, and no other such forms shall be deemed acceptable. These reports will be available to all who are enrolled in a retirement investment portfolio or life insurance plan authorized by the AME Church.

10) All local (non-clergy) and institutional full-time employees working regularly and



consistently for a minimum twenty (20) hours per week shall be eligible to enroll and participate in the retirement investment portfolio on a voluntary basis. Full-time employment must be confirmed in writing by the appropriate pastor, presiding elder, bishop or general officer serving as the ultimate supervisor of said non-clergy employee. Said participation shall be on a voluntary basis and shall be contingent upon the agreement and financial capacity of the payer of their respective salary. The minimum contribution is twelve percent (12%) annually of one's salary or is six percent (6%) semi-annually. Upon termination or retirement from the Church, retirement investment portfolio distributions shall be governed by the Vesting Schedule, as stated in official retirement investment portfolio documentation.

11) The personal accounts of all eligible and officially enrolled participants in the AME Church

Ministerial retirement investment portfolio shall become vested (owned) at the rate of twenty percent (20%) per year of participation. Under Plan Document guidelines, one-hundred percent (100%) vesting is achieved after five (5) years of participation. Only the vested assets of the participant's account shall be eligible for disbursement. All disbursements, excluding direct rollover disbursements, shall be subject to twenty percent (20%) federal-tax withholdings (for those not enrolled in the AME Church retirement investment portfolio). All disbursements, for those serving and residing outside of the United States and enrolled in another AME Church authorized retirement and/or life insurance plan, will be subject to the rules and conditions of the hosting country.

b. Group Life Insurance

The Department of Retirement Services shall make available (a) Group Life Insurance Plan/s.

c. Maintenance of Employee Benefit Program Records

The Department of Retirement Services shall be required to maintain all employee benefit program records for each participant for a period of seven (7) years, which shall be known as the established Purging Schedule of the Department. Any participant inquiries and/or claims for benefits that exceed this schedule shall be diligently addressed by the Department of Retirement Services in its best effort to provide an adequate response and/or achieve an equitable resolution of the claim.

d. Retirement Plan for Pastors and Presiding Elders

1) The Retirement Plan for Pastors and Presiding Elders, created and established by the General Conference of 1996, is a plan designed to provide retirement contributions for each participant through annual allocations from the General Budget Fund at no cost to participants.

2) The Retirement Plan for Pastors and Presiding Elders shall be administered by the Department of Retirement Services, under the direction of its Executive Director.



The Commission on Retirement Services of the General Board shall serve in an advisory capacity.

3) The Program shall be consistent with and comply with all requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) as it presently exists and as it may be amended from time to time.

12) Persons residing and serving outside of the United States are exempt from the preceding enrollment expectations and may collectively establish and participate in an alternative district and country appropriate retirement and life insurance plan under the direction of the Department of Retirement Services and presiding prelate of the district/s in question – provided that the Department of Retirement Services and presiding prelate have evaluated, approved, and authorized the alternative/s. Any alternative retirement and life insurance coverage will, however, retain certain prorated consistencies with those residing and serving in the United States and enrolled in the AME Church retirement investment portfolio:

a. The established contribution amount for each enrolled participant shall be twelve percent (12%) of annual salary and the minimum contribution amount shall be six percent (6%), due at each Annual Conference and Mid-Year Convocation. Payments are to be remitted to the approved financial institution according to their established policies and procedures through the approved district representative within seven (7) calendar days after they are received. Electronic transfers of payments are encouraged where possible.

b. Individual bishops, general officers, college presidents, deans of theological seminaries, and

salaried personnel of the connectional departments of the AME Church residing and/or serving outside of the United States may appeal to the Commission on Retirement Services of the General Board and be granted permission to participate in a district and country appropriate, approved, and, thus, authorized retirement and life insurance plan in lieu of the Retirement Investments Plan for those primarily or exclusively serving and residing in the United States.

### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Ministerial Training Board Composition

**First and Last Name**

Sandra Nelson on behalf of 5th District Lay Organization

**Email**

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**

Part VII, Sec. III. B.; Page 120 (1st paragraph)

The presiding bishop shall appoint the Dean of Ministerial Training of the conference. The dean, in turn, shall nominate the staff (committees) which shall be confirmed by the Annual Conference.

**Amended Text**

Part VII, Sec. III. B.; Page 120 (1st para.)

The presiding Bishop shall appoint the Dean of Ministerial Training of the conference. The dean, in turn, shall nominate the staff (committees) which will consist of highly qualified and/or certified clergy and laity which shall be confirmed by the Annual Conference.

42 Financial Implications: Should be neutral as the composition is changing and not  
43 necessarily the number of instructors.

44

45 **Approved**

46 • No

47

48 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Ministerial Training Board Course of Instruction

**First and Last Name**

Sandra Nelson on behalf of 5th District Lay Organization

**Email**

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**

Part VII, Sec. III.  
C.; Page 122 The  
Course of  
Instruction

A. Admissions: 1) Church Tradition 2) Bible

B. First Year Studies: 1) Bible 2) Church Administration 3) Church Tradition 4) Preaching  
5) Theology

D. Third Year Studies: 1) Bible 2) Christian Education 3) Church History  
4) Church Leadership 5) Preaching 6) Theology 7) Worship

**Amended Text**

Part VII, Sec. III.  
C.; Page 122 The  
Course of

- 42 Instruction
- 43 A. Admissions: 1) Bible 2) Church Tradition
- 44 3) The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (current ed.)
- 45 B. First Year Studies: 1) Bible 2) Church Administration 3) Church Tradition 4) Preaching
- 46 5) Theology
- 47 6) The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
- 48 D. Third Year Studies: 1) Bible 2) Christian Education 3) Church History
- 49 4) Church Leadership 5) Preaching 6) Theology 7) Worship
- 50 8) Management – Financial and Personnel
- 51 Financial Implications: None
- 52
- 53 **Approved**
- 54 • No
- 55
- 56 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

MINISTERS' BILL OF RIGHTS COMPARABLE DEFINITION CLARIFICATION

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Linda E. Mouzon

**Email**

[revlindamouzon@verizon.net](mailto: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; I. 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**

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

**Amended Text**

A pastoral appointment equal to their abilities, training, and experience,  
when available. The new appointment when available shall be  
comparable to (i.e. similar to  
the church's current status) and or better than the previous one, provided  
the pastor has not been found guilty under Judicial Administration. The action  
may result in location  
or an appointment that reflects the Church's current standing at the time  
of his or her departure as confirmed by the numerical and financial  
condition of the church certified by the Quarterly Conference and the  
Presiding Elder and affirmed by a document written, submitted, and

42 signed by the Board of Stewards verifying that the information is  
43 accurate.

44

45 **Approved**

46 • No

47

48 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Miss

**First and Last Name**

Trizzer Evelyn Kumwenda.

**Email**evelynkumwenda@gmail.com**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

secretary at my branch church

**Intent**

To attend the general conference and knowledge shared will be distributed to my fellow members at church. As being the secretary from my branch church, i will be taking minutes on the conference and share with fellow Christians hence the need to attend the conference.

**Rationale**

To gather with fellow Christians across the globe, share experiences, learn from each and ways to strengthen our faith in Christ.

To take minutes at the conference and share with my fellow Christians back home which will enhance our christianity life.

**Current Text**

I am the secretary at McAllister temple AME Church

**Amended Text**

Providing training in evangelism, Christian social relationship and educational programs towards the youth in order to connect more youth fully to the mission of church.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Mr

**First and Last Name**

Kingsley Alex Owen

**Email**[darlington4really@yahoo.com](mailto:darlington4really@yahoo.com)**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

I am Evangelical Missionary of africa Youth leader

**Intent**

Evangelical Missionary

**Rationale**

Missionary

**Current Text**

Missionary relationship

**Amended Text**

Missionary relationship

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto: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**

No Current Text – New text to be inserted

**Amended Text**

Section 3 – Each level of the Connectional Lay Organization shall operate within the framework of the Executive Board and Constitution and Bylaws as approved by the Connectional Lay Organizational Biennial Convention and ratified by the General Conference.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto: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**

Section 2. b. All persons holding the designation and/or office of President Emeritus.

**Amended Text**

No amended text - Delete Article IV, Section 2.b.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto:abemakiti54@gmail.com)**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 473, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE IV –  
MEMBERSHIP, 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**

Section 2.e. All Conference Lay Organization Presidents.

**Amended Text**

Section 2.e All Conference Lay Organization Presidents; and Directors of Lay Activities  
and Young Adult Representatives (YAR)

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto: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 president's 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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

- 42  
43 **Approved**  
44 • No  
45  
46 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto:abemakiti54@gmail.com)**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

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

**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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

42

43 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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

42     **Amended Text**

43     Section 2. Standing committees are appointed to implement specific goals, objectives  
 44     and programs that advance of and are vital to the functioning of the Connectional Lay  
 45     Organization. Standing committees shall be the following Proposed Legislation,  
 46     Constitution and By-Laws, AMEV-Alert, Budget and Finance, Social Action and  
 47     Organizational and Officers Effectiveness.

48

49     **Approved**

- 50       No

51

52     Read Full Amendment





**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto: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 I. 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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto:abemakiti54@gmail.com)**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

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

**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**

No current text. New text to be added to section I.

**Amended Text**

Section I. h. The Episcopal District Lay Organization shall fix the time for regular  
meetings, which should be annually.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto: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**

No current text. New text to be added to section 2

**Amended Text**

Section 2. f. The Annual Conference Lay Organization shall fix the time for regular meetings which should not be fewer than four (4) times per year.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto: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**

No current text. New text to be added to section 3

**Amended Text**

Section 3. e. The District Lay Organization of the Annual Conference (where it exists)  
shall fix the time for regular meetings, which should not be fewer than eight (8) times per  
year.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**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**

No current text – Add new text to the Bylaws of the CLO on page 496. Add Section 10, Page 496,

**Amended Text**

Section 10. Emeritus Presidents are past presidents who have served 8 years in office and an active member of the Connectional Lay Organization. Upon being identified and honored as an Emeritus President, all persons holding the designation shall be a perpetual member of the Lay Organization he/she has served honorably.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto: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**

Tune: “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

**Amended Text**Tune (Zion): “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”<sup>OH</sup>**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**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**

(Stylistic correction of current text by removing subsection "a" in all the above mentioned sections.)

**Amended Text**

(Correction of stylistic errors)

· Article VIII – Qualifications, pages 485, 486, 487 and 488

Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 have Subsection a without Subsection b. Delete Subsection "a" in all the above.

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto:abemakiti54@gmail.com)**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

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

**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 I, without a Section 2.  
Delete Section I in the above.

**Current Text**

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

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto: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**

a. This organization is amenable to the Conference Lay Organization and must report to the Conference Lay Organization at least annually

**Amended Text**

d. This organization is amenable to the Conference Lay Organization and must report to the Conference Lay Organization at least annually

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

1 Mr.

2  
3 **First and Last Name**

4 Abednego Makiti

5  
6 **Email**

7 abemakiti54@gmail.com

8  
9 **Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

10 Page 495, SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION, ARTICLE XVI –  
11 AMENDMENTS,  
12 Section I

13  
14 **Intent**

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

16  
17 **Rationale**

18 (Correction of stylistic errors)

19 Article XVI –

20 Amendments, page 495

21 Has a Section I

22 without a Section 2.

23 Delete Section 2.

24  
25 **Current Text**

26 Section I. Amendment of Bylaws. Amendments to the Constitution and By Laws of the  
27 Connectional Lay Organization may be made by filing a copy of the proposed  
28 amendment with the Connectional President and Secretary. The Secretary shall send an  
29 official copy of the proposed amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee at  
30 least six months or (180) days prior to the meeting of the Connectional Lay  
31 Organization's Biennial Session The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall send  
32 copies of proposed amendments, by certified mail and/or electronic communication to  
33 each of the Episcopal District Presidents. Two-thirds vote of the members present and  
34 eligible to vote at the Biennial Session shall be required to effect an amendment.  
35 Amendments will take effect at the close of the General Conference

36  
37 **Amended Text**

38 Amendment of Bylaws. Amendments to the Constitution and By Laws of the  
39 Connectional Lay Organization may be made by filing a copy of the proposed  
40 amendment with the Connectional President and Secretary. The Secretary shall send an  
41 official copy of the proposed amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee at



**Title**

- 42 least six months or (180) days prior to the meeting of the Connectional Lay  
 43 Organization's Biennial Session The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall send  
 44 copies of proposed amendments, by certified mail and/or electronic communication to  
 45 each of the Episcopal District Presidents. Two-thirds vote of the members present and  
 46 eligible to vote at the Biennial Session shall be required to effect an amendment.  
 47 Amendments will take effect at the close of the General Conference
- 48 No
  - 49
  - 50 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**[abemakiti54@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Mr.

**First and Last Name**

Abednego Makiti

**Email**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**

Conference should be corrected to reflect Annual Conference where applicable.

**Amended Text**

Annual should be added in front of Conference where applicable.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Mr

**First and Last Name**

Kingsley Alex Owen

**Email**[darlington4really@yahoo.com](mailto:darlington4really@yahoo.com)**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

I am Evangelical Missionary of africa Youth leader

**Intent**

Evangelical Missionary

**Rationale**

Missionary

**Current Text**

Missionary relationship

**Amended Text**

Missionary relationship

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Music and Christian Arts Ministry (MCAM)

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

CONNECTIONAL MUSIC AND CHRISTIAN  
ARTS MINISTRY OF THE  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Connectional Music and  
Christian Arts Ministry (MCAM) of the African Methodist Episcopal  
Church.

**ARTICLE II – MISSION AND VISION**

The Connectional Music and Christian Arts Ministry of the African  
Methodist Episcopal Church (hereafter referred to as MCAM) shall  
implement the mission and purpose of the African Methodist  
Episcopal Church as stated in The Doctrine and Discipline of the



African Methodist Episcopal Church. It shall  
 provide structure and consistency in music in all areas of the AME  
 Church from the Proposal for Legislation—AME Church  
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Connectional Church to the local church. It shall serve as a  
 music and Christian arts advisory organization that will assist  
 with planning, preparation and submit recommendations for  
 music and Christian arts at General Conference and  
 Connectional meetings, as well as Episcopal District meetings,  
 Annual Conferences, Districts of the Annual Conferences, and local  
 programs or activities when requested. The Connectional MCAM  
 shall establish an Education and Leadership training component  
 focusing on every aspect of music and worship in the AME  
 Church. The Connectional MCAM Director shall be a member of the  
 Program Committee of the General Conference Commission. The  
 objectives of the Connectional MCAM shall be: a.



To recruit and develop musicians (instrumentalists, conductors/directors, vocalists) and Christian artists (dance, drama, audio and visual arts) who are interested in serving the AME Church, proclaim Christ as the risen Savior, and are willing to study and practice all doctrines related to music and worship.

b.

To publish articles concerning AME Church Music and Christian Arts, historic, traditional, and contemporary trends in worship including interest areas: instrumental, vocal (anthems, spirituals, hymns, gospel, contemporary), biographies, performances, and other areas pertaining to church music.

c.

To provide assistance to promising musicians through fellowships and scholarships. To encourage the use of traditional and non-traditional instruments (brass, woodwind, hand bells, string and percussion) and performance genre

(ensemble, trio, quartet, quintet, dance, band, orchestra solo) in worship. d.

To sponsor a Connectional MCAM Conference, which is the education and leadership training component of MCAM. Proposal for Legislation—AME Church

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134 The vision of MCAM of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is to  
 135 elevate, awaken, and enrich the worship experience using the  
 136 ministries of performing and  
 137 visual arts. MCAM envisions blending the traditional richness of our  
 138 heritage with the new and contemporary styles of our context to draw  
 139 all people closer to God.

#### 140 ARTICLE III - STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

141 MCAM is endorsed and recognized by the General Conference of the  
 142 AME Church and shall function under the Commission on Christian  
 143 Education. It shall assist when requested at all Connectional  
 144 meetings, in consultation with the  
 145 component organizations of the church. It shall present the MCAM Conference,  
 146 which is open to all interested persons. All levels of MCAM shall be organized  
 147 to reflect the  
 148 structure of the Connectional MCAM. All component bodies (Lay,  
 149 WMS, CED, pastors, clergy) of the AME Church are encouraged to  
 150 have representation at the MCAM Conference.

#### 151 Section I

152 The Connectional Music and Christian Arts Ministry (MCAM) shall  
 153 consist of two components – the Connectional Music and Christian  
 154 Arts Ministry (MCAM) and the Certificate in Christian Arts (CICA).

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167 The MCAM Conference

168 The MCAM Conference, under the direction of MCAM, shall be the teaching

component of the ministry. The MCAM Conference shall provide education and training through Proposal for Legislation—AME Church Office of the General Secretary/CIO. Updated 8/9/11  
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82 in Christian Education (MCE) Meeting, except in the year of the Christian Education Congress and the other in the Fall. The General Membership of MCAM shall meet at the MCE meeting. The

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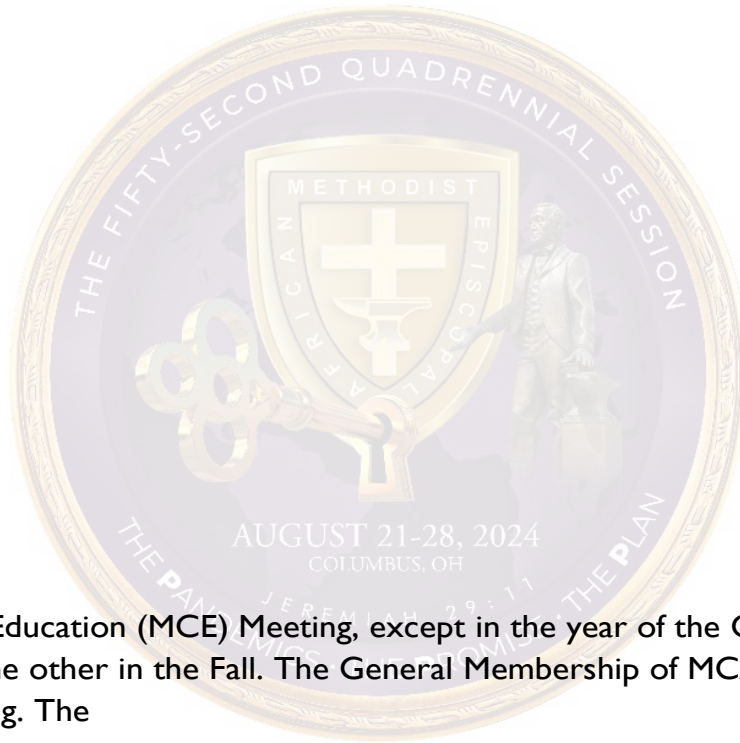
workshops, seminars, concerts, recordings, Christian Arts (i.e. dance, drama, audio and visual arts) in various forms of sacred expressions to enhance the worship experience of the AME Church on all levels.

b.

The membership of MCAM shall be the elected and appointed officers of MCAM, committee chairpersons of MCAM, all-inclusive salaried servants employed by the AME Church

though not a member, and all

interested persons. c.



Operational expenses for the MCAM Conference shall come from the MCAM budget, registration fees collected from persons attending the MCAM Conference, and any other income. Section 3

MCAM shall be comprised of persons who are interested in music, dance, drama, visual and media arts in the African Methodist Episcopal Church. It shall be the parent body of the MCAM Conference.

#### Section 4

The membership and voting delegation of MCAM includes any member of the AME Church, salaried servants employed by the AME Church

though not a member, and supporters who are current with annual dues paid on or before Dec. 31st of the year preceding the Connectional Christian Education Congress.

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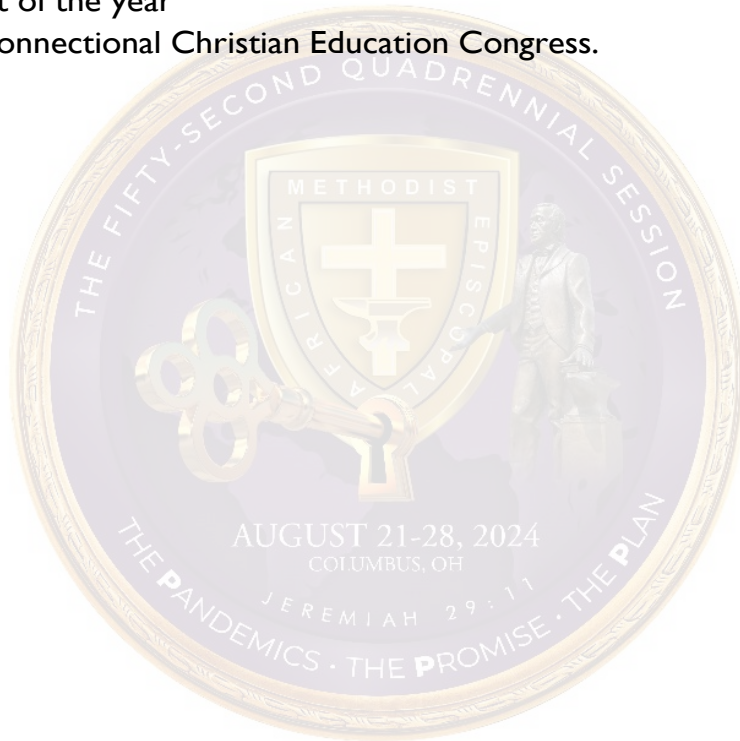
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The Annual Dues shall be set by the Executive Board. Dues shall be paid annually based upon date of membership. The Connectional Treasurer shall communicate via email or postal

service one month prior to said date to remind persons to make their dues current.





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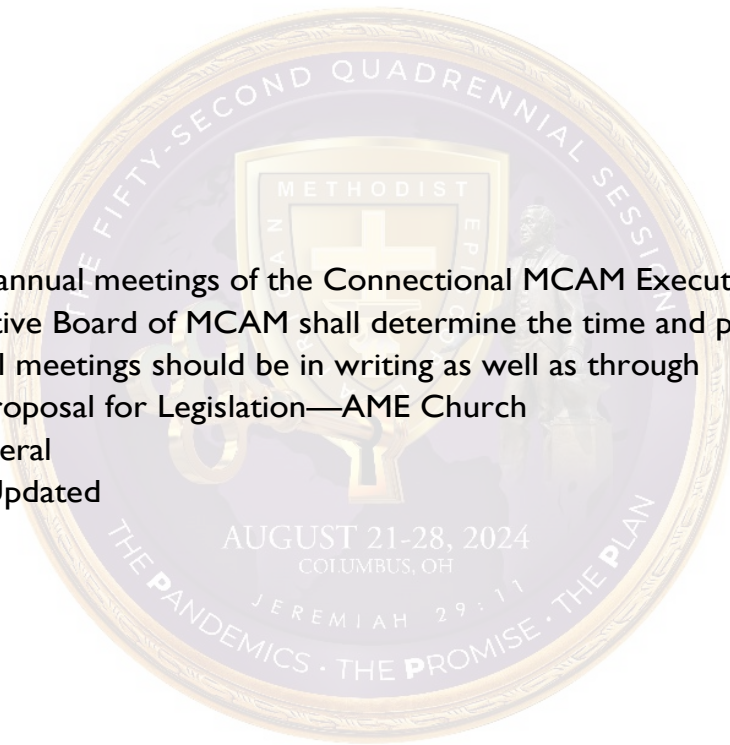
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273 There shall be biannual meetings of the Connectional MCAM Executive Board: One at the  
274 Ministries Executive Board of MCAM shall determine the time and place of all meetings.  
275 Notification of all meetings should be in writing as well as through  
276 electronic and Proposal for Legislation—AME Church  
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305 other means of communication. Every possible effort should be given to  
 306 assure that notification of the Annual Meeting is communicated to the AME  
 307 Church at large as well as  
 308 the current membership of MCAM. The MCAM Conference shall meet in odd numbered  
 309 years at a time and place agreed upon concurrently by the Host Bishop of an Episcopal  
 310 District and the MCAM Executive Board.

311 a.

312 Quorum – The membership present at a regularly scheduled  
 313 meeting, a ‘call’ meeting, or an emergency meeting set by a written  
 314 thirty day notice shall constitute a quorum. A simple majority vote  
 315 shall rule in voting.

316 b.

317 Funding – Operational expenses of MCAM shall come from the  
 318 General Budget, Commission on Christian Education, annual  
 319 dues from members of MCAM, or other income.

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332 Election and Appointment

333 Connectional officers are elected every four (4) years at the  
 334 Connectional Christian Education Congress of the AME  
 335 Church.

336 b.

337 Committee chairpersons and any vacant office shall be  
 338 appointed by the Connectional Director of MCAM in  
 339 consultation with the Executive Board of MCAM.

c.

The Bishop of each Episcopal District shall appoint the Episcopal District Director of MCAM.

d.

The Bishop of each Episcopal District shall appoint the Annual Conference Director of MCAM, in consultation with the Episcopal District Director of MCAM. e.

Each Presiding Elder shall appoint a District Director of MCAM, in consultation with the Annual Conference Director of MCAM.

f.

Pastors shall appoint an MCAM Director for their local church, station or circuit, who shall report directly to the pastor and shall be members of MCAM. Proposal for Legislation—AME Church

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The elected officers of MCAM shall be the Connectional Director, who shall be recognized as a Connectional Officer of the AME Church, Connectional Associate Director, Associate Director of Dance, Associate Director of Drama, Associate Director of Visual and Media Arts, Associate Director of Youth and Young Adults, Assistant Director of Choirs, Assistant Director of Instrumental Music and Related Arts, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Financial Secretary, Worship Director, Parliamentarian, and Historiographer. Each officer shall perform duties common to office, and as assigned by the Connectional Director. The Connectional Director, upon consultation with the Executive Board, shall determine appointed officers and committee chairpersons, and shall appoint persons to fill any vacancies of offices or committees.

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#### ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Persons aspiring for a Connectional office (excluding Connectional Director and Associate Director) must be a member of an AME Church and MCAM for at least two years, prior to voting. Persons aspiring for the office of Connectional Director or Associate Director must be a member of an AME Church and MCAM for at least five years.

a.

He/She must be active in a local AME Church in any area (director, musician, choir member, dancer, drama, audio-visual or related arts). Proposal for Legislation—AME Church

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b. He/She must have been registered and in attendance to at least one Annual meeting of MCAM and MCAM Conference during the Quadrennium prior to running for office.

c. The Connectional Director shall have at least a bachelor's degree (preferably in the Arts or equivalent experience to be reviewed by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Executive Board) and five years of music leadership or teaching experience.

## Section 2

### Elections and Terms of Office.

The term of office for connectional officers shall begin at the close of the Quadrennial Meeting of the Department of Christian Education of the AME Church and continue to the close of the following Quadrennial Meeting. The election of officers shall take place every four years at the Quadrennial Meeting of the Connectional Department of Christian Education of the AME Church.

#### a.

The Commission Chair of Christian Education or the Executive Director of Christian Education shall preside over the election.



b.

Persons running for office need to be present to be elected.

Extenuating circumstances (death or hospitalization of immediate family: parent,

spouse, or child) may be considered on an individual basis by the Commission Chair and Executive Director of Christian Education of the AME Church.

c.

No person may hold the same elected position for more than two consecutive

Quadrenniums. Persons appointed to a position shall serve at the pleasure of the

Connectional Director and Executive Board, may serve more than two

Quadrenniums, and will be subject to evaluation.

d. No candidate may run for more than one elected position.

e. Voting shall be by ballot. A simple majority vote shall rule.

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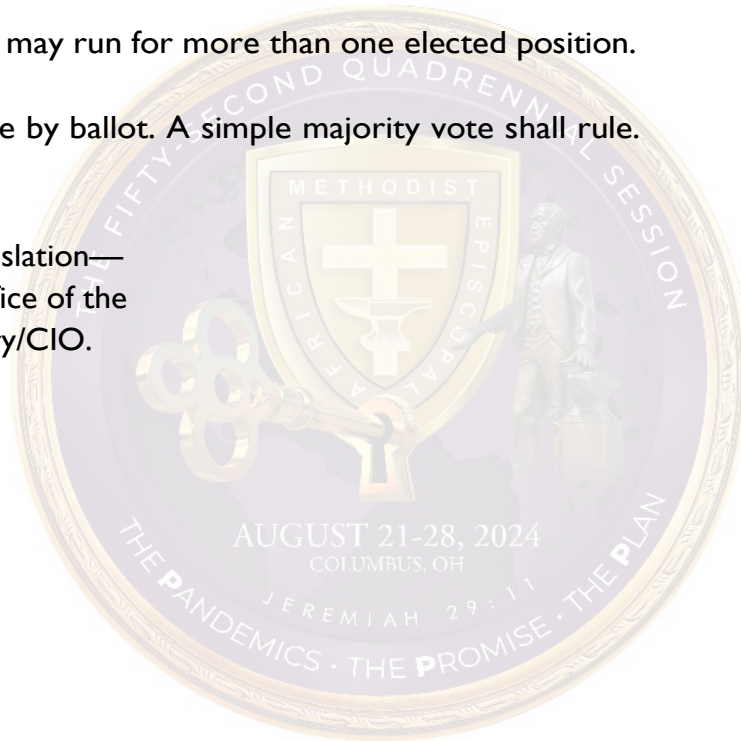
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514 f.

515 The Credentials Committee should be comprised of one member  
516 from each Episcopal District represented in the MCAM membership;  
517 and shall certify all  
518 persons voting. The Executive Director of Christian Education may assist as  
519 he/she deems appropriate.

520 g.

521 The Nominations Committee should be comprised of one  
522 representative from each Episcopal District represented in the  
523 MCAM membership. The chair shall be  
524 appointed by the Director. The committee will receive the intent form, signed by the  
525 Bishop of the Episcopal District, of persons running for office and will present  
526 the official ballot for election. The committee shall be appointed at the Ministries  
527 in Christian

528  
529 Education (MCE)

530 Meeting prior  
531 to the election.

532 g.

533 All officers, elected or appointed, shall keep in contact with the  
534 Connectional Director of MCAM.

535 If there is no communication during a three months period,  
536 the Connectional Director shall notify the officer of concern. If there  
537 is no communication between said officer and the Director after  
538 three attempts over a one month period, the Connectional Director  
539 shall recommend to the Executive Board that said officer be  
540 removed from office. Extenuating circumstances will be dealt with on  
541 an individual basis.

542 Section 3: Duties of officers

543 a. Connectional Director

544 The Connectional Director shall have at least a bachelor's degree (preferably in  
545 the Arts or equivalent) and

546  
547 five years of arts leadership or teaching experience to be reviewed and approved by the  
548 Nominating Committee  
549 the Commission Chair and the Executive Director of Christian Education.

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560 180 committees and shall have general supervision and direction of the work of the  
 561 Connectional Music and

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 563 181 Christian Arts Ministry and the MCAM Conference. The Connectional Director shall be  
 564 recognized

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 566 182 as a connectional officer of the AME Church and shall be empowered to run the day-  
 567 to-day operations

568 183 of MCAM and MCAM Conference. The Connectional Director, by virtue of being a  
 569 Connectional Officer,

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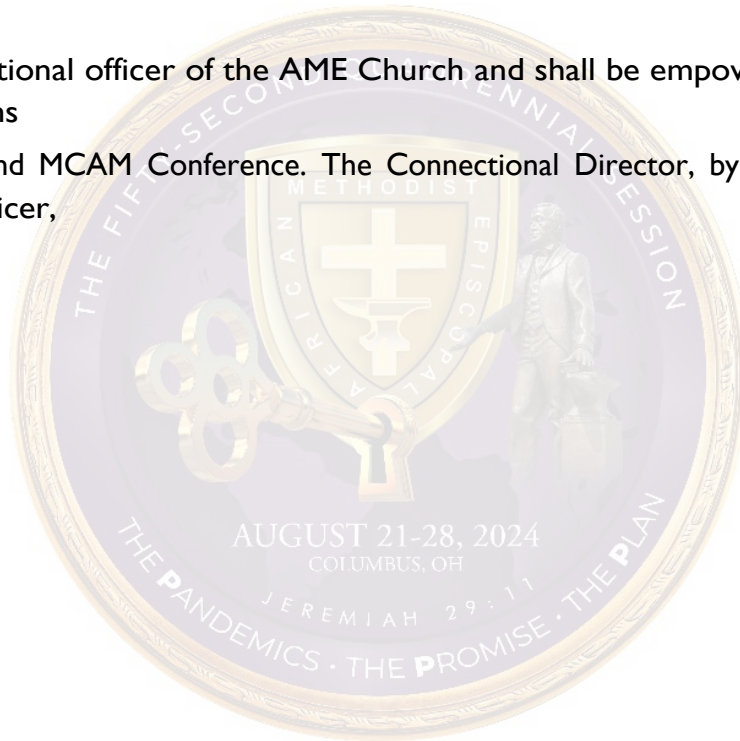
588 He/She shall coordinate all activities of MCAM and preside over its meetings.

589 He/She shall serve as liaison between the MCAM and the Executive Director of

590 Christian Education and serve as Chair of the Executive Board. The Connectional

591 Director shall be an ex-officio member of all sub-

592  
 593 shall be a voting member of the General Conference & General Board. MCAM shall bear



594 all expenses thereunto.

595 b. Connectional Associate Director

596 The Connectional Associate Director shall perform the duties of the  
597 Connectional Director in his/her absence and supervise the work of  
598 all sub-committees for MCAM and MCAM Conference.

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600 d.

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603 g.

604 Connectional Artistic Director

605 of Drama Connectional

606 Artistic Director of Dance

607 Connectional Artistic Director of Visual and Media

608 Arts Connectional Artistic Director of Children, Youth

609 and Young Adults Connectional Artistic Director of

610 Choirs

611 Connectional Artistic Director of  
612 Instruments Proposal for

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631 212 without the approval of the Connectional Director and the Treasurer. The  
632 Treasurer shall implement policies and

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635 213 procedures for disbursement of funds. He/she shall chair the Budget and Finance



636 Committee and shall present  
 637 214 the financial records for audit annually. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate  
 638 list of financial members  
 639  
 640 215 and shall communicate with members one month prior to the end of the  
 641 financial year. 216  
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 647 d. Recording Secretary  
 648 The Recording Secretary shall accurately record the proceedings of  
 649 all official meetings of the MCAM and its Executive Board.  
 650 e. Corresponding Secretary  
 651 The Corresponding Secretary shall prepare appropriate  
 652 correspondences for the membership, Connectional Director, or  
 653 Executive Board and communicate/distribute the same in a timely  
 654 manner.  
 655 f. Treasurer  
 656 The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all monies received by MCAM and  
 657 MCAM Conference and  
 658 submit an annual financial report to the MCAM membership. He/she shall receive all  
 659 monies for MCAM and MCAM Conference and deposit them in an insured bank  
 660 account(s) in the name of Connectional Music and  
 661 Christian Arts Ministry – AME Church. There shall be no expenditure of MCAM or MCAM  
 662 Conference monies  
 663  
 664 g. Worship Director  
 665 The Worship Director shall serve the organization by providing appropriate and  
 666 creative styles and types of worship experiences/devotions. He/she  
 667 shall be a resource person for worship materials and workshops.  
 668 h. Parliamentarian  
 669 Proposal for Legislation—  
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The Parliamentarian shall interpret the laws, rules and procedures of MCAM and MCAM Conference at the direction of the Executive Board or Director when conflict or questions arise. He/she shall be the Chair of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. The Parliamentarian shall know the MCAM Constitution and By Laws and the current Roberts' Rules of Order.

i. Historiographer

The Historiographer shall collect, record, and maintain all documents, materials, and items of records of history pertaining to the Connectional Music and Christian Arts Ministry of the AME Church.

j. Dean of Certificate in Christian Arts (CICA)

The Dean of CICA, an appointed position, shall have at least a master's degree in music or higher from an accredited institution, at least three years of music leadership experience, and two years of active membership with MCAM. He/she shall lead in the development, organization, and implementation of curricula to be offered at MCAI and other workshops, seminars or meetings approved by the Executive Board of MCAM. Further, he/she shall schedule academic/continuing education courses in a timely manner for completion of requirement for certification, keep accurate accounting of all admissions, registrations, finance and course records, and work closely with the certificate granting institution and

721 the Executive Board of MCAM. He/she shall chair the Education  
 722 Committee of MCAM. ALL PERSONS LEAVING OFFICE SHALL TURN  
 723 OVER ALL RECORDS OF  
 724 THEIR OFFICE TO THEIR SUCCESSOR NO LATER THAN 30  
 725 DAYS AFTER LEAVING OFFICE.

726 ARTICLE V - EXECUTIVE BOARD

727 Proposal for Legislation—  
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 746 258 as mutually agreed upon by the Executive Board to conduct the business of MCAM.  
 747 This meeting 259  
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 756 The Executive Board of MCAM  
 757 shall consist of: a.  
 758 b.  
 759 c.  
 760 d.  
 761 e.  
 762 The elected and appointed  
 763 officers Committee



764 chairpersons  
 765 Episcopal District Directors of MCAM and Artistic Directors  
 766 Former Connectional Directors of MCAM  
 767 The Chair of the Commission on Christian Education and  
 768 the Executive Director of Christian Education are ex-officio  
 769 members  
 770 Section 1. Duties  
 771 The Executive Board shall be the policy-making body of MCAM and MCAM  
 772 Conference with the authority to conduct all business necessary for the  
 773 operation of MCAM and  
 774 MCAM Conference.  
 775 Section 2. Tele-Conference Monthly Meetings  
 776 The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the Connectional  
 777 Director at such time shall be via conference call, video conferencing,  
 778 etc. as technology and/or cost allow.  
 779  
 780 ARTICLE VI – SUB-COMMITTEES  
 781 There will be established the following sub-committees: By-  
 782 Laws and Legislation, Education, Membership, Program,  
 783 Publication, Budget and Finance.  
 784 Section 1. Duties of Sub-Committees  
 785 a. The By-Laws and Legislation Committee shall write and review the  
 786 Constitution and By-Laws of the MCAM. It shall present proposed legislation to  
 787 the Executive Proposal for Legislation—AME Church  
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 815 Director of Christian Education then to the Chief Information Officer, that will be  
 816 ratified by the General  
 817 Conference. The Parliamentarian shall serve as its chair.  
 818 b. The Education Committee shall compile a comprehensive listing  
 819 of books, articles, and musicians who are experts in specific areas,  
 820 and other resources useful for church musicians. Further, it shall  
 821 develop curriculum and resource guides to  
 822 aid in consistency in concepts and content of education and leadership training  
 823 sessions presented throughout the connection. The Dean of CICA shall serve as its chair.  
 824 c. The Program Committee shall plan or recommend workshops and seminars.  
 825 d. The Membership Committee shall recruit members, compile a  
 826 directory/roster of the membership by Episcopal District including  
 827 name, address, music position or office, and year of first membership  
 828 in MCAM.  
 829 e. The Publication Committee shall publish literature presented to the  
 830 committee after careful review and editing of such materials. The  
 831 committee may return to the writer any materials found in conflict  
 832 with the objectives of the MCAM.  
 833 f. The Budget and Finance Committee shall prepare an annual operational  
 834 budget on projected income. Also, it may recommend to the  
 835 Executive Board ways of improving financial resources. It shall  
 836 present a report at each executive  
 837 board and biennial meeting. The Treasurer shall serve as its chair.  
 838 g. The Public Relations Committee shall be responsible for sharing of  
 839 information concerning MCAM to the General Church and other media  
 840 platforms when necessary. It shall be responsible for press releases,  
 841 announcements of meetings, Proposal for Legislation—AME Church  
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workshops for MCAM and shall disseminate new items of interest from the Episcopal Districts through newsletters and/or other multi-media processes. ARTICLE VI I - AMENDMENTS

The by-laws may be amended at the MCAM meeting during the Quadrennial Meeting of the Christian Education Department.

Suggestions

for changes shall be submitted to the chairperson of the By-laws and Legislation Committee no later than thirty days before the Quadrennial Meeting of

MCAM. Wherever feasible, the same rules from the Connectional level will apply to every other level of the Music and Christian Arts Ministry.

ARTICLE VIII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The Holy Bible, the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Constitution and By-Laws of the Connectional Music and Christian Arts Ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall be the guides for operation.

Other levels may make their own by-laws as long as they are not in conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of MCAM as printed in the Doctrine and



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 892 the African Methodist  
 893 Episcopal Church. EPISCOPAL  
 894 DISTRICT  
 895 MUSIC and CHRISTIAN  
 896 ARTS MINISTRY OF THE  
 897 AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
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927 PURPOSE

928 To unify the Music and Christian Arts Ministries of churches in the  
 929 Episcopal District, Annual Conferences, Districts of the Annual  
 930 Conferences, and local churches and to implement the mission and  
 931 purpose of MCAM where feasible. ARTICLE I STRUCTURE AND  
 932 MEMBERSHIP



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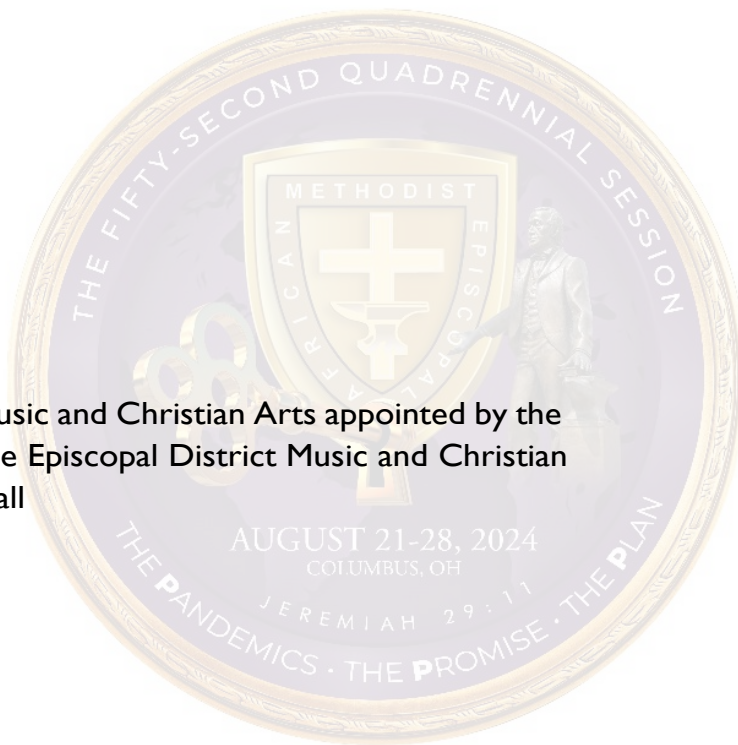
955 A Director of Music and Christian Arts appointed by the  
 956 Bishop of the The Episcopal District Music and Christian  
 957 Arts Ministry shall

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 968 b  
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970 The same elected and appointed Officer and Committee Chairperson  
 971 positions from the Connectional Level – with the same duties common  
 972 to each office. c.

973 Anyone who registers as a member of the District MCAM  
 974 from a local AME Church in that Episcopal District, either  
 975 through permanent, and affiliated membership,



or inclusive of the salaried servant employed by an AME Church, if not a member. d.

Any Connectional MCAM Officer, elected or appointed, shall automatically be a member of the Episcopal District Music and Christian Arts Ministry in which he/she resides, either through permanent or affiliated membership with an AME Church in that Episcopal District.

e.

The Presiding Bishop and Director of Christian Education shall be advisory members.

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The District Executive Board shall consist of: The District Director.

Proposal for Legislation—  
AME Church Office of the  
General Secretary/CIO.

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I030 b.  
 I031 c.  
 I032 d.  
 I033 e.  
 I034 f.

I035 Elected and appointed  
 I036 District officers. Committee  
 I037 chairpersons.

I038 Annual Conference Directors of Music and Christian  
 I039 Arts Ministry. The immediate past Director of Music  
 I040 and Christian Arts Ministry.

I041 Any Connectional officer (elected or appointed) who resides in  
 I042 that Episcopal District, either through permanent or affiliated  
 I043 membership with an AME Church in that Episcopal District.

I044 g.

I045 The Presiding Bishop and District Director of Christian  
 I046 Education shall be advisory members.

I047 Section 3 Wherever feasible, the same rules from the Connectional  
 I048 level will apply to every other level of the Music and Christian Arts  
 I049 Ministry.

## I050 ARTICLE II MEETINGS

### I051 Section I

I052 Where possible, the Episcopal District Music and Christian Arts  
 I053 Ministry shall meet at least annually or at the call of the District  
 I054 Music Director or Presiding Bishop. Appropriate musical renditions  
 I055 shall be made through the  
 I056 District Choir, instrumental ensembles, dance, drama or visual and media  
 I057 arts. At least thirty-days notice shall be given for each meeting.

### I058 Section 2

I059 Workshops shall be presented for the strengthening of the Episcopal  
 I060 District Music, Dance, Drama, Visual and Media Arts and Youth and Young Adult program.

These workshops shall encourage diversity in the Music and Christian Arts Ministry, included but not be limited to anthems, spirituals, gospels, hymns, vocal, instrumental, accompaniment, dance, drama and leadership techniques.

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## ARTICLE I STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

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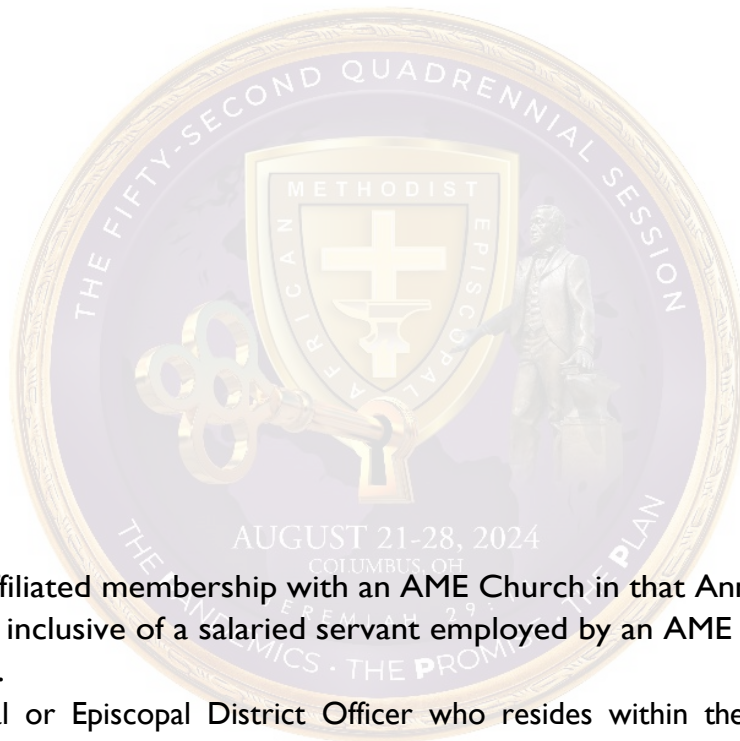




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 1117 a  
 1118 .  
 1119 b.  
 1120 Director appointed by the Bishop.  
 1121 The same elected and appointed officers and committee  
 1122 chairpersons at the The Annual Conference Music and Christian  
 1123 Arts Ministry shall  
 1124 PURPOSE  
 1125 To unify the work of the Annual Conference, Presiding Elder  
 1126 District(s), ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
 1127 Music and Christian  
 1128 Arts Ministry OF  
 1129 THE  
 1130 AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 1131 and Local Church Music and Christian Arts programs. The mission  
 1132 and purpose of MCAM shall be implemented as feasible.  
 1133 Episcopal District and  
 1134 Connectional levels. c.  
 1135 The Directors of Music and Christian Arts Ministry from  
 1136 each Presiding Elder District.  
 1137 d.  
 1138 Director/Minister of Music and Christian Arts Ministry  
 1139 from each local church.  
 1140 e.  
 1141 Anyone who registers as a member of the Music and Christian  
 1142 Arts component. Members shall be a member of an AME  
 1143 Church, either through Proposal for Legislation—AME Church  
 1144 Office of the General

1145 Secretary/CIO. Updated  
 1146 8/9/11  
 1147 Page 17 of 22

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1171 permanent or affiliated membership with an AME Church in that Annual  
 1172 Conference and inclusive of a salaried servant employed by an AME Church, though  
 1173 not a member. f.

1174 Any Connectional or Episcopal District Officer who resides within the  
 1175 Annual Conference, either through permanent or affiliated  
 1176 membership with an AME Church in that Annual Conference. The  
 1177 elected officers of the Annual Conference shall be elected annually.

1178 Section 2

1179 The Executive Board of the Conference Music and Christian Arts  
 1180 Ministry shall consist of:

1181 a.  
 1182 b.

1183 The elected and appointed officers and Committee  
 1184 Chairpersons. Directors of Music and Christian Arts  
 1185 Ministry of each Presiding Elder District.

1186 c.

d.

The immediate past Director of Music and Christian Arts Ministry.  
Any Connectional and District officer who resides in that  
Conference, either through permanent or affiliated membership  
with an AME Church in that  
Episcopal District, AND four members at large elected annually who  
shall be either a musician or person with expertise in one or more  
of the related Christian Arts  
(dance, drama, visual and media arts) and inclusive of a salaried servant  
employed by an AME Church, though not a member.

e.

The Presiding Bishop and Conference Director of Christian  
Education shall be advisory members.

## ARTICLE II MEETINGS

Proposal for Legislation—  
AME Church Office of the  
General Secretary/CIO.

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1230 Section I

1231 When possible, the Annual Conference Music and

1232 Christian Arts Ministry shall meet at

1233 least annually for the purpose of attending to the musical needs of

1234 the Conference (Annual Conference Choir, dance group, visual and

1235 media arts) and to elect officers.

1236 Section 2

1237 The Annual Conference Music and Christian Arts Ministry,

1238 like the Episcopal District, shall conduct workshops

1239 annually for the purpose of

1240 strengthening the Conference Music program. It shall encourage

1241 its members to participate on the District and Connectional levels.

1242 Whenever feasible, the Annual Conference may combine work and

1243 resources with the Presiding Elder Districts of the Annual

1244 conference in the interest of time and costs.

1245 Section 3

1246 Each Conference shall provide annual music and dance leadership

1247 and skills training for the musicians, choreographers and pastors in the

1248 Conference. PRESIDING ELDER DISTRICT OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1249 Music and Christian

1250 Arts Ministry OF

1251 THE

1252 AFRICAN METHODIST

1253 EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1254 PURPOSE

1255 To unify the work of the Presiding Elder District of the Annual

1256 Conference and local church music and Christian arts programs; and

1257 to implement the mission and purpose of Music and Christian Arts

1258 Ministry, when feasible.

1259 Proposal for Legislation—

1260 AME Church Office of the

1261 General Secretary/CIO.

1262 Updated 8/9/11

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1287 ARTICLE I STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

1288 Section I

1289 The membership of the Presiding Elder District

1290 Music and Christian Arts Ministry shall consist of:

1291 a.

1292 b.

1293 c.

1294 The Presiding Elder.

1295 The elected and appointed officers and committee

1296 chairpersons. Directors/Ministers of Music and Christian

1297 Arts Ministry from each local church in the District of the

1298 Annual Conference.

1299 d.

1300 Anyone who registers as a member of the District MCAM

1301 shall be a member of an AME Church, either through permanent or affiliated

1302 membership with an AME Church and inclusive of a salaried servant employed by an

1303 AME Church, though not a member in that District of the Annual Conference.

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1317 b.

1318 c.

1319 The Executive Board of the Presiding Elder District  
1320 shall consist of: The elected and appointed officers  
1321 and committee chairpersons.

1322 The immediate past Director of Music and Christian Arts Ministry.  
1323 Any Conference, Episcopal District or Connectional officer who is a  
1324 member of a church in that District of the Annual Conference.

1325 Voting members shall be a member of an A.M.E. church, either  
1326 through permanent or affiliated  
1327 membership with an A.M.E. Church in that District of the Annual Conference  
1328 and inclusive of a salaried servant employed by an AME Church, though not a  
1329 member.

1330 d.

1331 The Presiding Elder and Director of Christian Education for  
1332 the District of the Annual Conference shall be advisory  
1333 members.

1334 Section 3

1335 When possible, the District of the Annual Conference shall  
1336 conduct workshops, annually

1337 Proposal for Legislation—  
1338 AME Church Office of the  
1339 General Secretary/CIO.

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like the other levels of MCAM and encourage participation on all levels of the A.M.E. Church Music and Christian Arts Ministry. Whenever feasible, the Annual Conference may combine work and resources with the Presiding Elder Districts of the Annual Conference in the interest of time and costs.

#### LOCAL CHURCH

Music and Christian

Arts Ministry OF

THE

AFRICAN METHODIST

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

#### PURPOSE

To strengthen the Music and Christian Arts Ministry of the local Church and to implement the mission and purpose of MCAM. ARTICLE I

#### STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

##### Section I

The Pastor is the head of the local church Music and Christian Arts Ministry and no change in its composition shall be made without his/her permission. Section 2

The Director/Minister of Music and Christian Arts Ministry shall be appointed by the Pastor and shall have general supervision over the entire Music and Christian Arts program of the church and shall report directly to the Pastor. The Director/Minister of Music and Christian Arts Ministry, upon approval by the Pastor, is in charge of the organization and administration of the local church Music and Christian Arts Ministry. He/she reports directly to the Pastor of the church where he/she is appointed.

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1399 should be persons of good reputation who love the Lord and  
 1400 respect the Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church. They shall  
 1401 follow the rules set forth by the choir(s), dance/drama group(s) and  
 1402 related Arts, including the obligation to practice regularly.

1403 All other guidelines and procedures established by the local church  
 1404 shall be in strict accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of  
 1405 the Connectional Music and Christian Arts Ministry.

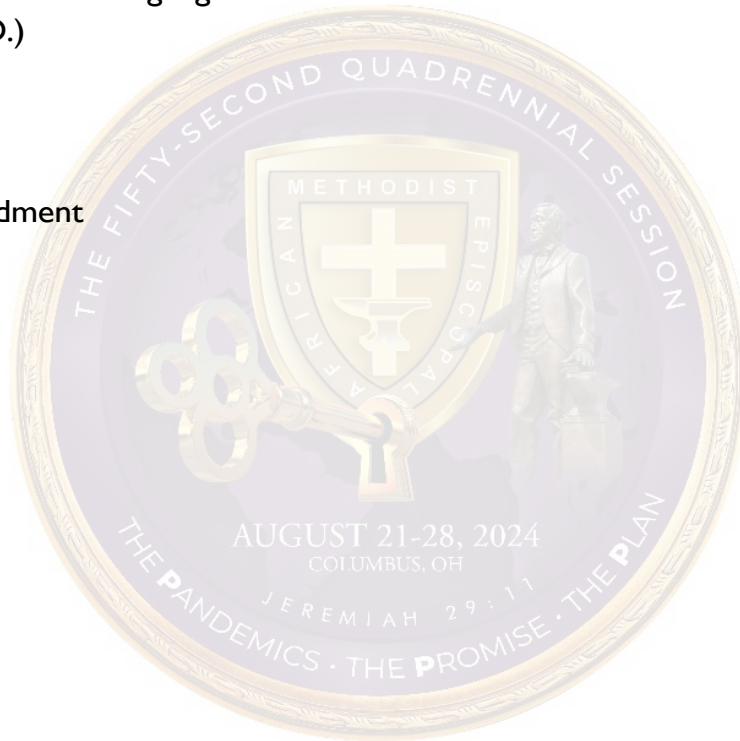
1406  
 1407 (The full document with highlighted amendments will also be sent under separate cover  
 1408 to the OGS/CIO.)

1409

1410 **Approved**

1411 • No

1412 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Officer Retirement Age

**First and Last Name**

Lillie Hill

**Email**[Lil.hill@verizon.net](mailto: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 encourage new officers]

**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**

None

**Amended Text**

An elected officer or employed laity must retire by seventy-five (75) years of age.  
An elected officer or employed laity is not to be appointed after age seventy-five (75). The appointment or employment must be relieved by

- 42 Annual Conference  
43 Prior to attaining age seventy-six (76)  
44  
45 **Approved**  
46 • No  
47  
48 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

On Loan Policy Clarification

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Dr. Clay Barrow

**Email**

[revb614@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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 denomination’s 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.

**Amended Text**

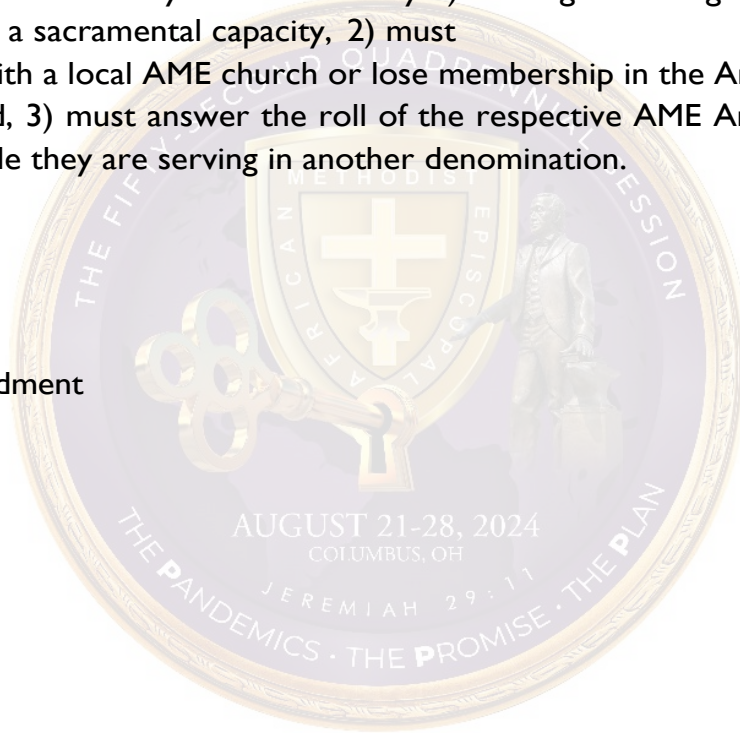
If a deacon or elder accepts a pastoral appointment with another

denomination and becomes a part of that denomination's 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. In addition, a presiding bishop or an annual conference may allow a deacon or elder to pastor temporarily in another denomination without losing his or her orders if said denomination shares alike doctrine and polity to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, i.e. if the denomination is a member of the Pan-Methodist Commission. Said pastor must return to the annual conference in full connection after two years indicated by 1) no longer serving another denomination in a sacramental capacity, 2) must also associate with a local AME church or lose membership in the Annual Conference, and, 3) must answer the roll of the respective AME Annual Conference while they are serving in another denomination.

#### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

PASTORAL AUTHORITY TO CREATE CHURCH INDEBTEDNESS

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto: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 pastor's authority to mortgage church property; but there is no policy regarding a pastor's ability to obligate the church on non-secured debt obligations.

**Rationale**

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

**Current Text**

None

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Planning for Pandemics & Natural Disasters

**First and Last Name**

Bill Dickens

**Email**

[ameeconomist@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Planning for Pandemics

**First and Last Name**

Bill Dickens

**Email**

[dickensb@comcast.net](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Prayers requests

**First and Last Name**

Raymond Elijah Griffin from

**Email**

griffinraymond263@gmail.com

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Healing prayer

**Intent**

Hello my name is Raymond Elijah Griffin asking for prayers for me and Lynnwood priester protection against witchcraft and lack of money please pray for our health HIV etc please pray for me to get out of debt with republic finance please pray I get money please pray that Aisha Pittman and others including the voodoo people leave us alone forever please pray the blockage from us

**Rationale**

Please remove the evil

**Current Text**

Please write me 53 crest road unit 5 a edgefield SC 29824

**Amended Text**

It my tired of being broke every month

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Presiding Elder

**First and Last Name**

Lucinda Burgess

**Email**

[L.v.burgess@gmail.com](mailto:L.v.burgess@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Part XIV Conferences, Section Q, page 299 Sixteenth District (7 Conferences).

**Intent**

To change the name of the European Conference from the European Conference to the UK and Europe Conference.

**Rationale**

The European Conference is a part of the 16th Episcopal District; comprised of the United Kingdom (UK), the Netherlands and France.

On 1 January 1973, the United Kingdom joined with Europe to become a part of the European Union. This unity lasted for 46 years. On 23 June 2016, the United Kingdom held a referendum on its membership of the EU. The question facing voters was: 'Should the United Kingdom remain a member of the European Union or leave the European Union?' 51.89% of voters voted to leave the EU. At 23:00 GMT on 31 January 2020, the United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union.

The United Kingdom is the only sovereign country to have left the EU and is no longer governed by the same rules that govern the EU.

**Current Text**

European Conference (London, Holland and France): Consists of the European Presiding Elder District.

**Amended Text**

UK and Europe Conference (the UK, the Netherlands and France): Consists of the UK & Europe Presiding Elder District.

**Approved**

- No

42

43 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Presiding Elder (Rev)

**First and Last Name**

Lucinda Burgess

**Email**

[l.v.burgess@gmail.com](mailto:l.v.burgess@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Part XIV Conferences, Section Q, page 299 Sixteenth District (7 Conferences)

**Intent**

To change the name of the European Conference from the European Conference to the UK/Europe Conference. To change from one Presiding Elder District to two Presiding Elder Districts.

**Rationale**

The European Conference is a part of the 16th Episcopal District; comprised of the United Kingdom (UK), the Netherlands and France.

On 1 January 1973, the United Kingdom joined with Europe to become a part of the European Union (EU). This unity lasted for 46 years. With the introduction of Brexit (of "British exit") Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) provides for the possibility of an EU member state leaving the European Union under its constitutional requirements. On 23 June 2016, the United Kingdom held a referendum on its membership of the EU with 51.89% of voters voting to leave the EU. Four years later, on 31 January 2020, the UK officially withdrew from the EU and is no longer governed by the same rules that govern the EU.

With the withdrawal of the UK from the EU, the AME Churches in France and the Netherlands seek to separate themselves from the UK District, because they are still members of the EU. As European countries, the two churches intend to establish AME Churches in all Western European countries; Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland, and Italy. Their focus is on Africans from the diaspora and to spread the terms Black Europeans, or Afro-Europeans/Afropeans.

Furthermore, the two AME Churches in the Netherlands (Grady Chapel AME Church) and France (Nouvelle Alliance AME Church) desire to separate from the 16th Episcopal District. Culturally the churches do not see themselves as part of the Caribbean

culture. With language barriers such as French and Dutch, there is a disconnect in communication. With the majority of the 16th District churches in the Caribbean, distance is a major obstacle due to travel cost, time to travel and time zones.

The UK Church desires to remain a part of the 16th Episcopal District.

This change was approved at the 2024 European Annual Conference in Lyon France, April 25-26, 2024.

**Current Text**

European Conference (London, Holland and France): Consists of the European Presiding Elder District.

**Amended Text**

UK/Europe Conference (England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland) and Europe (Netherlands and France): Consists of the UK Presiding Elder District & Europe Presiding Elder District.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment





**Title**

PRESIDING ELDER

**First and Last Name**

MICHELE GOODLOE

**Email**

[presidingelder.bhd15@gmail.com](mailto:presidingelder.bhd15@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

page 414

**Intent**

Is the correct the Name of the Annual Conferences, the Names Presiding Elders Districts in the 8th Episcopal District and to list the Annual Conferences in the order that they take place.

**Rationale**

During the 2023 Series of the Annual Conferences of the 8th Episcopal District, one Annual Conference voted and approved to change the name of the Annual Conference and two other Annual Conferences voted to change the name and/or reduce the names of the Presiding Elder Districts. The following are the changes that were approved to be changed:

- The South Mississippi Conference adopted changing the name of the Conference to the Mississippi Conference, reducing the number of Presiding Elder Districts from 4 to 3 districts, and renaming the districts.
- The North Mississippi Conference adopted reducing the number of Presiding Elder Districts from 3 to 2 districts and renaming the districts.
- The Central North Louisiana Conference adopted changing the name of one of the two Presiding Elder districts.
- Moving the Louisiana Conference last to place the Annual Conferences in the order.

**Current Text**

EIGHTH DISTRICT (4 Conferences)

1. South Mississippi Conference: The South Mississippi Conference includes Natchez/Port Gibson, Brookhaven/Hattiesburg, Jackson/Vicksburg and Jackson/Meridian Presiding Elder Districts.

2. North Mississippi Conference: The North Mississippi Conference includes Grenada, Clarksdale and Greenwood/Greenville Presiding Elder Districts.

3. Louisiana Conference: The Louisiana Conference includes Greater New Orleans/Greensburg, Central New Orleans/Bogalusa and Western New

Orleans/Baton Rouge Presiding Elder Districts.

4. Central North Louisiana Conference: The Central North Louisiana Conference includes Shreveport, Monroe/Lake Providence and Alexandria/Thibodaux Presiding Elder Districts.

### **Amended Text**

#### **EIGHTH DISTRICT (4 Conferences)**

1. Mississippi Conference: The Mississippi Conference includes Southeast, Southwest and North

Presiding Elder Districts.

2. North Mississippi Conference: The North Mississippi Conference includes Northwest and Northeast Presiding Elder Districts.

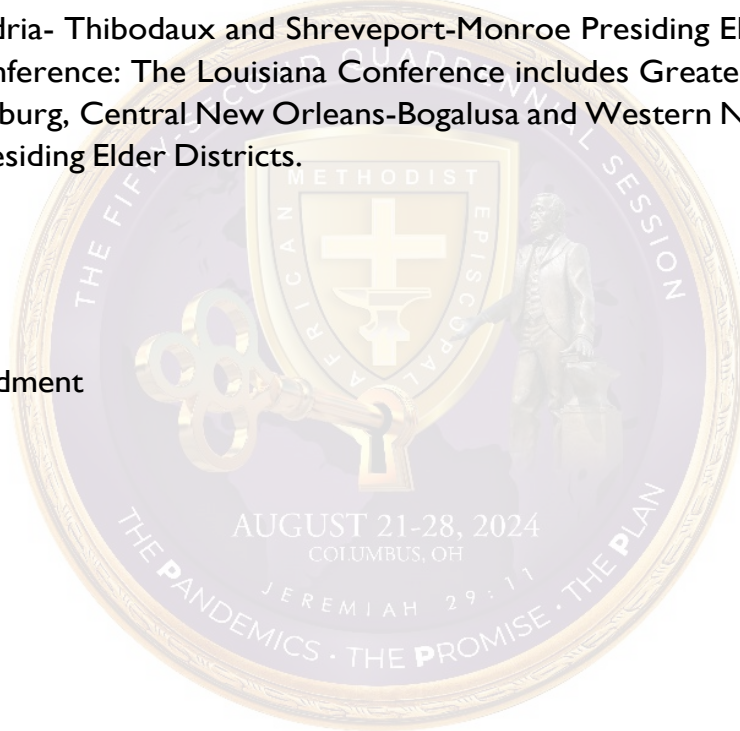
3. Central North Louisiana Conference: The Central North Louisiana Conference includes Alexandria- Thibodaux and Shreveport-Monroe Presiding Elder Districts.

4. Louisiana Conference: The Louisiana Conference includes Greater New Orleans-Greensburg, Central New Orleans-Bogalusa and Western New Orleans-Baton Rouge Presiding Elder Districts.

### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

PROVISIONAL MINISTRY

**First and Last Name**

Myron D Hill

**Email**[myrondavidhill@comcast.net](mailto:myrondavidhill@comcast.net)**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

new legislation

**Intent**

To add an additional ministry track

**Rationale**

Because of the mandate of the General Conference to have a certain educational level to be ordained an Itinerant Deacon or Elder and often without financial backing, many will not go into ministry because they are unwilling to spend their personal resources for whatever reason. Additionally, Class D & E churches are often rural or very small congregations but are proud AMEs. This bill sneaks to bridge this gap towards the Itinerancy.

**Current Text**

new text

**Amended Text**

The Provisional ministry is for a person who is called into ministry, particularly pastoral ministry, but does not have a bachelor's degree. Provisional ministers must be trained through the Conference Board of Examiners and be faithful to that process until completion. A person can be a local, but when needed for pastoral ministry will then become a Provisional minister. Generally, the Provisional minister serves small and rural congregations (Class D E Churches) and will be appointed by the Presiding Bishop with consolation from the Presiding Elder and the Chair & Dean of the Annual Conference BOE, of which the preacher must be enrolled or have successfully completed. Provisional ministers can be assigned to annual conference and district conference committees but cannot vote in the General Conference delegate elections or vie for General Conference delegate. Provisional ministers may be ordained a Deacon and two years afterwards, may be ordained in the Elder. Provisional ministers must participate in the annuity program of the church and retire at the age of 75.

42 A Provisional minister may reobligate to an Itinerant Deacon upon completion of his/her  
43 bachelor's degree and an Itinerant Elder upon completion of his/her seminary degree.

44

45 **Approved**

46 • No

47 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Qualification for General Board Membership

**First and Last Name**

Jeffrey Leath

**Email**

[jeffreynleath@aol.com](mailto: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**

No persons from an episcopal district other than delegates may be in the voting assembly.

**Amended Text**

No persons from an episcopal district other than delegates may be in the voting assembly.

Insert new text: However, any member of the church in good standing, clergy or lay, is eligible to be elected to the General Board.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

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

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto: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**

CURRENT TEXT: No current text.

**Amended Text**

AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to Part XIV Conferences Section I. The General 3 Conference, C. Qualifications of Delegates

**4 I. Ministerial**

5 Every itinerant minister elected a delegate by any Annual Conference shall have been  
6 an elder during the four (4) years immediately preceding the General Conference to  
7 which said minister is elected, and must be in good and regular standing in the  
8 Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the time of his or  
9 her election. He or she shall be a member of the Conference that elects him or her and  
10 shall be in actual service within the bounds of that Conference. The church where the  
11 itinerant minister serves as the pastor should be current on all financial obligations,  
12 particularly to the Presiding Elder and the Episcopal District. The Presiding Elder  
13 should verify the church represented by him or her is current on their financial

14 obligations to the Presiding Elder and the Episcopal District. If the church is not  
15 current with these financial obligations then the itinerant minister cannot be elected  
16 a delegate or alternate delegate to the General Conference.

17 2. Lay

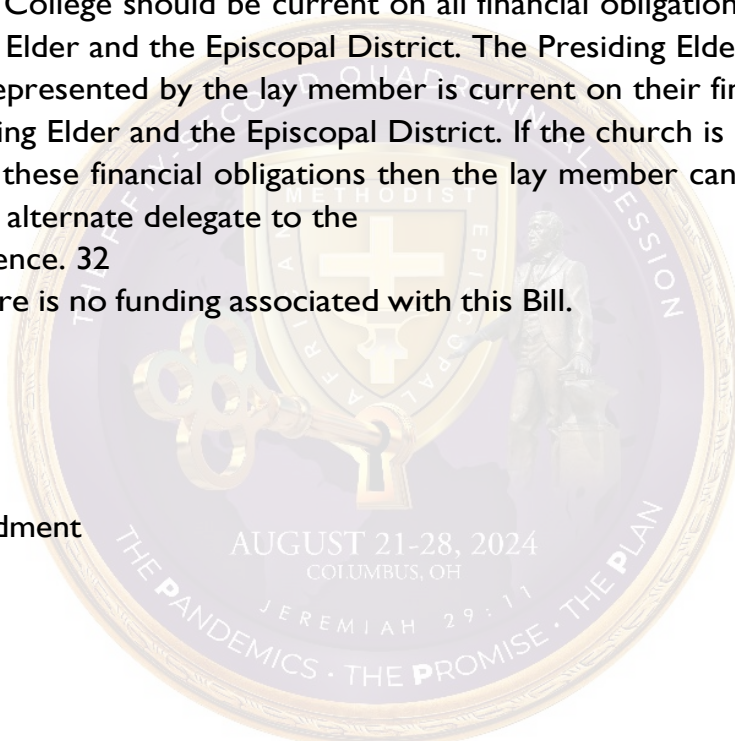
18 Every lay member elected a delegate by an Electoral College shall be a member of  
19 said college and a person of good, natural or acquired who knows and loves The  
20 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Church and has maintained a full,  
21 good and regular membership in said church four (4) consecutive years next  
22 preceding the General Conference, and shall have been a member of his or her local  
23 church for six (6) months next preceding the meeting of the Electoral College. No lay  
24 member shall vote – or be voted for – more than once in a quadrennium as a delegate  
25 to the Electoral College. The church where the lay member was elected a delegate to  
26 the Electoral College should be current on all financial obligations particularly to  
27 the Presiding Elder and the Episcopal District. The Presiding Elder should verify  
28 the church represented by the lay member is current on their financial obligations  
29 to the Presiding Elder and the Episcopal District. If the church is not  
30 current with these financial obligations then the lay member cannot be elected  
31 a delegate or alternate delegate to the  
32 General Conference.

33 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Angela Pettis

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021, page 262

**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**

CURRENT TEXT: Part XIV Conferences Section I. The General Conference, C. Qualifications of Delegates

**1. Ministerial**

Every itinerant minister elected a delegate by any Annual Conference shall have been an elder during the four (4) years immediately preceding the General Conference to which said minister is elected, and must be in good and regular standing in the Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the time of his or her election. He or she shall be a member of the Conference that elects him or her and shall be in actual service within the bounds of that Conference.

**2. Lay**

Every lay member elected a delegate by an Electoral College shall be a member of said college and a person of good, natural or acquired who knows and loves The Doctrine

and Discipline of the African Methodist Church and has maintained a full, good and regular membership in said church four (4) consecutive years next preceding the General Conference, and shall have been a member of his or her local church for six (6) months next preceding the meeting of the Electoral College. No lay member shall vote – or be voted for – more than once in a quadrennium as a delegate to the Electoral College.

#### **Amended Text**

AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to Part XIV Conferences Section I. The General Conference, C. Qualifications of Delegates

##### **I. Ministerial**

Every itinerant minister elected a delegate by any Annual Conference shall have been an elder during the four (4) years immediately preceding the General Conference to which said minister is elected, and must be in good and regular standing in the Annual Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the time of his or her election. He or she shall be a member of the Conference that elects him or her and shall be in actual service within the bounds of that Conference. The church where the itinerant minister serves as the pastor should be current on all financial obligations, particularly to the Presiding Elder and the Episcopal District. The Presiding Elder should verify the church represented by him or her is current on their financial obligations to the Presiding Elder and the Episcopal District. If the church is not current with these financial obligations then the itinerant minister cannot be elected a delegate or alternate delegate to the General Conference.

##### **2. Lay**

Every lay member elected a delegate by an Electoral College shall be a member of said college and a person of good, natural or acquired who knows and loves The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Church and has maintained a full, good and regular membership in said church four (4) consecutive years next preceding the General Conference, and shall have been a member of his or her local church for six (6) months next preceding the meeting of the Electoral College. No lay member shall vote – or be voted for – more than once in a quadrennium as a delegate to the Electoral College. The church where the lay member was elected a delegate to the Electoral College should be current on all financial obligations particularly to the Presiding Elder and the Episcopal District. The Presiding Elder should verify the church represented by the lay member is current on their financial obligations to the Presiding Elder and the Episcopal District. If the church is not current with these financial obligations then the lay member cannot be elected a delegate or alternate delegate to the General Conference.

Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

- 84  
85 Submitted by the Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District  
86  
87 **Approved**  
88 • No  
89  
90 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

Re Obligation verbiage

**First and Last Name**

Myron D Hill

**Email**

[myrondavidhill@comcast.net](mailto:myrondavidhill@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

new legislation

**Intent**

To offer consistent language and procedures for reobligating already ordained Deacons or Elders

**Rationale**

Once a person is ordained to an office, he and she cannot be re-ordained to be reobligated. This addition gives clear guidance and verbiage for how a preacher is reobligated.

**Current Text**

new legislation

**Amended Text**

After the Deacon and/or Elder have been ordained, the BOE shall call for those being reobligated to appear before the Bishop for reobligation.

Then the Bishop shall say.

“As the BOE names you, please kneel.” Here, the BOE shall call each minister to be reobligated. Once all have kneeled, the Bishop can place his/her hand on each candidate and say:

“Having already been ordained to the office of Deacon (Elder), and completed the academic requirements for Itinerant ministry, the Lord continue to pour upon the you Holy Ghost for the work of ministry. May your ministry continue to abound in grace, flourish beyond your imagination and expand to heights unimaginable. Be ye reobligated to Itinerant Ministry in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. AMEN. “

**Approved**

- No

42      Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Realignment of Presiding Elder Districts in Eighth Episcopal District

**First and Last Name**

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Sr.

**Email**

[eighthdistamec@aol.com](mailto: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. I

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

**Amended Text**

5. No. I
6. South Mississippi Conference: The South Mississippi
7. Conference includes Southeast, Southwest and North Presiding Elder Districts.

**FINANICAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this bill.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Realignment of Presiding Elder Districts in the Eighth Episcopal District

**First and Last Name**

Bishop Julius H. McAllister, Sr.

**Email**

[eighthdistamec@aol.com](mailto: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. Eighth District (4 Conferences)
2. No. 4 Central North Louisiana Conference:
3. The Central North Louisiana Conference includes Shreveport,
4. Monroe-Lake Providence, and Alexandria-Thibodaux
5. Presiding Elder Districts.

**Amended Text**

7. Central North Louisiana Conference: The Central North
8. Louisiana Conference includes Shreveport-Monroe
9. and Alexandria-Thibodaux Presiding Elder Districts.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this bill.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Redistricting Episcopal Districts in 2028

**First and Last Name**

Mark Johnson & Penny Oliver

**Email**

[mrkl9732000@yahoo.com](mailto:mrkl9732000@yahoo.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

No current text in the BODD to merge episcopal districts

**Intent**

To create a plan of action and the implementation of a redistricting plan for 2028. The merger/consolidation of selected episcopal districts, in a staged method over four years, to be created/design and led by a special reorganization/merger committee.

The episcopal districts reduction merger plan must conclude with a minimum of two state side episcopal districts which will subsequently reduce personnel by at least one Bishop. Additional benefits will be improved administrative efficiency, cost savings, and an increased equity among the episcopal districts.

The merger effort will be financed by an AMEC Budget allocation and sponsors.

**Rationale**

In the years since the 2008 the AMEC Redistricting Feasibility Report, the AME Church concerns regarding fiscal efficiencies and right sizing administration has been the topics of numerous discussions and forums. Recounting these issues has fallen short of adopting or more importantly implementing reorganization processes to remedy these concerns/deficiencies. The redistricting of the episcopal districts is often one of the most recounted options suggested to the church.

The 2008 Feasibility Study supports the following benefits:

1. Redistricting will help the denomination to be more equitable in assessments and budgets and provide for improved ...
  2. Accountability as districts become more manageable by virtue of size.
- Furthermore, redistricting should lead to more equity in Episcopal assignments.
3. Districts that are more manageable in size should lead to improved accountability and management.

**Current Text**

no current text



## **Amended Text**

### **New Text**

#### **Composition**

The Merger Committee shall include a Bishop Council appointee as the Chair, 2 Presiding Elder Council appointees, 3 additional clergy and 6 lay appointees (1 Lay Organization, 1 WMS, 1 RAYC or a young adult 18-36 years of age). A representative/appointee of the AMEC legal counsel, Board of Incorporators, and an appointee of the AMEC Finance department.

#### **Organization**

The Committee will recommend additional support and or stakeholders to assist in the implementation process. The Committee shall have the authority to hire support and include additional stakeholders as consultants.

#### **Duties**

&

#### **Timeli**

ne

#### **Year**

#### **One**

The merger committee will organize and produce a tentative plan of action and timeline of the scheduled phases of implementation. They will make their initial draft report to the first General Board Meeting following the General Conference. The final implementation plan shall be approved by the General Board with one year of the General Conference.

#### **Year Two & Three**

The committee shall complete the checklist for implementation of the approved plan. They shall make progress reports at each General Board meeting.

#### **Year Four**

The details of the merger shall be promoted among the impacted districts for implementation at the close of the next General Conference.

#### **General Conference**

The new district(s) will be birthed and a newly assign Bishop shall be appointed.

79  
80 Financi  
81 al  
82 Implica  
83 tions  
84 TBD  
85  
86 **Approved**  
87 • No  
88  
89 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Redistricting the 17 th Episcopal District

**First and Last Name**

Royd Mwandu

**Email**

[19662010revrm@gmail.com](mailto:19662010revrm@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 300

**Intent**

To re-organize the 17th Episcopal District making Zambia, which is a country with five Conferences, a standalone District, removing the seven (7) Annual Conferences from Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo Brazzaville, Rwanda, Burundi and Kenya, and making these seven Annual Conferences mission conferences in a new district configuration.

**Rationale**

In the 48th session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the 17th Episcopal District was re-districted. Malawi and Zimbabwe were detached from the 17th Episcopal District to form the 20th Episcopal District. As a result of the redistricting that formed the 20 th District, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo Brazzaville, Rwanda, Burundi, and Kenya, consisting of seven (7) Annual Conferences, became part of the 17 th Episcopal District. Thus, the 17 th became the largest Episcopal District, comprised of twelve (12) Annual Conferences, five of which are in Zambia. With six hundred and twenty (620) tribes, the 17th Episcopal District forms the greatest multicultural hub in the entire denomination. Unique geopolitical challenges within and between the Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo Brazzaville, Rwanda, Burundi, and Kenya, and Zambia complicate travel to and from the region for Annual Conference and Episcopal District leadership, making it difficult to establish cohesion, unity, and flourishing ministry.

The ramifications of the current status quo are numerous. These include:

1. The shift of our churches in Rwanda to membership in African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church;
2. High cost of travel to the region and inordinate burden on bishops to fund travel, sustentation, lodging, and incidentals of all northern region Conference delegates from funds raised in southern region Conferences.
3. Prohibitive cross-country border immigration procedures and distances to and from various parts of the region.

3. Difficult capacity development of the Conferences due to insufficient interaction;

4. Inability for the District to raise its budget due to the inequities between the Conferences;

No elected and/or appointed Episcopal Officer has been to the northern based regions recently; no connectional programming has taken root in these regions recently. It is time to rekindle our passion for God, recapture a sense of urgency about ministry, and respond strategically to the challenges of the 17th Episcopal District. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Congo

Brazzaville, Rwanda, Burundi, and Kenya should, therefore, be directly supervised by the Connectional Church.

### **Current Text**

#### **SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT (12 Conferences)**

1. North East Zambia Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder Districts: Itimbwe Isoka, Kawimbe, Kasama, Mbala North, Mbala South, Nakonde and Dr. Membe.

2. North West Zambia Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder Districts: Kaputa, Kawambwa East, Kawambwa West, Mporokoso, Mwense North, Mwense South, Dr. Kawimbe, Nchelenge North and Nchelenge South.

3. South East Zambia Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder Districts: Mongu, Chipata, Nyimba, Livingstone, Lusaka East, and Lusaka North

4. South West Zambia Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder Districts: Copper belt Central, Copper belt East and Copper belt West.

5. Zambezi Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder Districts: Chavuma, Kabompo, Solwezi West, Solwezi East, Mwinilunga, Mufumbwe, Lukulu and Zambezi.

6. Katanga Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder Districts: North Katanga, Kolwezi, Kipushi, Kesenga Pweto and Lubumbashi.

7. Kananga Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder Districts: Malandji. Luanda Mutoto, Dimbelenge, Kazumbo, Mweka, Lac Mukamba, Luiza, Sankuru, Lualua, Luanda Dibaya and Ilebo.

8. Congo River Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder Districts: Kinshasa East, Kinshasa West, Brazzaville. Tshikapa, Ilebo, Luiza, Rive-Gaucha, Rive- Droite, Bandudu, Bas Congo, Kasai and Mbandaka.

9. Mbuji-Mayi Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder Districts: Mbuji- Mayi East, Mbuji-Mayi East, Mbuji-Mayi South East,

84 Mbuji-Mayi South West, Mbuji- West and Mbuji-Mayi North West. 10.  
 85 Burundi Conference: Consists of the following  
 86 Presiding Elder Districts: South West Burundi, North East Burundi, Western  
 87 Burundi and North West Burundi.  
 88 11. Great Lakes Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder District: Eastern.  
 89 12. East Africa Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder  
 90 Districts: Nakuru, Nairobi and Mombasa.

91

## 92 **Amended Text**

93 SEVENTEENTH DISTRICT (5 Conferences)

94 1. North East Zambia Conference: Consists of the following Presiding  
 95 Elder Districts: Itimbwe Isoka, Kawimbe, Kasama, Mbala North, Mbala  
 96 South, Nakonde and Dr. Membe.

97 2. North West Zambia Conference: Consists of the following Presiding  
 98 Elder Districts: Kaputa, Kawambwa East, Kawambwa West, Mporokoso,  
 99 Mwense North, Mwense South, Dr. Kawimbe, Nchelenge North and  
 100 Nchelenge South.

101 3. South East Zambia Conference: Consists of the following Presiding  
 102 Elder Districts: Mongu, Chipata, Nyimba, Livingstone, Lusaka East, and  
 103 Lusaka North

104 4. South West Zambia Conference: Consists of the following Presiding  
 105 Elder Districts: Copper belt Central, Copper belt East and Copper belt  
 106 West.

107 5. Zambezi Conference: Consists of the following Presiding Elder  
 108 Districts: Chavuma, Kabompo, Solwezi West, Solwezi East, Mwinilunga,  
 109 Mufumbwe, Lukulu and Zambezi.

110

## 111 **Approved**

112 • No

113

114 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Removal of Male-Centric Language in the Lay Hymn

**First and Last Name**

Bill Dickens

**Email**

[dickensb@comcast.net](mailto: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**

Page 713 of the Book of Doctrine and Discipline reads in the song title: "The Laymen's Song".

**Amended Text**

The amended song title would read: "The Lay Song". All subsequent references to "man" or "men" would be replaced with "laity". This would require musical editing of the hymn to reflect new wording.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Removal of Same-Sex Marriage Section

**First and Last Name**

Ad Hoc AME Sexual Ethics Discernment Committee (SED-C)

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto:gpierce@ameced.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

pages 376-77

**Intent**

DELETE Part XVI, Section XV B (pages 376-77, 2021 Discipline) to return the church to its position prior to 2004.

**Rationale**

The current language in Part XVI, Section XV B, was not included according to an appropriate process of prayerful discernment and careful study. It must not be maintained without a complete process of spiritual discernment that includes theological, interpretive, and experiential analyses - with close attention given to relevant scientific research findings.

This removal does not require clergy to perform marriages for same-sex couples. The rights of clergy to determine those for whom they perform marriage ceremonies is retained and protected.

**Current Text****B. Same-Sex Marriage**

1. The African Methodist Episcopal Church believes that marriage is ordained by God as set forth in the Holy Scriptures.

2. Further, the AME Church believes that unions of any kind between persons of the same sex or gender are contrary to the will of God.

3. Therefore, the AME Church strictly prohibits and forbids any AME Church clergyperson, licensed and/or ordained, from performing or participating in, or giving any blessing to any ceremony designed to result in any pairing between persons of the same-sex gender, including, but not limited to, marriage or civil unions.

a. Any AME Church clergyperson licensed and/or ordained charged with violating this rule shall be referred to the Ministerial Efficiency Committee.

b. If the charges are sustained, the bishop shall suspend the clergyperson and shall convene the Trial Committee within forty-five (45) days.

c. If the charges are sustained by the Trial Committee, such person's ordination shall

be revoked by the Annual Conference and he or she shall be relieved of his or her orders and/or license.

4. Further, the AME Church strictly prohibits and forbids the use of any AME Church property for the performance of and/or the participation in and/or giving of any blessing on the same.

**Amended Text**

Delete.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Removing Prohibition and Penalty for Licensed or Ordained AME clergypersons from performing Same-Sex Marriages in countries where it is legal.

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Dr. Virgil Gordon Glenn, III

**Email**

[rev\\_glenn@yahoo.com](mailto:rev_glenn@yahoo.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

2021 Doctrine & Discipline, p. 377

Section XV. Marriage and Matrimonial Relations

B.

Same-

Sex

Marriage

3.

**Intent**

To remove the penalty imposed upon licensed or ordained AME clergy persons for performing a same-sex marriage in countries where it is legal to do so.

**Rationale**

Same-sex marriage remains the law of the land in all 50 states and territories of the United States under the Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015. In addition, same-sex marriage is legal in several countries with AME Churches, namely: Canada, Brazil, Cuba, the United Kingdom, France, and South Africa.

**Current Text**

2021 Doctrine & Discipline, p. 377, Section XV. Marriage and Matrimonial Relations, B. Same-Sex Marriage, 3. Therefore, the AME Church strictly prohibits and forbids any AME Church clergyperson, licensed and/or ordained, from performing or participating in, or giving any blessing to any ceremony designed to result in any pairing between persons of the same-sex gender, including, but not limited to, marriage or civil unions.

a. Any AME Church clergyperson licensed and/or ordained charged with violating this rule shall be referred to the Ministerial Efficiency Committee.

b. If the charges are sustained, the bishop shall suspend the clergyperson and shall convene the Trial Committee within forty-five (45) days.

c. If the charges are sustained by the Trial Committee, such person's ordination shall be revoked by the Annual Conference and he or she shall be relieved of his or her

42 orders and/or license.

43

44 **Amended Text**

45 Remove Point 3 and sub-points and remake point 4 into point 3, which would still  
46 prohibit same-sex unions or blessings to take place in any AME church property, taking  
47 out the word “Further” and making “The” the beginning of point 4.

48 **Approved**

- 49 • No

50

51 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

Removing Prohibition and Penalty for Licensed or Ordained AME clergypersons from performing Same-Sex Marriages in the United States

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Dr. V. Gordon Glenn, III and Rev. Rachel E. Williams-Glenn

**Email**

[rev\\_glenn@yahoo.com](mailto:rev_glenn@yahoo.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

2021 Doctrine & Discipline, p. 377, Section XV. Marriage and Matrimonial Relations, B. Same-Sex Marriage, 3.

**Intent**

To remove prohibition and penalty for licensed or ordained AME clergypersons from performing Same-Sex Marriages in the United States.

**Rationale**

Same-sex marriage remains the law of the land in all 50 states and territories of the United States under the Supreme Court's 5-4 ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015.

**Current Text**

Therefore, the AME Church strictly prohibits and forbids any AME Church clergyperson, licensed and/or ordained, from performing or participating in, or giving any blessing to any ceremony designed to result in any pairing between persons of the same-sex gender, including, but not limited to, marriage or civil unions.

a. Any AME Church clergyperson licensed and/or ordained charged with violating this rule shall be referred to the Ministerial Efficiency Committee.

b. If the charges are sustained, the bishop shall suspend the clergyperson and shall convene the Trial Committee within forty-five (45) days.

c. If the charges are sustained by the Trial Committee, such person's ordination shall be revoked by the Annual Conference and he or she shall be relieved of his or her orders and/or license.

**Amended Text**

Remove Point 3 and sub-points and remake point 4 into point 3, which would still prohibit same-sex unions or blessings to take place in any AME church property, taking out the word "Further" and making "The" the beginning of point 4.

**Approved**

- 42 • No
- 43
- 44 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Repeal of the Correction and Editing Committee

**First and Last Name**

Jeffrey Leath

**Email**

[jeffreynleath@aol.com](mailto:jeffreynleath@aol.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 277, XIV, Section I, J., 3

**Intent**

To repeal the Correction and Editing Committee in its current form.

**Rationale**

The Correction and Editing Committee was instituted to bring order to a document which had become awkward and inconsistent in format, grammar and syntax. The work of the Committee should have been a one- or two-time endeavor with the Compilation Committee engaging in maintenance through new and corrective legislation. It has resulted in a risky quadrennial re-write/format of a foundational document. The process has been both successful and abusive. It has become a license for a committee to produce a document without the easy oversight of the church at large. In fact, the work of the Committee contradicts other legislation contained in the Discipline.

Our law is no longer a fixed document with predictable, anticipated modifications based on passed legislation. We must end the shifting of the document and return to a process followed by other governing bodies with a fixed body of law which is amended in an established mode.

There are other, more accountable, processes to accomplish the work of this Committee.

**Current Text**

3. The Correction and Editing Committee

a. Organization

The Compilation Committee shall call into existence the Correction and Editing Committee.

b. Composition

1) Number The Correction and Editing Committee shall be composed of no more than seven (7) persons.

2) Officers and Members This Committee shall be comprised of the chairperson and the secretary of the Revisions Committee, the chairperson and secretary of the Compilation Committee, an English professor, a computer technician who has served the local and the connectional Church and a senior

churchperson versed in Methodist and AME polity. The Senior Bishop, the President of the Council of Bishops, the General Secretary, the Treasurer, the Publisher and the Legal Counsel shall serve ex officio as members of this Committee.

c. Duties

1) Correcting and editing sexist language, contradictions, duplications and archaic language

2) Consolidating related programs

3) Revising the overall format for easier identification within The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

d. Approval of Work The work of the Committee must be submitted to and approved by the Compilation Committee.

**Amended Text**

Delete Current Text in its entirety.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Responsibilities of the Commission on Economic Development

**First and Last Name**

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

**Email**

[rrscottsphr73@yahoo.com](mailto:rrscottsphr73@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) SECTION VI Organization (Page

201)

PART D. STANDING COMMISSIONS (Page 203)

D3. Responsibilities (Page 204)

n. Commission on Economic Development (Page 206)

**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**

NONE

**Amended Text**

A. The purpose of the Economic Development Commission shall be to promote and share practical and innovative approaches for stewardship ministries and economic empowerment for churches, communities and persons.

B. To accomplish this purpose the Economic Development Commission shall use and promote these Project Phases and Guiding Principles for all Economic Development projects sponsored, endorsed and supported by the AME Church:

I. Research and Analysis



Consisting of activities such as data collection, feasibility analysis, project scope definition, project governance. These project activities should result in a Go/No Go decision for the Project.

## 2. Design and Development

Consisting of activities such as written and approved project plans with goals, timelines and legal, financial and human resource requirements.

## 3. Implementation

Consisting of activities such as project plan execution with transparent and regular reporting on project progress, delays and results to the project governing structure.

## 4. Evaluation

Consisting of activities such as assessing the results and completion of the project plan with a final operational and financial written audit report on the project to the governing structure.

Approved at General Board Meeting June 25-26, 2019 Atlanta, Georgia  
Approved at Convo IX December 4-5, 2019 Atlanta, Georgia

## **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Responsibilities of the Commission on Economic Development

**First and Last Name**

Randolph R. Scott, Bethel AMEC San Francisco, Fifth Episcopal District

**Email**

[rrscottsphr73@yahoo.com](mailto:rrscottsphr73@yahoo.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

2021 The Doctrine and Discipline of the  
AME Church PART XII the General Board  
(Page 211)  
SECTION V Commissions (Page  
215) SECTION VI Organization  
(Page 216) (14)  
PART D. STANDING COMMISSIONS (Page 217)  
D3. Responsibilities (Page 218)  
n. Commission on Economic Development (Page 220)

**Intent**

- 1) To codify the Commission on Economic Development Purpose and Responsibilities adopted by the General Board of the AME Church at its meeting in December 2016.
- 2) To codify the Commission on Economic Development Guiding Principles adopted by the General Board of the AME Church at its meeting in June 2017.
- 3) To Implement Proposed Legislation approved by General Board of the AME Church at its Meeting June 25-26, 2019, Atlanta, Georgia and endorsed by at Convo IX December 4-5, 2019, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Rationale**

To define the purpose and responsibilities of the Commission on Economic Development and the Guiding Principles of Economic Development for all projects that are sponsored, endorsed, and supported by the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Current Text**

NONE

**Amended Text**

A. The purpose and responsibilities of the Commission on Economic Development shall

be to promote and share practical and innovative approaches for stewardship ministries and economic empowerment for churches, communities, and persons.

B. The Commission on Economic Development shall use and promote these Project Phases and Guiding Principles for all Economic Development projects sponsored, endorsed, and supported by the AME Church:

1. Research and Analysis

Consisting of activities such as data collection, feasibility analysis, project scope definition, project governance. These project activities should result in a Go/No Go decision for the Project.

2. Design and Development

Consisting of activities such as written and approved project plans with goals, timelines, and legal, financial, and human resource requirements.

3. Implementation

Consisting of activities such as project plan execution with transparent and regular reporting on project progress, delays, and results to the project governing structure.

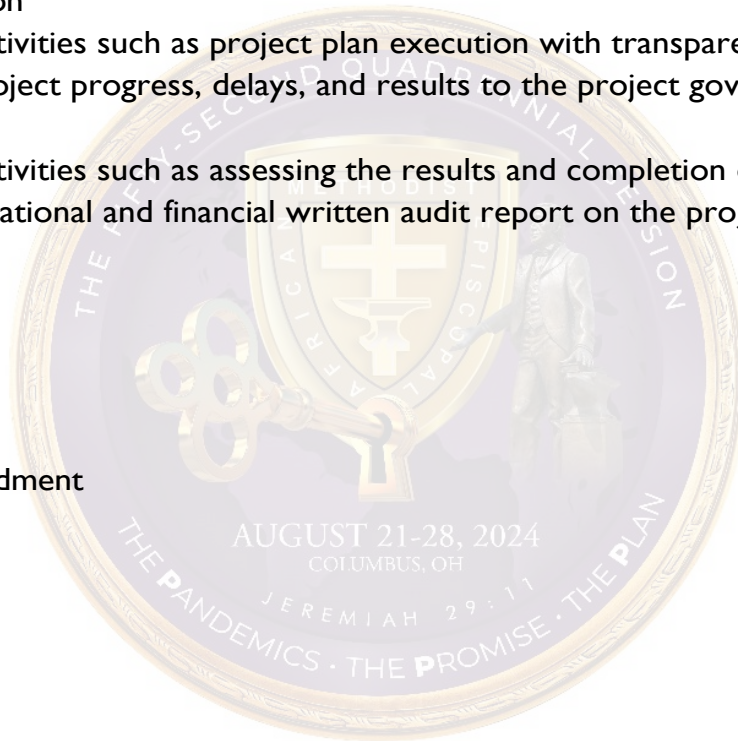
4. Evaluation

Consisting of activities such as assessing the results and completion of the project plan with a final operational and financial written audit report on the project to the governing structure.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Retirement Services Revisions

**First and Last Name**

Bishop John F. White and Bishop Marvin C. Zanders, II on behalf of the Commission on Retirement Services

**Email**

bishopzanders140@gmail.com

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

P. 201–203; 228-232

**Intent**

The intent of this legislation is to remove obsolete language, to clarify ambiguous language, and to update language regarding the Department of Retirement Services, the Executive Director of the Department of Retirement Services, and the Commission on Retirement Services.

**Rationale**

These changes are necessary to improve the operation of the Department of Retirement Services and to make the language in the Discipline consistent with legal requirements and operational changes affecting the Department of Retirement Services and its Executive Director.

**Current Text**

7. Executive Director of the Department of Retirement Services

a. The Executive Director of The Department of Retirement Services is the chief administrative officer of the Department of Retirement Services and a General Officer of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Executive Director is amenable to the Council of Bishops and the General Board during the interim of the General Conference. The Executive Director of the Department of Retirement Services is ex officio a member of the General Board and sits with the Board at its meetings with the right of the floor, but without the privilege of voting.

b. The Executive Director oversees, directs and manages the Ministerial Annuities Fund of the AME Church and is responsible for the operation of the retirement and hospitalization coverage for the salaried servants of the AME Church. As administrator of the Ministerial Annuities Fund of the Retirement Services Department, the Executive Director oversees the stipend for all retired. (superannuated) ministers, salaried employees and their families. In addition, the Executive Director administers insurance coverage for all salaried employees of the AME Church, bishops, ministers

and general officers. The Executive Director is bonded for such amounts as directed by the General Conference.

c. Specific responsibilities of the Executive Director for administration of the Department of Retirement Services, include, but are not limited to, the following:

1) Employment and supervision of personnel of the Department of Retirement Services, including providing direction and delegating specific responsibility and appropriate authority, where necessary.

2) Administering the annuities of the salaried servants of the AME Church, including all bishops,

general officers,

college presidents, deans of the theological seminaries, itinerant elders and salaried personnel of the Connectional departments of the AME Church hospitals, church schools and colleges and employees of local churches.

3) Maintaining records of contributions payable by the participants in the Ministerial Annuities Fund, as forwarded by the Finance Committee of the annual conference following the Mid-Year and Annual Conference, and disseminating forms for recording the names of the ministers, their addresses, beneficiaries, salaries and amounts.

4) Providing special Annuity and Hospitalization Report forms to each episcopal district prior to each conference, and providing individual receipts and certificates to the ministers paying premiums.

5) Reporting to each quadrennial session of the General Conference the financial transactions of the General Board for the preceding quadrennium.

6) Preparing proposed budgets for the ensuing quadrennium for approval by the General Conference, including a recommended scale of payment to qualified claimants under the Ministerial Annuities Fund prior to each quadrennial session of the General Conference.

7) Submitting to members of the General Board annually, one (1) month in advance of its annual board meeting, a report of receipts and disbursements for the previous year and an annual budget for the ensuing year.

8) Maintaining records for any and all monies and funds that are paid out of the Department of Retirement Services or that come into the hands of the department.

9) Issuing a full and correct accounting and report of all monies received by and paid out by the Department of Retirement Services as principal, whenever such report and accounting is ordered and required by the General Board.

10) Communicating with insurers and investment entities regarding financial activities and returns on investments.

11) Communicating with participants in the Annuity Fund regarding eligibility, withdrawal and/ or participation in the Annuity Fund, including providing accurate accounting of account balances.

12) Such additional responsibilities as may be assigned by the



85 General Board. [END OF SECTION]

86 D. Department of Retirement Services

87 1. Executive Director

88 a. There shall be a Department of Retirement Services administered by the Executive  
89 Director of the department, who is an elected General Officer responsible for giving  
90 oversight to the programs of the Church operated for the retirement security of the  
91 salaried personnel of the Church. These include Ministerial Annuities and the  
92 Ministerial Retirement Program.

93 b. The Executive Director of the Department shall hire a specialist in financial  
94 management to see that the employees of the Church receive the maximum benefits  
95 to which they are entitled from our investments.

96 c. In case of a vacancy, or in case at any time the Executive Director be found  
97 incapable, unable or unworthy of continuing in office, the General Board shall have the  
98 power, after thorough investigation and proof, to declare the office vacant by three-  
99 fourths (3/4) vote of the General Board and two thirds (2/3) vote of the Council of  
100 Bishops. A successor shall be elected according to the established rules of the Church.

101 2. Duties and Responsibilities

102 a. Ministerial Annuities Plan

103 1) The Department of Retirement Services shall direct the Ministerial Annuity Plan of  
104 the African Methodist Episcopal Church, as directed by the General Board. There is  
105 hereby established annuity coverage for the salaried personnel of the AME Church.  
106 Included in this coverage shall be all bishops, general officers, college presidents, deans  
107 of theological seminaries, itinerant elders and salaried personnel of the connectional  
108 departments of the AME Church, including our hospitals, church schools and colleges. In  
109 addition, full-time employees of the Local churches may elect to participate in the  
110 Annuity Plan. A full-time employee is defined as one working a minimum of twenty (20)  
111 hours, per week on a continual and consistent basis. The pastor and the board of  
112 stewards must confirm this status.

113 2) The Commission on Retirement Services of the General Board shall serve as the  
114 trust committee for the annuity coverage for the AME Church. There shall be, and is  
115 hereby established, an annuity fund within the AME Church.

116 3) The established contribution amount for each enrolled participant shall be twelve  
117 percent (12%) of annual salary and the minimum contribution amount shall be  
118 \$312.00, due at each Annual Conference and Mid-Year Convocation and based on  
119 minimum average annual salary of \$5,250.00. Two percent (2%) of reported  
120 contributions shall be allocated to the Department of Retirement Services for  
121 administration. Payments are to be remitted to the Department of Retirement  
122 Services within seven (7) calendar days after they are received.

123 4) AB participants in the AME Church Retirement Annuity Plan shall have the option to  
124 self-direct the investment of their annuity account assets, up to a maximum of thirty  
125 percent (30%) of the total account balance.

126 a) When exercising this option, the participant assumes full responsibility for

the investment decisions subsequently made and the performance of the chosen investment products.

b) Each participant electing to self-direct must complete and submit an Investment Waiver to the Department of Retirement Services, which shall be thereafter indemnified, held harmless and released from its fiduciary responsibilities in such instances.

5) All bishops, general officers, college presidents/ deans of theological seminaries, itinerant elders and all other ordained persons receiving an appointment to a pastoral charge, must enroll and participate in the Annuity Plan of the AME Church. All of the above will be included in the Annuity Plan, regardless of attained age. Any participants in the Annuity Plan, may elect to retire at age sixty- five (65) or at any age thereafter.

6) All eligible and enrolled participants in the AME Church Ministerial Retirement Plan, upon official retirement or separation from active service, shall be eligible to receive the total amount of funds vested in their personal annuity account, plus accrued interest, irrespective of their years of active service.

7) The bishop of an episcopal district shall use the same diligence and have the same authority and obligation in the collecting of annuity coverage premiums as he or she has in the collection of the General Budget Funds.

a) Itinerant elders shall also report their premiums during the midyear and annual conferences, along with their "General Budget Funds."

b) The Church or other sources paying the salary shall pay the total twelve percent (12%) required by the plan. In the case of the presiding elder, an amount equal to 12 percent (12%) of the quarterly conference assessment will be added.

c) The contributions payable by the ministers shall be paid and reported to their presiding elder prior to their midyear and annual conferences, and shall be part of each minister's and presiding elder's

report. All premiums shall be paid to the finance committee of the annual conference, which shall forward the premiums, along with the participants' names and amount of payments, to the Executive Director of the Department of Retirement Services, with the report of the finance committee in the midyear and annual conference. The full names of the employees for which the charge has paid premiums, their current residential addresses, current annual salaries and last four (4) digits of their social security numbers, and amounts for each participant, will be submitted to the Department of Retirement Services on each and every report.

8) The Department of Retirement Services shall provide each participant with a quarterly statement of their respective ministerial annuity account, to include all contributions credited, accrued interest earned and ending account balance for the respective quarters. Said quarterly statements shall be distributed within thirty (30) days after the close of each calendar quarter, ending March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31 of each year.

9) Effective with the close of the 47th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (2004), the Retirement

Annuity Computerized Online Reporting System shall become the primary method of the reporting of annuity contributions to the Department of Retirement Services by the annual conference. All annual conference paper report forms shall be used only in the case of emergency and as a last resort, and shall be furnished exclusively by the Department of Retirement Services when needed, and no other such forms shall be deemed acceptable.

10) All local (non-clergy) and institutional full time employees working regularly and consistently for a minimum twenty (20) hours per week shall be eligible to enroll and participate in the Annuity Plan on a voluntary basis. Full-time employment must be confirmed in writing by the appropriate pastor, presiding elder, bishop or general officer serving as the ultimate supervisor of said non-clergy employee. Said participation shall be on a voluntary basis and shall be contingent upon the agreement and financial capacity of the payer of their respective salary. The minimum salary required for voluntary participation is \$5,200 per annum., and the minimum contribution is twelve percent (12%) of said salary or \$312 semi-annually. Upon termination or retirement from the Church, annuity distributions shall be governed by the Vesting Schedule, as stated in the Annuity Plan Document.

11) The personal accounts of all eligible and officially enrolled participants in the AME Church Ministerial Retirement Annuity Plan shall be become vested (owned) at the rate of twenty percent (20%) per year of participation. Under Plan Document guidelines, one-hundred percent (100%) vesting is achieved after five (5) years of participation. Only the vested assets of the participant's account shall be eligible for disbursement. All disbursements, excluding direct rollover disbursements, shall be subject to twenty percent (20%) federal-tax with withholdings.

#### b. Group Life Insurance

The Department of Retirement Services shall make available a Group Life Insurance Plan.

#### c. Maintenance of Employee Benefit Program Records

The Department of Retirement Services shall be required to maintain all employee benefit program records for each participant for a period of seven (7) years, which shall be known as the established Purging Schedule of the Department. Any participant inquiries and/or claims for benefits that exceed this schedule shall be diligently addressed by the Department of Retirement Services in its best effort to provide an adequate response and/ or achieve an equitable resolution of the claim.

#### d. Retirement Plan for Pastors and Presiding Elders

1) The Retirement Plan for Pastors and Presiding Elders, created and established by the General Conference of 1996, is a plan designed to provide retirement contributions for each participant

through annual allocations from the General Budget Fund at no cost to participants.

2) The Retirement Plan for Pastors and Presiding Elders shall be administered by the Department of Retirement Services, under the direction of its Executive Director.

The Commission on Retirement Services of the General Board shall serve in an advisory capacity.



3) The Program shall be consistent with and comply with all requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) as it presently exists and as it may be amended from time to time.

### 3. The Commission on Retirement Services of the General Board

The Commission on Retirement Services of the General Board shall be a continuing commission to make an in-depth study of the Annuity Program presently in force in the AME Church.

a. The Commission shall be empowered to obtain the services of professional advisers who will assist in the review and study of the program.

b. The Commission shall be asked to develop a program that will be all-inclusive so that no salaried servant of the AME Church will be excluded, regardless of age.

c. The Commission shall see that a more adequate program be initiated to provide for increasing benefits of all personnel, taking into consideration the years of service and minimum benefits that can be granted to each retiree.

d. The Commission shall seek to find means by which an endowment program for Ministerial Annuities may be established to insure that the AME ministers who must be retired at least obtain a more adequate retirement benefit.

e. The Commission shall make an annual report to the General Board in its annual session.

f. All changes recommended by the Commission must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Board, with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Council of Bishops concurring.

### **Amended Text**

#### 7. Executive Director of the Department of Retirement Services

a. The Executive Director of The Department of Retirement Services is the chief administrative officer of the Department of Retirement Services and a General Officer of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The Executive Director is amenable to the Council of Bishops and the General Board during the interim of the General Conference. The Executive Director of the Department of Retirement Services is ex officio a member of the General Board and sits with the Board at its meetings with the right of the floor, but without the privilege of voting.

b. The Executive Director oversees, directs, and manages the Ministerial Retirement Program of the AME Church and is responsible for the operation of the retirement and hospitalization coverage for the salaried servants of the AME Church. In addition, the Executive Director administers insurance coverage for all salaried employees of the AME Church, bishops, ministers, and general officers. The Executive Director is bonded for such amounts as directed by the General Conference.

c. Specific responsibilities of the Executive Director for administration of the Department of Retirement Services, include, but are not limited to, the following:

1) Employment and supervision of personnel of the Department of Retirement Services, including providing direction and delegating specific responsibility and

appropriate authority, where necessary.

2) Administering the Retirement Program for the salaried servants of the AME Church, including all bishops, general officers, college presidents, deans of the theological seminaries, itinerant elders and salaried personnel of the Connectional departments of the AME Church hospitals, church schools and colleges, and employees of local churches.

3) Maintaining records of contributions paid by or on behalf of Ministerial Retirement Program participants.

4) Reporting to each quadrennial session of the General Conference the financial transactions of the General Board for the preceding quadrennium.

5) Preparing proposed budgets for the ensuing quadrennium for approval by the General Conference.

6) Submitting to members of the General Board annually, one (1) month in advance of its annual board meeting, a report of receipts and disbursements for the previous year and an annual budget for the ensuing year.

7) Maintaining records for any and all monies and funds that are paid out of the Department of Retirement Services or that come into the hands of the Department.

8) Issuing a full and correct accounting and report of all monies received by and paid out by the Department of Retirement Services as principal, whenever such report and accounting is ordered and required by the General Board.

9) Communicating with insurers and investment entities regarding financial activities and returns on investments.

10) Communicating with participants in the Retirement Program regarding eligibility, withdrawal and/ or participation in the Retirement Program, and ensuring that participants have access to accurate account balances.

11) Such additional responsibilities as may be assigned by the

General Board. [END OF SECTION]

#### D. Department of Retirement Services

##### I. Executive Director

a. There shall be a Department of Retirement Services administered by the Executive Director of the department, who is an elected General Officer responsible for giving oversight to the programs of the Church operated for the retirement security of the salaried personnel of the Church.

b. In case of a vacancy, or in case at any time the Executive Director be found incapable, unable or unworthy of continuing in office, the General Board shall have the power, after thorough investigation and proof, to declare the office vacant by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the General Board and two thirds (2/3) vote of the Council of Bishops. A successor shall be elected according to the established rules of the Church.

##### 2. Duties and Responsibilities



a. Ministerial Annuities Plan

1) The Department of Retirement Services shall direct the Ministerial Annuity Plan of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, as directed by the General Board.

2) The Commission on Retirement Services of the General Board shall serve as the trust committee for the annuity coverage for the AME Church.

3) The Department of Retirement Services shall not receive Annuity Plan contributions from participants after November 1, 2022.

4) All eligible and enrolled participants in the AME Church Ministerial Retirement Plan, upon official retirement or separation from active service, shall be eligible to receive the total amount of funds vested in their personal annuity account, plus accrued interest, irrespective of their years of active service, subject to applicable law and pending litigation.

5) The Department of Retirement Services shall provide each participant with a quarterly statement of their respective ministerial annuity account, to include all contributions credited, accrued interest earned and ending account balance for the respective quarters. Said quarterly statements shall be

distributed within thirty (30) days after the close of each calendar quarter, ending March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31 of each year.

6) The personal accounts of all eligible and officially enrolled participants in the AME Church Ministerial Retirement Plan shall become vested (owned) in accordance with the Retirement Plan Document(s). All disbursements shall be subject to any tax withholdings required by law.

7) Any interest, dividends, earnings, or funds of any kind generated from contributions by or on behalf of participants shall be applied exclusively to participant accounts.

b. New Life Personal Investment Plan for Service on or after 11/01/2022

1) The Commission on Retirement Services of the General Board shall serve as the trust committee to review the progress of the New Life Personal Investment Plan and ensure that participants are meeting the terms of this Doctrine.

2) Eligibility Types and Requirements: The Department of Retirement Services shall direct the New Life Personal Investment Plan on behalf of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, as directed by the General Board. The following types of salaried personnel of the AME Church shall be eligible participants in this plan provided they meet the requirements:

a) Types:

1. Bishops

2. General officers

3. College Presidents

4. Deans of theological seminaries

5. Ordained itinerant pastors and

6. Other personnel:

(a) Salaried personnel of the connectional departments of the AME Church, including our hospitals, church schools and colleges.

(b) Full-time employees of the Local churches may elect to participate.

b) Requirements

1. The employee is deemed to work full-time, which is defined as one working a minimum of twenty

(20) hours per week on a continual and consistent basis.

2. The pastor and the board of stewards must confirm this status.

3. Reside in the United States

3) Participation:

a) Mandatory: All bishops, general officers, and ordained itinerant pastors must enroll and participate in the Plan.

b) Optional: College presidents/deans of theological seminaries, salaried personnel of the connectional departments of the AME Church, including our hospitals, church schools and colleges, and full-time employees of the local churches may elect to participate in the Plan.

c) Enrollment Application: Applications to enroll in the plan must be submitted to the District Representative. The District Representative is responsible to confirm that the participant is eligible for the plan by signing the application, then forward the application to the Department of Retirement Services to be entered into the recordkeeper's application.

4) Contributions: Plan Contributions shall be made by the 10th of the month following the month that the contributions were collected.

a) Contribution Types:

1. Mandatory Contributions: The required minimum contribution amount for each enrolled clergy participant earning \$5,200 or more per year shall be twelve percent (12%) of annual salary. The required minimum contribution for persons earning less than \$5,200 shall be \$624.00. Half of the

minimum contribution shall be paid prior to the Annual Conference and half prior to the Mid-Year Convocation.

2. Connectional Contributions: For ordained persons receiving an appointment to a pastoral charge (b. 2) a) 5. above), a Connectional Contribution shall be made to their accounts once a year. If the Mandatory Contribution was not made for the participant, then they are ineligible for this contribution. The Treasurer's Office shall determine the amount to be allocated annually. The allocation is based on participants who were active on December 1. The amount to be allocated is based on  $13 \times$  a participant's years of service plus  $2 \times$  the participant's age. The service and age are determined as of January 1 of the contribution year. This contribution shall be distributed to each account by December 20th of each year.

3. Optional Participant Contributions: Participants are permitted to contribute additional amounts from their annual salary. These contributions must be a salary deferral and can be provided on a before-tax, Roth or after-tax basis. The IRS limits will be applied to these contributions.

b) Contribution Collection:

1. For Itinerant elders and all other ordained persons receiving an appointment to

pastoral charge: The local church or other entity responsible for paying the participant's salary shall submit the retirement contributions to the District Representatives prior to the Annual Conference and Mid-Year meetings.

2. For Bishops, General officers, College Presidents, and Deans of theological seminaries: The Treasurer's office District Representatives shall collect the contributions.

3. Salaried personnel of the connectional departments of the AME Church, including our hospitals, church schools and colleges and full-time employees of the Local churches who elect to participate: The District Representative shall collect the contributions prior to the Annual Conference and Mid- Year meetings, even if the participant is not part of these meetings.

5) Participants have the option to self-direct the investments in their account. If no election is made, participants will be defaulted into the provider's default investment allocation.

a) When exercising this option, the participant assumes full responsibility for the investment decisions subsequently made and the performance of the chosen investment products.

b) Each participant electing to self-direct must submit their investment allocation through the recordkeeper's online application.

6) All bishops, general officers, college presidents/ deans of theological seminaries, itinerant elders and all other ordained persons receiving an appointment to a pastoral charge, must enroll and participate in the Plan.

7) Participants in the New Life Personal Investment Plan who have separated from service, either through retirement or for other reasons, are eligible to take a distribution from the plan. If their funds are over \$10,000, they can leave their funds in the plan and elect to receive monthly distributions that are intended to payout over their lifetime. The account will continue to be invested through the participant's election, or if none, the default investment election.

8) The New Life Personal Investment Plan recordkeeper shall provide each participant with a quarterly statement of their respective account, to include all contributions credited, investment earnings, any distributions and ending account balance for the respective quarters. Said quarterly statements shall be distributed within thirty (30) days after the close of each calendar quarter, ending March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31 of each year. The recordkeeper shall also provide a secure online system where the participant can log into their account and see their current contributions, investment earnings and distributions.

9) The participants are 100% vested.

10) The Executive Director shall neither change retirement plan providers nor move retirement plan funds without the prior approval of the Commission on Retirement Services and the General Board.

c. Group Life Insurance

The Department of Retirement Services shall make available a Group Life Insurance Plan.



1) Premiums for the plan shall be paid by the Connectional Church for bishops and general officers and by the local church for pastors. The Department of Retirement Services shall notify the General Board of changes in policy premiums and said changes shall be reflected in the premiums paid by the Connectional Church and local churches.

2) The Department of Retirement Services shall maintain an accurate, up-to-date record of covered Insurance Plan participants. If a participant's coverage is scheduled to be cancelled for any reason, the Department of Retirement Services shall notify the participant at least 30 days prior to cancellation. The notice shall indicate the reason for the proposed cancellation and what action can be taken, if any, to avoid cancellation.

#### d. Maintenance of Employee Benefit Program Records

The Department of Retirement Services shall be required to maintain all employee benefit program records for each participant for a period of seven (7) years, which shall be known as the established Purging Schedule of the Department. Any participant inquiries and/or claims for benefits that exceed this schedule shall be diligently addressed by the Department of Retirement Services in its best effort to provide an adequate response and/ or achieve an equitable resolution of the claim.

#### 3. The Commission on Retirement Services of the General Board

The Commission on Retirement Services of the General Board shall be a continuing commission.

a. The Commission shall be empowered to obtain the services of professional advisers who will assist in the review and study of the program.

b. The Commission shall be asked to develop a program that will be all-inclusive so that no salaried servant of the AME Church will be excluded, regardless of age.

c. The Commission shall see that a more adequate program be initiated to provide for increasing benefits of all personnel, taking into consideration the years of service and minimum benefits that can be granted to each retiree.

d. The Commission shall seek to find means by which an endowment program for Ministerial Annuities may be established to ensure that the AME ministers have an adequate retirement benefit.

e. The Commission shall make an annual report to the General Board in its annual session.

f. All changes recommended by the Commission must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Board, with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Council of Bishops concurring.

#### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

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**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

SECTION X: SEXUAL MISCONDUCT Pages 348 - 359

**Intent**

The African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) takes a strong stance against sexual misconduct. Addressing sexual misconduct head-on, these recommended changes aim to prevent harm and uphold our values of the AMEC

**Rationale**

Ensuring safety and security within churches and other places of worship is crucial for maintaining a healthy and vibrant spiritual community. The rationale behind these changes is to create a safe environment, protect vulnerable individuals, and maintain the integrity of the church community.

**Current Text**

SECTION X: SEXUAL MISCONDUCT Pages 348 - 359

**Amended Text****1. SCOPE page 348**

Replace volunteers with members.

**3 PROACTIVE MEASURES TO COMBAT ABUSE PAGE 349**

Add "Christian" before relationship

(a) Replace volunteers with "members"

(b) Delete 'and just' - Rationale: you cannot treat each party the same

**4. MINISTERIAL EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE PAGE 350**

(c) Sexual misconduct offense - delete offense Rationale: Reference is only made to sexual misconduct before.

(d) Add 'and the true perpetrators' after false accused

**5. JUDICIAL COMMITTEE page 351**

a) Keep All matters pertaining to clergy sexual misconduct shall fall under the aegis of the Judicial Committee.

Delete "under this provisions of the policy ..." and "rather than the Ministerial



Committee” Rationale: This is not aligned with what is said in 4(a)

## B. DEFINITIONS

2 Change ‘Accuser’ to the complainant. Page 351 Rationale: politically incorrect term

Delete “The accuser must be a member of the AMEC in good and regular standing”.

Rationale: This is discriminatory. This document intends to eradicate sexual misconduct in the church. It should be irrelevant who lays the complaint.

1. Change ‘Accused’ to perpetrator

Page 351 Rationale: The correct term is the alleged perpetrator.

## 8. Sexual

Contact

Page 352

Change

‘sodomy’ to

rape

Rationale: Correct term in South African Law

## 9. Sexual

Misconduct Page

352 Delete “with

or without

consent”

Rationale: Children can ordinarily not consent C

## CATEGORIES

1. Sexual Abuse: page 352

(a) Sexual abuse occurs whenever a person engages in a sexual act or sexual contact with another person to whom he or she owes a professional responsibility, i.e. other members of the clergy, paid or volunteer staff, or appointed or elected officers or members under his authority.

Replace with just “Sexual abuse is whenever a person engages in a sexual act or sexual contact without the consent of the other person”.

Rationale: Not necessarily.

2. CLERGY SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP PAGE 355

(a) Change ‘Accuser’ - complainant

(b) Change ‘Accused’ - alleged perpetrator

10. MITIGATION OR EXCUSE PAGE 356

(a) Change ‘Accuser’ - complainant

(b) Change ‘Accuser’ - complainant

© Change “Accused” - alleged perpetrator

D ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AME CHURCH IN POLICY IMPLEMENTATION Page 357

2 (b) add the National Register for sex offenders and Child Abuse Register to the paragraph. Rationale: some countries have these registers as well.

## E. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES PAGE 359

2. add “and the police after to civil authorities”

Rationale: this is a serious offense, and the police should be involved in the investigation

## FULL TEXT

SECTION X. Sexual Misconduct. (Pages 348 - 359 2021 BODD)

### A. Introduction: Official

#### Policy Statement I.Scope

This Policy defines sexual misconduct by clergy, staff, appointed or elected officers and members within the African Methodist Episcopal Church and describes the procedures for reporting, responding to and investigating complaints of sexual misconduct within African Methodist Episcopal Church (hereinafter referred to as “AME Church” or “the Church”).

#### 2.Betrayal of a Sacred Trust

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in the spirit of liberation and reconciliation. The lives of its members (Clergy, Staff, appointed or elected officers and volunteers) are to be a testament of wholeness during brokenness; of hospitality during discrimination; and of respect in the midst of oppression. Contrary to the nurturing, liberating and reconciling community, sexual misconduct creates improper, coercive, and abusive conditions wherever it occurs in society. Sexual Misconduct within the Church, or by representatives of the Church, is a betrayal of a sacred trust, and a sinful abuse of power for which consequences are necessary and appropriate. Sexual misconduct perverts God’s good gift of human sexuality causing brokenness in relationships and is the opposite of God’s intention for us in the human community.

#### 3.Pro-active Measures to Combat Abuse

As a people who have historically been subjected to sinful abuses of power from outside the gathered community, we find it especially important that no such abuses of power be encouraged, tolerated, or allowed within the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Sexual misconduct is never permissible. It is a violation of the principles set forth in Scripture as well as of ministerial, pastoral, employment, and professional Christian relationships. Sexual misconduct by a minister violates the Ordination vows of the AME Church. To that end, we seek to:

- a) prevent any and all sexual misconduct by clergy, staff, appointed or elected officers or members of the A.M.E. Church;
- b) provide a clear, reasonable, meaningful response and resolution for complainants and alleged perpetrators of sexual misconduct; and
- c) ensure that each party is provided with the kind of love and respect afforded us by

the liberating and reconciling ministry of Jesus Christ.

#### 4. Ministerial Efficiency Committee

a) The tasking of the Ministerial efficiency Committee with total control of clergy sexual misconduct proceedings is inconsistent with AME Church polity and obviates the fairness and due process that should undergird all judicial procedures.

b) Under the proffered changes, the Ministerial Efficiency Committee will no longer serve as the investigative and appeals bodies, or judge and jury, as these functions will resort to the Judicial Committee, Trial Committee and Triers of Appeals in the Annual Conference.

c) Diminishing the role of the Ministerial Efficiency committee in this matter is not intended to minimize the egregiousness of a sexual misconduct. Instead, this modification is designed to establish a prudent judicial process through the restoration of power to the appropriate committees.

d) Policy addenda, which include training of all clergy and licentiates, signed compliance agreements and support for congregations and the falsely accused and true perpetrators, should strengthen the policy with emphasis on preventative measures and supportive restoration.

#### 5. Judicial Committee

a) All matters pertaining to clergy sexual misconduct shall fall under the aegis of the Judicial Committee.

b) The Judicial Committee shall serve as the investigative body (a grand jury of sorts) to determine whether the alleged conduct meets the strict definitions of sexual misconduct under the provisions of this policy.

c) If the allegations of misconduct against the accused is sustained, the Judicial Committee must recommend that the accused be tried under the provisions of the judicial administration of the Annual Conference.

d) If the allegations are not sustained, the matter shall be dismissed.

#### B. Definitions

##### 1. Policy -

Policy is the term used hereafter to refer to this section of the 2000 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church titled "Sexual Misconduct—Policies and Procedures" generally.

##### 2. Complainant

The "complainant" is the person(s) making the allegations against the "perpetrator"

The "complainant" is also referred herein as the "complainant". While the complainant may report allegations or concerns that are known only upon information and belief rather than personal knowledge, the complainant provided however, that the Church has a duty to respond to a report by any person, member or non-member of a claim of child sexual abuse and rape, or sexual assault. (Nothing herein shall prevent stewards

or a duly constituted Judicial or Trial Committee from considering evidence or witness testimony from persons without regard to membership status).

### 3. Perpetrator

The “perpetrator” (alleged) is/are the person(s) against whom the complainant has made allegations of sexual misconduct. The “perpetrator” is also referred to herein as the “alleged perpetrator”.

### 4. Appointed or Elected officers

The term “appointed or elected officers” applies to persons who hold official positions within the local or Connectional structure of the AME Church.

### 5. Clergy

The term “clergy” applies to persons Ordained as either Local or Itinerant Deacons or Elders within the AME Church; or persons seeking Ordination within the AME Church.

### 6. Employee

The term “employee” applies to any person(s) who is employed by any local or Connectional structure of the AME Church.

### 7. Volunteer

The term “volunteer” applies to any person(s) who provides non- compensated services to any local or Connectional structure of the AME Church.

### 8. Sexual contact

This term includes but is not limited to any sexual touching, copulation, coitus, or rape with the intent to arouse and gratify sexual desire.

### 9. Sexual Misconduct

The term “sexual-misconduct” is the comprehensive term used in this policy to include: sexual abuse of children or adults, rape or sexual assault, and sexual harassment. It may be committed by either male or female persons and may involve same sex or opposite sex encounters. Sexual misconduct is an abuse of authority and power. It breaches Christian ethical principles by misusing a relationship of trust to gain advantage over another for personal gratification in an abusive, exploitative and unjust manner.

## C. Categories

### 1. Sexual Abuse

a) Sexual abuse is whenever a person engages in a sexual act or sexual contact without the consent of the other person. Such abuse shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1) Sexual acts or sexual contact with a minor, with or without consent.

2) Sexual acts or sexual contact involving inducement, threat, coercion, force, violence, or intimidation of another person, whether the other person is clergy, employee, appointed or elected officers or volunteers.

3) Incest

4) Indecent exposure

5) Promotion of prostitution



6) Sexual acts or sexual contact with another person who is incapable of appraising the nature of the conduct or physically incapable of declining participation in, or communicating unwillingness to engage in, that sexual act or sexual contact.

7) Sexual acts or sexual contact arising from the administration to another person of a drug or intoxicant which substantially impairs the ability of that person to be aware of or control the nature of the conduct.

8) Child pornography

## 2. Child Sexual Abuse

a) Child sexual abuse includes, but is not limited to, any contact or interaction between a child and an adult when the child is being used for the sexual stimulation of the adult person or of a third person, including but not limited to involvement in child pornography. The behaviour may or may not involve touching.

b) Child sexual abuse between an adult and a child is always considered forced whether or not consented to by the child.

c) Child sexual abuse is a crime in all states and must be reported to civil authorities. Anyone who knows or has reason to suspect that child abuse has occurred or is occurring should be reported to their civil authorities as required by law and to the church administrative authorities as designated.

## 3. Rape or Sexual Assault

Rape or sexual assault is a crime in every state, town, province or district and should be reported as designated by the civil codes of the jurisdiction in which the act occurred. It must also be simultaneously reported to the church administrative authorities as designated.

## 4. Sexual Harassment

a) Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, and other verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexually offensive nature.

b) Sexual harassment occurs when:

1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment or their continued status in an institution;

2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is the basis for subsequent decisions affecting the promotion, transfer, assignment, appointment, appraisal, status, membership, or participation in any group or activity affecting that individual; or

3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance by creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

c) Sexual harassment can consist of a single instance where the act or the conduct is egregious or multiple persistent or pervasive acts.

d) Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

1) sexually oriented jokes or humor;

2) sexually demeaning comments;

3) verbal suggestions of sexual involvement or sexual activity;



- 4) questions or comments about sexual behavior;
- 5) unwelcome or inappropriate physical contact;
- 6) graphic or degrading comments about an individual's physical appearance;
- 7) express or implied sexual advances or propositions;
- 8) display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures;
- 9) repeated requests for social engagements after an individual refuse.
- 10) Unsolicited letters, phone calls, or the transmission of other material of a sexual nature
- 11) Offers of the use of one's influence in exchange for sexual favour

## 5. Clergy Sexual Misconduct

Clergy Sexual Misconduct may be committed by either male or female and may involve same sex or opposite sex encounter(s). Clergy sexual misconduct is that conduct which occurs whenever a clergy person initiates or allows any sexual contact or behaviour with a person with whom he or she has a clergy relationship and is either abusive, harassing, and/or exploitative.

## 6. Clergy Sexual Relationship

Clergy Sexual Relationship is a relationship between a clergy person and any other person when:

- a. the complainant is a member of a congregation to which the accused was or is appointed or assigned;
- b. the complainant is supervised by, is a colleague of, or receives ministry from the perpetrator, who serves in any capacity for which he/she was ordained, licensed, hired or appointed by a bishop or a bishop's designee;
- c. the perpetrator used the authority of a clerical office or role in establishing a relationship with the complainant; or
- d. the complainant is a member of a community which recognizes the authority of the perpetrator as a person in ministry, regardless of the actual status of the perpetrator.

## 7. Single Clergy Romantic Relationship

- a. A single clergy person engaging in a romantic relationship with a single person with whom he/she has a clergy relationship does not necessarily commit sexual misconduct pursuant to this policy.
- b. The clergy person, however, must be aware of the inherent problems associated with such a relationship.
- c. By embarking upon such a relationship, the clergy person assumes full responsibility for the related potential for harm.
- d. A clergy person entering into such a relationship bears the burden of demonstrating that the relationship is without exploitation regarding all relevant factors, including power dynamics, the personal history and emotional status of the subject of his or her romantic interest, and the potential for an adverse impact on this person and on others.

## 8. Sexual Acts or Contact between Clergy and Lay

Sexual acts or contact between clergy and lay, within the same congregation, even

when consensual, are strongly discouraged. There may exist an inherent imbalance of power between the clergy and the lay person which may undermine the validity of consent.

#### 9. Sexual Acts or Sexual Contact between Clergy

Sexual acts or sexual contact between clergy to clergy where a supervisory relationship exists is not acceptable, where such acts may create a hostile environment or quid pro quo (something for something).

#### 10. Mitigation or Excuse

The following factors in no way excuse or mitigate clergy responsibility for acts of clergy sexual misconduct:

- a) The complainant initiates the complained of behaviour;
- b) The complainant consents to the complained of behaviour; or
- c) The perpetrator is under extraordinary stress, vis-à-vis any number of circumstances.

#### D. Roles and Responsibilities of the AME Church in Policy

##### Implementation I. Education and Training

- a) All clergy and candidates for ministerial orders, employees, appointed or elected officials, and volunteers of the AME church shall be required to attend a seminar by professional subject matter experts on the issues of sexual misconduct.
- b) The training content and trainer shall be selected and approved by the Bishop of the Episcopal District.
- c) Each participant will be required to sign a statement certifying that he/she has read, understood and been trained in the policy, or sign a statement of refusal to comply with this requirement.
- d) All candidates for itinerant ministry or local orders shall be furnished with a copy of the AME Church's Sexual Misconduct Policy (Part XVI, Section X) by the Board of Examiners prior to admission on trail to the Annual Conference
- e) The candidates for admission will be required to sign a statement certifying to have read, understood and agreed with the policy.
- f) Failure to sign compliance statement will result in referral to the Ministerial Efficiency Committee or in case of non-clergy to the Steward Board for disciplinary action.

##### 2. Background Checks and Due Diligence

- a. After a conditional offer of appointment has been made, but prior to the issuance of a certificate of Transfer per Part XI, Section I (B)(!&), all candidates applying to the Board of Examiners for itinerant or local orders, and pastors receiving a first (1st) pastoral appointment or who move to a different pastoral assignment, shall 1. undergo a mandatory background check and 2. complete a transfer assessment.
- b. The background check will include a National Criminal History Background check and a clearance check through the state child protective service agency, and its equivalent agencies in other countries around the world such as National Register for sex offenders and Child Abuse Register c. The transfer assessment shall include a questionnaire that the transfer candidate completes. The transfer assessment shall be signed by both transferring candidate and transferring bishop.
- d. An explanation must be provided if any of the questions are answered with a "yes"

341 answer.

342 e. The questionnaire shall include the following:

343 1. Whether the transferring candidate at any point has been charged (regardless of  
344 outcome) under Part XVI, Section II for disobedience, immorality, illegal handling of  
345 funds, habitual neglect of duties, maladministration, exacting or receiving of money for  
346 appointments or simony, levying, unauthorized assessments, conviction of a crime,  
347 sowing dissension or sexual misconduct.

348 2. Whether the transferring candidate at any point has been subject to a review of  
349 the Preliminary Inquiry Committee under Part XVI, Section IV (regardless of the  
350 outcome).

351 3. Whether the transferring candidate at any point has been accused of or charged  
352 with sexual misconduct or sexual abuse, pursuant to Part XVI, Section X (regardless  
353 of whether it resulted in a formal charge or indictment).

354 4. Whether there is any additional information that the transferring candidate believes  
355 the receiving bishop should know related to the moral character of the transferring  
356 candidate.

357 f. The Ministerial Efficiency Committee shall review on a case-by-case basis all  
358 situations where the transferring candidate has a background check or transfer  
359 assessment that yields any potentially negative information. In doing so, the  
360 Ministerial Efficiency Committee should consider the following factors:

361 1. The nature and gravity of the offense or conduct.

362 2. The time that has passed since the offense or conduct.

363 3. Whether the transferring candidate has taken any actions to repent,  
364 including completing a sentence.

365 g. Although all cases shall be considered on a case-by-case basis, generally the  
366 following principles apply:

367 1. If the transferring candidate has been convicted of a felony of any nature or  
368 misdemeanor of moral turpitude in the previous ten (10) years under any state or  
369 federal law, or has been tried or convicted under Part XVI, Section VII for any reason,  
370 the transferring candidate shall be appointed only if there is substantial evidence  
371 supporting the appointment.

372 2. If the transferring candidate has been charged with any offense listed in Part XVI,  
373 Section II (regardless of the outcome), then the transferring candidate's appointment  
374 shall be withheld, pending resolution of the charge or Ministerial Efficiency  
375 Committee's recommendation, based on a review of her character.

376 3. If the transferring candidate has had two (2) or more complaints from any member  
377 filed against him or her (regardless of the outcome), then the Ministerial Efficiency  
378 Committee may recommend that the appointment be withheld.

379 h. In addition, all persons (clergy and lay) assigned, appointed and/or employed to  
380 positions within the African Methodist Episcopal Church involving the care and  
381 supervision of children must undergo a mandatory background check.

382 3. Liability and Insurance

383 The AME Church and all its individual congregations shall ensure that their liability



insurance policies cover sexual misconduct liability for its programs and activities. The Quarterly Conference shall be responsible for verifying that each local church has liability insurance covering sexual misconduct.

#### 4. Record Keeping

The AME Church and all its individual connectional conferences will include in every employee's personnel file, including clergy, the application for employment, any employment questionnaires reference responses, and other documents related to this Policy including a copy of the documents referenced in Part IV (A) above.

### E. Policies and Procedures for

#### Reporting a Complaint A. Policies

##### a. Intolerance of Rape, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault.

1. The African Methodist Episcopal Church does not tolerate sexual abuse of any child with or without consent under any circumstances.

2. Sexual abuse of a minor is a crime in all states, towns, provinces and districts and must be reported immediately to civil authorities and the police

3. Anyone who knows or has reason to suspect that child abuse has occurred or is occurring should be reported to civil authorities as required by law and to the church administrative authorities as designated herein.

4. Rape or sexual assault is a crime in all states, towns, provinces and districts, and must be reported to civil authorities.

5. Anyone who knows or has reason to suspect that child abuse has occurred or is occurring should be reported to civil authorities as required by law and to the church administrative authorities as designated herein.

#### B. Reporting Sexual Misconduct

1. The African Methodist Episcopal Church encourages reporting of all concerns relating to sexual misconduct.

2. A person who believes that sexual misconduct has occurred may report such misconduct to any person in the supervisory line of authority of the perpetrator.

3. When the procedure below is properly followed, allegations of sexual misconduct will be reported promptly, taken seriously, and thoroughly investigated.

4. When making reports under the procedure below, dependent upon the person being perpetrator, the persons in supervisory authority are as follows:

a. If the perpetrator serves at a local church, in any legally constituted capacity, then the person in supervisory authority is the Pastor of the church where the perpetrator serves.

b. If the perpetrator is the Pastor, then the person in supervisory authority is the Presiding Elder

c. If the perpetrator is the Presiding Elder, then the person in supervisory authority is the Bishop

d. If the perpetrator is the Bishop, then the person in supervisory authority is the

President of the Council of Bishops

e. If the perpetrator is the President of the Council of Bishops, then the person in supervisory authority is the Senior Bishop of the AMEC.

# I. Procedures

1. Statute of Limitations: The complainant must make a report under these procedures within one hundred and eighty (180) days from the date of the last act of misconduct, or in accordance with applicable federal law, whichever is longer. There shall be no statute of limitations for allegations for a child or childhood sexual abuse.

2. The complainant may make a verbal complaint to the person in supervisory authority. At the time the verbal complaint is made, the person receiving the complaint must make a written record of the reported incident not later than forty-eight (48) hours from his/her receipt of the complaint. The complainant has seven (7) days to submit a written and signed statement of the alleged misconduct to the supervisor to whom the verbal complaint was made. The supervisor shall immediately inform the complainant in writing that the complaint was received and refer the perpetrator to this Section (Part XVI, Section X) of the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

3. The complainant must prepare a written record of what happened. The written record should include: a) your name, address, telephone number and local church; b) the name, position, and local church (if any) of the person you believe has committed Clergy Sexual Misconduct; and c) a detailed description of the act(s) and/or incident(s) that are the basis for your complaint. It must be sworn under penalty of perjury. At the end of the document you must state "I declare these things to be true under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State, Town, Province or District of which the complaint is brought. Thereafter, the must affix his or her signature. This written record is your official complaint of the complainant.

4. The complainant must send the completed complaint via certified mail, return receipt requested, to all three of the following persons: The person in supervisory capacity. The Chairperson of the Judicial Council for the Annual Conference within which the incident(s) underlying the allegations occurred If the accused is not a clergy person, the completed complaint must be sent to the Pro Tem of the Steward Board of the local church, and the General Counsel of the AME Church.

5. When an official complaint is submitted against a clergy person, the clergy person must be temporarily suspended until the Judiciary Committee determines whether there is sufficient evidence to refer the matter to the Trial Committee, or whether the matter is unfounded. The guiding principles that a bishop should consider when determining whether to temporarily suspend a clergy person pending the recommendation from the Judicial Committee include:

a) Whether the complaint involves a minor

b) Whether an official complaint has been filed against the clergy person one (1) or more times



c) Whether two (2) or more different individuals have written letters, sent emails or made calls to a presiding elder or presiding bishop complaining that the clergy person has violated the sexual misconduct policy in the last four (4) years, but no official complaint was filed.

d) Whether there is any possibility that the clergy person may retaliate against the perpetrator

e) Whether the official complaint involves allegations of non-consensual physical activity (i.e. a forced kiss, touching or sexual activity).

6. If any one of the above guiding principles is applicable to the clergy person or the alleged facts included is the complainants complaint, the clergy person may temporarily suspended until the Judicial Committee makes its recommendation. If the clergy person is temporarily suspended, it shall be with pay.

7. If the perpetrator is a bishop, the Council of Bishops shall review the guiding principles and if any one of the guiding principles is applicable to the bishop or the alleged facts included in the complainant complaint, the bishop may be temporarily suspended pending the investigation of the official complaint. If the bishop is temporarily suspended, it shall be with pay during the investigation and before the matter is referred to trial.

8. If the perpetrator is not a bishop or clergy person, the pastor and Pro Tem of the Steward Board shall review the guiding principles and if any one of the guiding principles is applicable, the perpetrator may be temporarily suspended or removed from employment with the church or from a leadership position in the church, pending an investigation.

#### B) Responding to Complaint against Clergy

1. When the perpetrator is a member of the clergy who is not a bishop, the Judicial Committee shall investigate, report and respond to the accuser's complaint as follows:

A) The Judicial Committee must not include not fewer than two (2) women

B) Each member serving on the Judicial Committee must have completed the education and training under Part VI, Section X, Sub-section D-! herein.

C) The Judicial Committee is strongly encouraged to consult with an attorney and other experts on the matters of sexual misconduct and in preparation for the hearing.

2. If the perpetrator is a member of the clergy who is not a bishop, the Judicial Committee shall:

A) Within seven (7) days of receipt of the official complaint, notify both the perpetrator and the attorney for the Episcopal District in which the Judicial Committee of the Annual Conference sits that a complaint has been filed, and provide them each with a copy of the official complaint. The perpetrator may provide a written response to the accusations by forwarding his or her written response within fourteen (14) days to the chairperson of the Judicial Council.

B) No later than 30 (thirty) days from the date on which the complaint was received, the Judicial Committee shall in writing, via certified mail, return receipt requested, notify

the complainant and the perpetrator of (1) the , time and place of the hearing; (2) the necessity of their presence and participation in the hearing; (3) the right to present witnesses and or other evidence at the hearing;

(4) the right to have a advocate present; (5) and the results of failure, testify and respond to legitimate inquiries of the Committee at the hearing.

(1) The Judicial Committee may formulate a special sub-committee to gather facts by conducting meetings with clergy, the alleged victim, the complainant and other knowledgeable parties, appropriate.

(2) Meticulous records are to be made of all meetings, telephone calls, and other collected information.

(3) From this investigation, a report shall be written and presented to the chairperson of the Judicial Committee.

C) Within sixty (60) days from the date on which the complaint was received, the Judicial Committee must hold a hearing on the allegations.

(1) the hearing shall be conducted by the Judicial Committee, which shall include at least two (2) women as members when pursuant as clergy sexual misconduct are at issue.

(2) Both the perpetrator and the complainant shall have the right to be accompanied by another person of his or her choice who shall be allowed to speak on his or her behalf.

(3) Whether or not the accompanying person speaks, the perpetrator and the complainant shall be required to speak regarding the allegations and shall be required to respond to the legitimate inquiries of the Committee.

(4) All testimonies shall be rendered under oath.

(5) The refusal of either party to attend the hearing shall not be cause for the hearing not to proceed.

3) If the perpetrator is a bishop, the president of the Council of Bishops or the senior Bishop of the AME Church, shall commence and or convene the appropriate investigative body for action within the timelines articulated in Part XVI, Section X, Sub-section E-2-b-2 herein.

4) Confidentiality is mandatory in matters relating to all complaints of sexual misconduct.

5) Disclosure of the receipt of a complaint or any matter or detail related thereto is restricted solely to the process and individuals identified within this Policy.

6) Any person making unauthorized disclosure of any matter pertaining to any allegation or hearing of the same, pursuant to the provisions described and particularized herein, violates the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and order of the AME Church, and shall be charged and tried pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

7) The Judicial Committee shall elect from its members a presiding officer and a secretary who shall record proceedings, with or without the aid of a mechanical device or professional reporter.

8) Upon completion of a thorough review, the Judicial Committee will determine whether there is sufficient evidence fr the matter to be referred to the Trial Committee

for a hearing, or whether the charges were, in the considered opinion of the committee, “unfounded”. If the charges are deemed to be unfounded, the charges should be dropped and the bishop need not take action.

9) Within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the hearing, the Judicial Committee shall provide the complainant and the perpetrator with a written declaration regarding the basis for the decision(s) made by the Committee. The notice shall be sent via certified mail - return receipt requested.

10) Within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the hearing, the Judicial Committee shall submit a written report of the proceedings; a copy of any verbatim transcript taken during the proceedings; the findings of the committee, including whether or not the proceedings are to be referred to a duly constituted Trial Committee and a record of any previous complaints of sexual misconduct that have been sustained against the accused. The written record (with attachments) shall be sent via certified mail to (a) the person in supervisory capacity over the perpetrator, (b) the General Counsel for the AME Church and © the bishop of the district within which the complaint arose.

#### C. Responding to Complaints against Non-Clergy

1. If the perpetrator is not a clergy person, the complaint will be processed according to Pat XVI, Section VII, Sub-section E (Trial of Lay Members) herein.

2. The same timelines for processing the complaint as stated in Part XVI, Section X, Sub-section E-2- b-2 for clergy sexual misconduct shall apply.

#### F. Roles and Responsibilities of the Supervising Bishop or the President of the Council of Bishops

1. Once the written report of the Judicial Committee is received by the Bishop of the district and annual conference within which the Judicial Committee was convened (or if the accused is the Bishop, the President of the Council of Bishops), the bishop shall take the following steps:

a) The Annual Conference, Episcopal District or the Council of Bishops must make an offer to the person who makes (persons who make) an allegation for the receipt of of mental health counseling. This counseling is to be paid for by the use of appropriate benevolent funds subsequent to the declared offense.

b) If the complaint is deemed to be “unfounded”, the bishop need not take any further action except to restore the clergy person to a position that is equal or greater than the position from which he or she was temporarily suspended, if available.

c) If the complaint is “sustained”, the bishop shall within seven (7) days of receiving notice that a complaint has been sustained against a clergy person (whether the clergy person as a bishop or not), enforce the findings of the Judicial Committee as follows:

1. If the perpetrator has been convicted of a crime or a complaint has been sustained for child sexual abuse, rape or sexual assault, the bishop must demand the immediate and permanent surrender of the ministerial assignments, responsibilities and credentials of the accused.

2. If the Judicial Committee, in review of the allegations, determines that there is sufficient evidence, the matter must be referred to the trial Committee of the Annual



Conference by the bishop.

3. The procedure of trial shall follow under the provisions of Part XVI, Section VII, Subsection C (Trail of Itinerant Preachers) herein.

2. Once the written report of the Judicial and/or Trial Committee is received by the bishop of the district and annual conference within which the Judicial and/or Trial Committee was convened for, (or, if the perpetrator is the bishop, the President of the Council of Bishops), the bishop shall take the following steps:

a) Unsustained Allegations

i. If the Judicial Committee determines that there is no reasonable cause to believe that misconduct has occurred, there shall be official written documentation that the investigation produced no evidence to support the allegations.

ii. Every effort will be made to restore the clergy person's reputation and status.

iii. The bishop shall provide encouragement and pastoral support.

iv. Every effort shall be made to secure apology from the complainant and exoneration before the congregation.

v. The finding that the allegations were unfounded will be shared as widely as the original allegation was made public.

b) Sustained Allegations

i. If the complaint is "sustained", the bishop shall, within seven (7) days of receiving notice that a complaint has been sustained against the clergy person (whether the clergy person is a bishop or not), enforce the findings of the Committee in accordance with the penalties set forth herein.

ii. If the perpetrator has been convicted of a crime or a complaint has been sustained for child sexual abuse, rape, sexual assault, the bishop must demand the immediate and permanent surrender of the ministerial assignments, responsibilities and credentials of the accused.

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When the case is pursuant to that of sexual misconduct, the Trial Committee shall be constituted as

follows:

A. All eligible names of male itinerant preachers shall be placed on individual slips and placed in a box and six (6) names shall be drawn from the said box; and

B. All the eligible names of female itinerant preachers shall be placed on individual slips and placed in a separate box and six (6) names shall be drawn from the box.

C. In case the conference does not have twelve (12) itinerant elders, two-thirds (2/3) of the eligible list shall be drawn.

D. Half (1/2) of the Trial Committee shall be comprised of female preachers.

E. In case the Conference does not have a commensurate number of female itinerant elders to comprise half (1/2) of the Trial Committee, the maximum number of female itinerant elders available shall be appointed to the committee.

## 2. Rights

a. Both the perpetrator and the complainant shall have the right to be accompanied by another person of his or her choice, who shall be allowed to speak on his or her behalf.

b. Whether or not the accompanying person speaks, the perpetrator and complainant shall be required to speak regarding the allegations and shall be required to respond to the legitimate inquiries of the Trial Committee.

c. All testimonies shall be rendered under oath.

d. The refusal of either party to attend the hearing shall not be cause for the hearing not to proceed.

3. Presiding Officer and Secretary

a) The Trail Committee shall select from the members a presiding officer and secretary.

b) The secretary shall record the proceedings, with or without the aid of a mechanical device or professional reporter.

## 4. Timelines

a) Within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the hearing, the Trial Committee shall provide the perpetrator and the perpetrator with a written decision stating (1) whether the complaint was sustained or unsustained and (2) the basis for the decision(s) made by the Committee. This notice shall be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested.

b) Within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the hearing, the Trail Committee shall submit a written report of the proceedings; a copy of any verbatim transcript taken during the proceedings; the findings of the Committee, including whether the complaint was sustained, and a record of any previous complaints of sexual misconduct that have been sustained against the perpetrator.

c) The written record (with attachments), shall be sent via certified mail, to (1) the person in supervisory capacity over the perpetrator, (2) the General Counsel for the AME Church and (3) the bishop of the district within which the complaint arose.

## 5. Penalties

### a) First offense

i. Immediate surrender all duties, responsibilities and credentials of the ministerial office for a period of not less than six (6) months nor more than twenty-four (24) months, the duration to be determined by the circumstances and severity of the offense.



ii. The accused clergy will be considered for reinstatement after (a) receiving appropriate counselling from a licensed, mental health professional approved by the Trail Committee, (b) acknowledging responsibility for his or her actions and © communicating remorse to those who were harmed.

b) Second Offense

i. Immediate surrender of ministerial office, duties, responsibilities and credentials for a period of not less than two (2) years or more than five(5) years, the duration to be determined by the circumstances and severity of the offense.

ii. The accused clergy person will be considered for reinstatement after (a) receiving appropriate counseling from a licensed, mental health professional approved by the Trail Committee, (b) acknowledging responsibility for his or her actions and © communicating remorse to those who were harmed.

c) Third Offense

i. Immediate and permanent surrender of all duties, responsibilities and credentials of the ministerial office.

ii. The accused clergy person shall be asked to (a) obtain appropriate counseling from a licensed, mental-health professional approved by the Trail Committee (b) acknowledging responsibility for his or her actions and © communicating remorse to those who were harmed.

iii. The accused clergy shall not be considered for reinstatement. H.Roles and Responsibilities of the General Counsel for the AME Church

Upon receipt of an official complaint, as described above, the General Counsel for the AME Church must:

1. Comply with any mandated reporting requirements;
2. Notify the bishop under who the accused serves or, of the accused is a bishop, the President of the Council of Bishops, that a complaint has been received;
3. Maintain a copy of the complaint, any response from the accused and the record provided by the Judicial Committee and Trial Committee for a period of not less than four\*4) years from the date the last document is received, and
4. In the event legal action has been commenced at the time of receipt of the complaint, General Counsel for the AME Church shall notify the appropriate liability insurance representatives.

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738 A person against whom a complaint of Sexual Misconduct has been sustained shall have  
 739 the right to appeal.

740 2. Notice

741 a) A formal notice of appeal must be filed within thirty (30) days of receipt of the  
 742 written notice of decision from the Trail Committee.

743 b) The notice shall be provided according to Part XVI, Section VII (Appeals) herein.

744 3. Stay of Penalties

745 The bishop shall have the discretion when ruling on the matters pertaining to a stay  
 746 of enforcing the penalty of relinquishing credentials and pastoral assignments during  
 747 the appeals process.

748 4. Rights

749 Each party retains all rights and privileges granted by local, state, federal and  
 750 international law.

751 5. Triers of Appeals

752 a) The matter shall be referred to the Triers of Appeals, in accordance with the  
 753 procedures outlined in Part XVI, Section IX, Sub-section D herein

754 b) Triers of Appeals may only consider matters where due process is deemed violated,  
 755 and may only consider “new evidence” if said evidence will have bearing on the  
 756 outcome of the sustained verdict

757

758 **Approved**

• 759 No

760

761 Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Reverend

**First and Last Name**

franklin membe

**Email**

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**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**

Lusaka

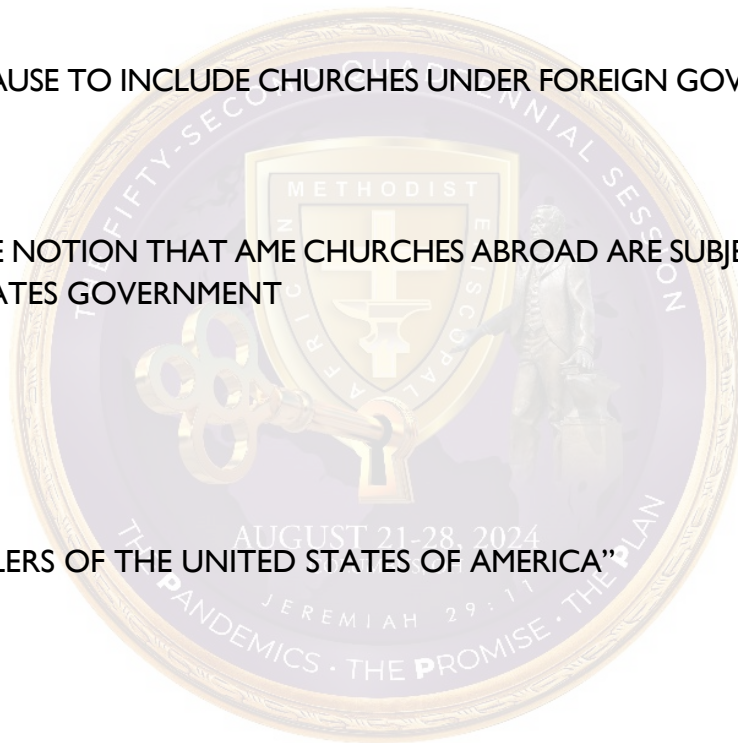
**Amended Text**

"23. OF THE RULERS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA"

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Reverend

**First and Last Name**

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**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**

“OF THE RULERS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA”

**Amended Text**

AT END OF ARTICLE INCLUDE THE WORDS,

‘NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE REFERENCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ALL AME CHURCHES OUTSIDE THE USA AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Reverend

**First and Last Name**

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[franklinmembe@gmail.com](mailto: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**

OF THE RULERS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Amended Text**

NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE REFERENCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ALL AME CHURCHES OUTSIDE THE USA AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

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**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**

OF THE RULERS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Amended Text**

NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE REFERENCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ALL AME CHURCHES OUTSIDE THE USA AND THEIR MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Reverend

**First and Last Name**

franklin membe

**Email**franklinmembe@gmail.com**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

N/A

**Intent**

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

**Rationale**

1. TO HAVE SELF DETERMINATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF AFRICA'S 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**

N/A

**Amended Text**

PART XVI – THE AFRICA JURISDICTION COUNCIL (AJC) 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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Reverend

**First and Last Name**

franklin membe

**Email**franklinmembe@gmail.com**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

N/A

**Intent**

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

**Rationale**

1. TO HAVE SELF DETERMINATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF AFRICA'S 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**

N/A

**Amended Text**

PART XVI – THE AFRICA JURISDICTION COUNCIL (AJC) 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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

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**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**

NONE

**Amended Text**

THE 51<sup>st</sup> GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AME CHURCH HEREBY  
 1. CREATES THE AFRICA JURISDICTION COUNCIL GENERAL CONFERENCE (AJC-GC) FOR PURPOSES OF PROVIDING DIRECTION FOR THE LEGISLATING, EXECUTING AND INTERPRETATION OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GC FOR SELF DETERMINATION AND ADMINISTERING OF AFRICA'S OWN CHURCH BUSINESS TO REFLECT THE ASPIRATIONS AND WISHES OF THE AME CHURCH IN AFRICA.  
 2. CREATED AJC GENERAL BOARD COMMISSION OF THE AFRICAN JURISDICTIONS  
 3. THE AJC COUNCIL SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Reverend

**First and Last Name**

franklin membe

**Email**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**

NONE

**Amended Text**

- THE 51st GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AME CHURCH HEREBY CREATES THE AFRICA JURISDICTION COUNCIL GENERAL CONFERENCE (AJC-GC) AND
- MANDATES THE SAME TO PROVIDE DIRECTION FOR THE LEGISLATING, EXECUTING AND INTERPRETATION OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GC FOR SELF DETERMINATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF AFRICA'S OWN BUSINESS TO REFLECT THE ASPIRATIONS AND WISHES OF THE AME CHURCH IN AFRICA EXCLUSIVELY FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHILE REMAINING PART OF THE CONNECTIONAL CHURCH.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Reverend

**First and Last Name**

franklin membe

**Email**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**

NONE

**Amended Text**

- THE 51st GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AME CHURCH HEREBY CREATES THE AFRICA JURISDICTION COUNCIL GENERAL CONFERENCE (AJC-GC) AND
- MANDATES THE SAME TO PROVIDE DIRECTION FOR THE LEGISLATING, EXECUTING AND INTERPRETATION OF THE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GC FOR SELF DETERMINATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF AFRICA'S OWN BUSINESS TO REFLECT THE ASPIRATIONS AND WISHES OF THE AME CHURCH IN AFRICA EXCLUSIVELY FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHILE REMAINING PART OF THE CONNECTIONAL CHURCH.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Reverend

**First and Last Name**

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**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**

NEW

**Amended Text**

THE AJC GC IS HEREBY MANDATED AS FOLLOWS :-

- TO WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS OF THE 51<sup>st</sup> GC 2020, CARRY OUT A RE-DISTRICTING EXERCISE OF THE EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS IN AFRICA;
- ELECT BISHOPS AND GENERAL OFFICERS FOR THE AJC-GC

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Reverend

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**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**

NONE

**Amended Text**

- THE AJC GC SHALL ADOPT THE MISSION AND PURPOSE AS ENSHRINED IN THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND MAY AMEND THE SAME WITH PROVISIONS TO ALLOW FOR EXCLUSIVE SELF DETERMINATION AND ADMINISTERING OF THE AFFAIRS OF AFRICA'S OWN CHURCH BUSINESS TO REFLECT THE ASPIRATIONS AND WISHES OF THE AME CHURCH IN AFRICA EXCLUSIVELY FOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES
- SUCH AMENDMENTS SHALL HOWEVER NOT CONTRADICT THE SPIRIT OF THE CONNECTIONAL CHURCH IN AS FAR AS SUCH CONNECTIONAL PROVISIONS OF THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SHALL NOT BE CONTRARY TO THE HOLY BIBLE

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

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**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

PAGE 308: PART XV SECTION VII SUB SECTION D STRUCTURE CLAUSE I THE FREDERICK CALHOM

JAMES CENTRE OF AME SERVICE - Sub-section D STRUCTURE Clause I 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**

AS IT IS WITH AN INCLUSION

**Amended Text**

- COMPOSITION is amended by the inclusion of the words, 'and 2 members appointed by the AJC'

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Reverend

**First and Last Name**

franklin membe

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**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

PAGE 309: PART XV SECTION VII SUB SECTION D STRUCTURE CLAUSE I 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**

AS IT IS WITH AN INCLUSION

**Amended Text**

SUB-SECTION E MEMBERSHIP IS AMENDED BY THE INCLUSION OF THE WORDS, 'AND 2 MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE AJC'

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Reverend

**First and Last Name**

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**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**

NEW

**Amended Text**

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE OF BISHOP SHALL BE

1. NATIONALS OF AFRICA,
2. MINIMUM AGE OF 40 AND NOT EXCEEDING 72 YEARS OF AGE AT THE TIME OF SEEKING OFFICE.
3. HAVE ATTENDED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL
4. MUST HAVE ATTAINED A MINIMUM ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION OF A DEGREE IN ANY DISCIPLINE;
5. MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF A DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY FROM AN UNQUESTIONABLE INSTITUTION OF LEARNING;
6. HAS SERVED AS PASTOR FOR NOT LESS THAN TWO QUADRENNIAL TERMS;
7. IS IN GOOD STANDING.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Reverend

**First and Last Name**

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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**

NEW

**Amended Text**

IN ORDER TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION OF THE AJC, THERE SHALL BE PROVIDED A BUDGETARY ALLOCATION BY THE CONNECTIONAL GENERAL CONFERENCE TO SUBSIDIZE THE ANTICIPATED HIGH INITIAL COSTS IN THE SHORT RUN SPECIFICALLY THE SETTING UP OF THE AJC AND FUNDING OF THE 1st AJC GENERAL CONFERENCE.

THIS IS ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE AJC GC SHALL BE CONTRIBUTING TO THE CONNECTIONAL GC SO AS TO LAY A FOUNDATION FOR RECIPROCITY IN TERMS

42 RECEIVING PERIODIC DEVELOPMENT FUND ALREADY EARMARKED BY THE  
43 CONNECTIONAL GC FOR CHURCHES IN DEVELOPING NATIONS UNDER THE GDC AND  
44 THROUGH EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS.

45  
46 **Approved**

47 • No

48 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Reverend

**First and Last Name**

Anthony Steele

**Email**

[assteele@msn.com](mailto:assteele@msn.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

None. It appeared on page 22 in the 2016 Doctrine and Discipline book.

**Intent**

To return the verbiage of remembrance of the Mother Emanuel Martyrs and Survivors of Charleston, South Carolina voted and passed at the 2016 General Conference and printed in the 2016 AME Doctrine and Discipline.

**Rationale**

The remembrance of the Mother Emanuel Martyrs and Survivors of Charleston, South Carolina was voted and passed at the 2016 General Conference and printed in the 2016 AME Doctrine and Discipline. The passed legislation appeared in the 2016 AME Doctrine and Discipline, and subsequently was removed from the 2021 AME Doctrine and Discipline without any legislation presented, voted on, or passed to the contrary. This is to replace what has already been approved by the 2016 General Conference. We must never forget our tragedy and our triumph of that night in AME Church History.

**Current Text**

None in the 2021 Doctrine and Discipline.

**Amended Text**

Remembering the Emanuel Martyrs and Survivors

Every congregation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church will conduct yearly a brief ceremony to remember the nine members of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston, S.C., who were brutally murdered on June 17, 2015, during Bible Study: Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton (45); Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd (54); Susie J. Jackson (87); Ethel Lee Lance (70); Rev. DePayne Middleton (49); Honorable Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney (41); Tywanza Sanders (26); Rev. Daniel L. Simmons, Sr. (74); Myra Singleton Thompson (59), as well as the survivors Felicia Sanders, Polly Sheppard, Jennifer Pinckney, Rev. Anthony Thompson, and two minors. This ceremony

will be conducted during Sunday worship service, in perpetuity. Each congregation will conduct the ceremony under independent guidelines. The ceremony will be conducted on the immediate Sunday following June 17, except those years when June 17 is on Sunday, in which case the ceremony will be held on June 17.

**Approved**

No

Read Full Amendment





**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto: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**

The entirety of Section XIII, pages 591-597

**Amended Text****ARTICLE I - Name**

The name of the organization shall be the Christian Debutante-Master Commission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**ARTICLE II - Purpose**

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,.

**ARTICLE III - Structure**

The Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC) shall function under the Department of Christian Education.

**ARTICLE IV – Goals and Objectives**

I. To promote growth and development by conducting workshops, training programs on all levels for youth and adults.

2. To acquaint young people with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His ministry.
3. To provide wholesome recreation and fellowship for youth and adults in the Christian Debutante- Master Commission (CDMC).
4. To interact with other youth organizations such as YPD and RAYAC.
5. To hold culminating religious ceremonies for the Debutantes and Masters on all levels.
6. To organize a Christian Debutante-Master Commission in all A.M.E. Churches throughout the connectional church.

7. To recruit and train leaders to serve in the Christian Debutante-Master Commission. ARTICLE V – Membership

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.

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

#### ARTICLE VI – Officers

Section 1. The appointed and elected officers of the CDMC shall be:

- A. Administrator/Commissioner
- B. 1st Vice President/Commissioner
- C. 2nd Vice President/Commissioner
- D. Recording Secretary
- E. Assistant Recording Secretary
- F. Corresponding Secretary
- G. Treasurer
- H. Historiographer
- I. Worship Leader
- J. Parliamentarian
- K. Social Media Coordinator

Section 2. Only persons who have held/now hold office on the Episcopal District or Annual Conference level are eligible to hold office on the Connectional level.

#### ARTICLE VII – Election of Officers

Section 1. The officers listed in Article VI shall be elected by plurality.

Section 2. The Connectional Officers shall be elected to a four (4) year term at the Connectional Christian Education Congress.

Section 3. The election shall be conducted by the Chairman of the Commission on Christian Education or a designee.

Section 4. The duties of the officers shall be such as ordinarily pertain to their respective offices. Section 5. No person may hold the same position for more than two (2) consecutive quadrennials. 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. Section 7.

The officers shall be elected to a four (4) year term during the year of the

85 Connectional Christian Education Congress beginning in 2014.

86 Section 8. The election shall be conducted by the Executive Director of Christian  
87 Education or his/her designee.

88 ARTICLE VIII – Meetings

89 The Connectional CDMC shall meet annually during the MCE meeting to prepare its  
90 goals and objectives for the year and to present them to the Department of Christian  
91 Education and at the General Board Meeting.

92 ARTICLE IX – Duties of Officers

93 A. Administrator/Commissioner – shall assume responsibilities for the overall CDMC  
94 Program. The Administrator/Commissioner shall coordinate workshops for the Annual  
95 MCE meetings, Annual CDMC Institute, and the Christian Education Congress in  
96 collaboration with the Executive Director of

97 Christian Education. The Administrator/Commissioner shall submit written reports to  
98 the General Board, General Conference, Annual MCE and CDMC Institute meetings. The  
99 Administrator/Commissioner shall preside over the Executive Board, all meetings of  
100 the CDMC.

101 B. 1st Vice President/Commissioner – shall assume the complete duties of the  
102 Administrator/Commissioner during the absence or when it has been determined by  
103 the Executive Board that the Administrator/Commissioner can no longer perform  
104 the duties.

105 C. 2nd Vice President/Commissioner – shall in the absence of the  
106 Administrator and 1st Vice Commissioner, preside at all the meetings and  
107 assume all duties of the office of Administrator/Commissioner.

108 D. Recording Secretary – shall be responsible for the recording of attendance and  
109 accurate minutes of all business transacted during meeting and shall read the minutes  
110 of any previous meetings, when called upon to do so by the  
111 Administrator/Commissioner. The Recording Secretary shall prepare the minutes of  
112 meetings and serve as custodian of all records and information.

113 E. Assistant Recording Secretary – shall assist the Recording Secretary in keeping  
114 accurate records and, in the absence of the Secretary, shall perform the duties of  
115 the Recording Secretary.

116 F. Corresponding Secretary – shall review all correspondence, report pertinent  
117 information to the Executive Board, and reply to correspondence as directed by  
118 the Administrator/Commissioner.

119 G. Treasurer – shall receive all monies and disburse same upon authorization of the  
120 Administrator/Commissioner, as approved by the body. The Treasurer shall keep  
121 accurate records and give an itemized report at each Executive Board meeting,  
122 Christian Education Congress, MCE meeting and whenever called upon to do so by  
123 the administrator..

124 H. Historiographer – shall keep a written and pictorial record of the  
125 participants, activities and achievements of the organization and make it  
126 available upon request.

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.

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.

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.

#### Article X – Committees

##### Section 1. Standing Committees

A. Constitution and By-Law Committee

B. Membership & Recruitment Committee

C. Handbook Committee

D. Curriculum Development Committee

E. Statistical Committee

F. Scholarship Committee

G. Outreach Committee

H. Dedication & Program

Planning Committee Section 2.

##### Special Committees

A. Advisory Board

B. Budget & Finance Committee

C. Credentials &  
Nomination Committee

#### ARTICLE XI – Duties of Committees

##### Section 1. Standing Committees

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.

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.

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.

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.

E. Statistical Committee – shall maintain a written record of participants by Episcopal District.

F. Scholarship Committee – shall evaluated 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.

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.

H. Dedication & Program Planning Committee – shall be responsible for planning and implementing the total program of the activities and Dedication Ceremony.

## Section 2. Special Committees

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

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.

C. Credentials & Nomination Committee – shall receive and verify all credentials for elected officers before placing an individual's 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.

## ARTICLE XII – Amendments

This constitution may be amended by the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

## ARTICLE XIII – Executive Board

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:

- a. The affairs of the CDMC of the African Methodist Episcopal Church;
- b. The Quadrennial meeting (held at the seat of the general conference) of the organization;
- c. The Annual meeting/CDMC Institute;
- d. The Connectional Dedication Ceremony program; and
- e. The filling of



212 vacancies in any office.

213 **ARTICLE XIV –**

214 **Finances**

215 All administrative and operational expenses plus promotional funds for CDMC shall be  
 216 funded by annual dues from members of CDMC, or other income. All profit from  
 217 membership patrons shall be used for the Connectional CDMC Ceremony and other  
 218 ongoing programs of CDMC expand the budget for youth advancement, enrichment and  
 219 social service programs, for African Methodist Episcopal Church involvement in  
 220 community and national outreach projects as decided upon by the General Board,  
 221 Council of Bishops or the General Conference.

222 **ARTICLE XV – By-Laws**

223 The CDMC of the African Methodist Episcopal Church may adopt by-laws consist with the  
 224 constitution. The by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the CDMC of the  
 225 African Methodist Episcopal Church by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present  
 226 and voting thereof, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given at a  
 227 previous regular meeting or in writing.

228 **ARTICLE XVI**

229 The Presiding Bishop of each Episcopal District shall appoint a District Commissioner of  
 230 the CDMC of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The District Commissioner shall  
 231 work with the Bishop and Conference Commissioners to establish an Episcopal District  
 232 program and in identifying special projects. Each Annual Conference shall have a  
 233 Conference Commissioner appointed by the Presiding Bishop. Presiding Elders shall  
 234 appoint a Commissioner in their District who will supervise the work of the CDMC;  
 235 and local Pastors shall appoint a Commissioner who will supervise the work of the  
 236 CDMC.

237

238 **Approved**

- 239 • No

240

241 Read Full Amendment

**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto: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.

**Current Text**

The entirety of Section IV, pages 503-518

**Amended Text**

SECTION IV.

THE RICHARD ALLEN YOUNG ADULT COUNCIL

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Just as God called Joshua to lead the children of Israel into the Promise Land, Samuel to proclaim his word and Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem, even so, God has called a new generation of believers to make God known. God is calling for young men and

women to serve as God's ambassadors and ministers of reconciliation in the midst of life's transition. Now is the time to take our place in the struggle. Now is the time to serve the present age our callings to fulfill.

#### ARTICLE I — NAME

The name of this organization will be the Richard Allen Young Adult Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

#### ARTICLE II—MISSION

The mission of the RAYAC is to minister to the intellectual (mind), physical (body) and spiritual (spirit) needs of the members of the AME Church.

#### ARTICLE III — PURPOSE

The fourfold purpose of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council includes the following:

1. Discipleship Bring young adults into a covenant relationship with Jesus Christ, teaching them how to live Christ-centered lives, and serve as Christian mentors to youths.
2. Leadership training Develop young adults into Christian leaders within the AME Church and the community at large to effectively represent and voice the concerns of a new generation.
3. Fellowship Create and provide opportunities for Christian fellowship among young adults.
4. Networking
  - a. Provide resources for young adult ministries within the AME Church and the community at large.
  - b. Provide opportunities for young adults to use God-given gifts and talents for Kingdom building.

#### ARTICLE IV — MOTTO

"I Must Be About My Father's

Business." ARTICLE V —

#### COLORS

Black—Symbolizes the mystery of God. Red—Symbolizes the life of God. Silver—Symbolizes the presence of God.

#### ARTICLE VI — STRUCTURE

Section 1. The structure of this organization shall be consistent on the connectional, episcopal, Conference, presiding elder district and local levels.

Section 2. Each level of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council, Young Adult Network

and Young Adult Ministry shall operate within the framework of the Executive Board and the Bylaws as set forth from the Connectional Richard Allen Young Adult Council level.

## ARTICLE VII — MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person, who is in good and regular standing in the local church between the ages of 21

- 45, clergy or lay, is eligible to be a member.

## ARTICLE VIII — OFFICERS

Section 1. There shall be elected and appointed officers at each level of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council as set forth in the Bylaws of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council.

Section 2. The tenure and duties of each officer shall be as set forth in the

## Bylaws. ARTICLE IX — AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These articles shall be amended at the Connectional Christian Education Congress during a

meeting Richard Allen Young Adult Council, by two-thirds (2/3) vote upon the

following conditions: a. All proposed constitutional amendments or Bylaws shall be

received by the Constitution and Bylaws committee of the Richard Allen Young Adult

Council no later than the last regularly scheduled Executive Board Meeting proceeding

the Quadrennial Convention or the General Conference. b. The Constitution and

Bylaws Committee shall meet at a time designated by the President and Chair to

review and prepare the proposed amendments and Bylaws of the Richard Allen Young

Adult Council. Proposed amendments shall be mailed to the registered delegates, no

later than two months prior to the meeting at the Connectional Christian Education

Congress.

Section 2. Upon adoption and before the effective date of the amendment to the Constitution or

Bylaws, the secretary of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, may correct

punctuation, grammar, or numbering when appropriate, if the correction(s) does (do)

not change the meaning of the amendments.

Section 3. Constitution and Bylaw amendments shall become law only upon

ratification by the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church,

collecting and assembling by the Compilation Committee of the General Conference,

and printing per The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal

Church.

## B. Bylaws



123 BYLAWS OF THE RICHARD ALLEN YOUNG ADULT COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN  
124 METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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130 ARTICL  
131 E I —  
132 NAME

133 Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC) of the African Methodist

134 Episcopal Church. ARTICLE II — OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

135 Section 1. The Richard Allen Young Adult Council and its Executive Board are amenable  
136 to the Commission on Christian Education and the Executive Director (Secretary-  
137 Treasurer) of the Department of Christian Education.

138  
139 Section 2. The Executive Board

140  
141 The Executive Board of the RAYAC shall be comprised of the elected officers,  
142 appointed officers, and chairpersons of committees and the Immediate Past  
143 Connectional President. The Chairperson of the Commission on Christian Education  
144 and the Executive Secretary of Christian Education shall serve as ex-officio (non-  
145 voting) members of the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall be empowered to  
146 conduct the business of the organization during the interim of the RAYAC  
147 Quadrennial Convention which is held at the site of the Connectional Christian  
148 Education Congress.

149  
150 ARTICLE III — MEMBERSHIP

151 Section 1. Membership in this organization shall be comprised of all lay and clergy  
152 members between the ages of 21 – 45 in good and regular standing in their local  
153 church.

154  
155 Section 2. The voting membership of the RAYAC shall consist of all registered delegates  
156 between the ages of 21 - 45.

157  
158 ARTICLE IV — OFFICERS

159  
160 Section 1. The elected officers of the RAYAC shall be:

- 161 a. President
- 162 b. Vice President
- 163 c. Second Vice President



- d. Recording Secretary
- e. Corresponding Secretary
- f. Treasurer
- g. Parliamentarian
- h. Chaplain
- i. Editor
- j. Historian

Section 2. No person under twenty-six years of age shall be eligible to run for elected office on the connectional level.

Section 3. The appointed officers shall assume office when appointed by the Connectional President.

Section 4. The Connectional President of the RAYAC shall be recognized as a Connectional Officer of the AME Church, an ex-officio member of the General Board and a member of the General Conference.

#### ARTICLE V — ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. All elected officers shall be elected by ballot and a majority vote will be needed for election.

Section 2. The Connectional Officers shall be elected to a four (4) year term.

Section 3. The Chair of the Commission on Christian Education or his or her designee shall conduct the election.

#### ARTICLE VI — MEETINGS

Section 1. The Connectional RAYAC Convention shall meet quadrennially at the site of the Connectional Christian Education Congress.

Section 2. The executive board shall meet at least annually and conduct an annual leadership-training institute.

#### ARTICLE VII — DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Council, appoint all committee chairpersons and members of all committees, and be an ex-officio member of all committees; shall be the chairperson of the Executive Board and the Quadrennial Convention. He or She shall have general supervision and direction of the work, which includes the coordination of the day to day operations of the RAYAC, and shall make

appointments to fill vacant elected offices during the interim of the Quadrennium with the advice and consent of the Executive Board. The President shall represent the Connectional RAYAC at the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The President shall report to the Commission on Christian Education during the regular session of the General Board meeting concerning the activities of the RAYAC.

Section 2. The Vice President shall serve in the absence of the President. He or she shall serve as Coordinator of the Connectional Standing Committees. He or she shall plan, evaluate, and promote the programs of the Connectional RAYAC under the direction of the President and the Executive Board.

Section 3. The Second Vice President shall serve in the absence of the President and First Vice President. He or she shall represent Districts 14-20 when a representative is unable to attend Connectional RAYAC functions. He or she shall work with the Episcopal District RAYAC Presidents from Districts 14-20 to coordinate Connectional RAYAC projects and activities. He or she shall be a member in good and regular standing of the organization in Districts 14-20.

Section 4. The Recording Secretary shall keep accurate records of all RAYAC business and, under the direction of the President, perform all other duties common to the office. In addition, the Recording Secretary shall make available to all members of the Connectional RAYAC minutes of all meetings within 45 days after the meeting.

Section 5. The Corresponding Secretary shall review correspondence, report pertinent information to the Executive Board, and reply to correspondence as directed by the President, assist the Recording Secretary in keeping all records, and in the absence of the Secretary shall perform his or her duties.

Section 6. The Treasurer, in cooperation with the Chairperson of Budget and Finance Committee, shall keep an accurate record of all funds allocated to the RAYAC. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Section 7. The Parliamentarian shall answer all questions of procedure referred to him or her and shall follow The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, RAYAC Constitution, and Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, at all meetings.

Section 8. The Chaplain shall open all meetings with devotional services and be responsible for all other programming as directed in consultation with the President and the Vice President.

Section 9. The Editor shall edit and publish at least semi-annually a newsletter containing issues concerning the activities, plights and news of general interest to young adults throughout the Connectional Church. The publication shall be distributed through all available media of mass communications to all officers and young adults throughout the church. The Editor shall be a member of the Public Relations Committee.

Section 10. The Historian shall be responsible for recording the history and other data of the RAYAC. In addition, the Historian shall keep statistical information important for research purposes. He or she shall report the compiled statistical information to the Chief Information Officer of the AME Church.

## ARTICLE VIII — COMMITTEES

### Section I. Standing Committees

- a. Program Planning
- b. Constitution and Bylaws
- c. Social Action
- d. Evangelism
- e. Budget and Finance
- f. Evaluation
- g. Public Relations

## ARTICLE IX — DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

### Section I. Standing Committee

a. Program Planning: This committee shall be responsible for planning and implementing the total program of the Connectional RAYAC. It shall promote evangelistic endeavors, the development of lay leadership among youth and young adults, the establishment of a youth church in all AME Churches and encourage youth and young adults to be involved in the total life of the AME Church, and in the world at large. All committee chairpersons shall be members of the Program Planning Committee.

b. Constitution and Bylaws: This committee shall revise, study and analyze all proposed constitutional changes and amendments and submit them to the Executive Board of the RAYAC. All revised, studied, and analyzed changes shall be submitted to the Executive Board no later than two months prior to the RAYAC Quadrennial Convention and/or prior to the General Conference.

c. Social Action: This committee shall devise ways and means to involve young adults in issues and concerns which impact upon them as Christians and as citizens. It shall seek to close the gap between church and community on social issues and international relations. It shall also be apprised of social concerns affecting Districts 14-20. At least one member from Districts 14-20 shall be a member of the Social Action Committee. The chairperson of this committee shall work closely with the Director of Social Action

of the AME Church.

d. Evangelism: This committee shall devise effective ways and means for youths and young adults to understand and witness to what God has done and is doing through Jesus Christ. Included should be services, training sessions, neighborhood canvasses, and retreats. The chairperson of this committee, in consultation with the President and the Chairperson of the Program Committee, shall establish specific goals and objectives. The chairperson of this committee shall work closely with the Director of Church Growth and Development of the AME Church.

e. Budget and Finance: This committee shall study the complete financial picture of the Connectional RAYAC. In consultation with the President, the Chairperson of the Program Committee and the other Committee Chairpersons, he or she shall assess the financial needs of the Connectional RAYAC and submit the same to the Commission on Christian Education.

f. Evaluation: This committee shall survey the strengths and weaknesses of the RAYAC program and make recommendations for improvement.

g. Public Relations: This committee shall be the liaison for channeling information to the connectional church. The Editor shall be a member of the Public Relations Committee.

## ARTICLE X — AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may only be amended as set forth in the Article IX of the Constitution of the Connectional RAYAC.

C. Episcopal  
District  
RAYAC

## ARTICLE I

### — PURPOSE

The purpose of the Episcopal District RAYAC shall be to implement and coordinate the work of the Connectional RAYAC in the conferences, as well as institute and implement programs and activities in

the episcopal district which afford an opportunity for ministry, training, and fellowship.

## ARTICLE II — MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this organization shall be comprised of all lay and clergy members between the ages of 21 – 45 in good and regular standing in their local church.

Section

Section 2. The organization shall consist of the Episcopal District Directors of Christian Education, elected episcopal district officers of the RAYAC, committee chairpersons as set forth by the President, as well as the Episcopal Director and conference RAYAC Presidents.



Section 3. The Conference Directors of Christian Education shall be ex officio members.

### ARTICLE III — OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of the Episcopal District Richard Allen Young Adult Council shall be:

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Recording Secretary
- d. Corresponding Secretary
- e. Treasurer
- f. Parliamentarian
- g. Chaplain
- h. Editor
- i. Historian

Section 2. No person under twenty-six years of age shall be eligible to run for or hold elected office. Section 3. The appointed officers shall be chairpersons of standing

committees who will assume office when appointed by the Episcopal District President.

Section 4. The Episcopal District President of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council shall be a member of the Episcopal District Board of Christian Education.

### ARTICLE IV — ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers listed in Article III shall be elected by ballot and a plurality shall elect. Section 2. The episcopal district officers shall be elected to a two-year term at the Episcopal District Christian Education Congress.

Section 3. The election shall be conducted by the bishop of the episcopal district. In the absence of the bishop the election shall be conducted by the Episcopal District Christian Education Director or the Connectional RAYAC President.

### ARTICLE V — MEETINGS

Section 1. The Episcopal District Richard Allen Young Adult Council shall meet at least twice a year to evaluate its work, identify objectives, and prepare to meet its goals for the next year.

Section 2. One meeting shall be at an Episcopal District meeting where the Christian Education Congress is held, and the second at an Episcopal District mid-year meeting or Episcopal District Convention.

Section 3. Specific meeting times shall be set by the President of the Episcopal District RAYAC, such that schedule conflicts do not occur between Department of Christian Education meetings and RAYAC

meetings.



## ARTICLE VI — DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the council, appoint all committee chairpersons and members of all committees, and be an ex-officio member of all committees. He or she shall have general supervision and direction of the work.

Section 2. The Vice President shall serve in the absence of the President. He or she shall serve as chairperson of the Episcopal District Program Committee. He or she shall plan, evaluate, and promote the program under the direction of the Episcopal District President and the Episcopal District Director of the Youth Division of Christian Education.

Section 3. The Recording Secretary shall keep accurate records of all RAYAC business and, under the direction of the president, perform all other duties common to the office. In addition, the Recording Secretary shall make available to all members of the Episcopal RAYAC minutes of all meetings.

Section 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall review correspondence, report pertinent information to the Executive Board, and reply to correspondence as directed by the President, assist the Recording Secretary in keeping all records, and in the absence of the Secretary shall perform his or her duties. Section 5. The Treasurer, in cooperation with the Treasurer of the Episcopal District Board of Christian Education, shall keep an accurate record of all funds allocated to the RAYAC. He or she shall be chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Section 6. The Parliamentarian shall answer all questions of procedure referred to him or her and shall follow The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Constitution, and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised at all meetings.

Section 7. The Chaplain shall open all meetings with devotional services and be responsible for all other programming as directed by the President and Program Committee.

Section 8. The Editor shall be responsible for the RAYAC newsletter, to be published at least twice a year, as well as other public relations material and literature.

Section 9. The Historian shall be responsible for recording the history and other data of the RAYAC. In addition, the Historian shall keep statistical information important for research purposes.

## ARTICLE VII — COMMITTEES

### Section 1. Standing Committees

- a. Program Planning
- b. Constitution and Bylaws
- c. Social Action
- d. Evangelism

### Section 2. Special Committees

- a. Budget and Finance

b. Evaluation

ARTICLE VIII — DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

a. Program Planning: This committee shall be responsible for planning and implementing the total program of the Episcopal District RAYAC. It shall promote evangelistic endeavors, the development of lay leadership among youths and young adults, the establishment of a youth church in all AME Churches in the episcopal district, and encourage youths and young adults to be involved in the total life of the church and in the world at large. All committee chairpersons shall be members of the Program Committee.

b. Constitution and Bylaws: This committee shall revise, study, and analyze all proposed constitutional changes and Bylaws and submit them to the Connectional Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

c. Social Action: This committee shall devise ways and means to involve youths and young adults in issues and concerns which impact upon them as Christians and citizens. It shall seek to close the gap between church and community on social issues. The chairperson of this committee shall work closely with the Connectional RAYAC Committee on Social Action.

d. Evangelism: This committee shall devise effective ways and means for youths and young adults to understand and witness to what God has done and is doing through Jesus Christ. Programs and services, retreats, and other activities should be planned. Specific goals should be established.

Section 2. Special Committees

a. Budget and Finance: This committee, with the Treasurer as Chairperson, shall study and assess the financial needs of the Episcopal District RAYAC and submit the request to the Episcopal District Board of Christian Education.

b. Evaluation: This committee shall survey the strengths and weaknesses of the RAYAC program in the district. It shall be composed of conference chairpersons and directors of Christian Education and selected young adults from within the episcopal districts.

ARTICLE IX — VOTING RIGHTS

All AME young adults registered in the Episcopal District Christian Education Congress or Leadership Training Institute between the ages of twenty-one and forty - five shall be eligible to vote.

D. Conf

erence

RAYAC

ARTICL

E I —

PURPO

SE

The purpose of the Conference RAYAC is to be the link between the Connectional, Episcopal and local organizations, and its purpose shall be the same as that of the RAYAC on the Connectional level.

ARTICLE II — MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Conference RAYAC shall consist of the Conference Chairperson, Director of Christian Education, Conference RAYAC elected officers, conference committee chairpersons as appointed by the President and Presiding Elder Districts RAYAC Presidents.

Section 2. Membership in this organization shall be comprised of all lay and clergy members between the ages of 21-45 in good and regular standing in their local church.

ARTICLE III — OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of this organization shall be the same as the Connectional level, with the same duties.

Section 2. No person under twenty-six years of age shall be eligible to run for or hold elected office. Section 3. The appointed officers shall be chairpersons of standing committees who will assume office when appointed by the Conference President.

Section 4. The Conference President of the RAYAC shall be a member of the Conference Board of Christian Education.

ARTICLE IV — ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers listed in Article III shall be elected by plurality.

Section 2. The conference officers shall be elected to a two (2) year term at a Conference Christian Education Institute to be set by the Conference Board of Christian Education.

Section 3. The election shall be conducted by the Chairperson of the Conference Board of Christian Education.

ARTICLE V — MEETINGS

The Conference RAYAC shall meet at least twice a year to prepare its goals and objectives for the year and to evaluate the work. Specific times and places shall be set by the President of the Conference RAYAC.

ARTICLE VI — DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The duties of all officers on the Conference level shall parallel those of their Connectional and episcopal district level counterparts.

ARTICLE VII — COMMITTEES

All Conference committees shall be appointed by the President and shall have the same function and responsibility as those on the Connectional and episcopal district levels.

ARTICLE

VIII — VOTING

All AME young adults registered at the Conference Christian Education Institute between the ages of twenty-one and forty - five shall be eligible to vote.

E. Presiding Elder

District RAYAC

ARTICLE I –

PURPOSE

Section 1. The RAYAC in the Presiding Elder District shall serve to coordinate the work of all youths and young adults, youth groups, auxiliaries, and organizations in the local church. It shall serve as the steering organization for all youths work and activities in the Presiding Elder District.

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Presiding Elder District RAYAC shall consist of Presiding Elder District Christian Education coordinators, Presiding Elder District RAYAC elected officers, and presiding elder directors or supervisors of youth departments or groups in the Presiding Elder's District church.

Section 2. Membership in this organization shall be comprised of all lay and clergy members between the ages of 21 – 45 in good and regular standing in their local church.

ARTICLE III — OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of the Presiding Elder District RAYAC shall be the same as on the Connectional, Episcopal, and Conference levels.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected from among the young adults who make up the council at their first meeting following the Annual Conference. The Presiding Elder shall conduct the elections.

Section 3. No person under the age of twenty-six shall be eligible to run



for office. Section 4. Officers shall be elected for a period of one year.

#### ARTICLE IV — MEETINGS

Section 1. The Presiding Elder District RAYAC shall meet during the District Conference and Church School Convention to plan, organize, and evaluate work of young adults in the Presiding Elder's District. Goals and objectives shall also be set at its meetings.

Section 2. Other meetings as necessary may be called by

#### the President ARTICLE V — DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The duties of all officers in the Presiding Elder District shall correspond with their counterparts on the Connectional, Episcopal, and Conference levels.

Section 2. The President shall be a member of the Presiding Elder's Council.

#### ARTICLE VI — COMMITTEES

Committees in the Presiding Elder District RAYAC shall be appointed by the President and have the same function and responsibility as those on the Connectional, Episcopal, and Conference levels.

#### ARTICLE VII

The Presiding Elder District director of Christian Education shall be the advisor to the RAYAC.

#### F. Local Church

#### RAYAC ARTICLE I — PURPOSE

Section 1. The RAYAC in the local church shall serve to coordinate the work of all young adults groups, auxiliaries and organizations in the local church. It shall serve as the steering organization for all young adult work and activities in the local church.

Section 2. It shall also function as an opportunity to give young adults time for fellowship and Christian experience.

#### ARTICLE II — MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in the local RAYAC shall consist of the presidents or heads of every Young Adult organization in the church and the local Director of Christian Education.

Section 2. Membership in this organization shall be comprised of all lay and clergy members between the ages of 21 - 45 in good and regular standing.

#### ARTICLE III — OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of the local RAYAC shall be the same as on the Connectional, Episcopal, Conference levels and Presiding Elder.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected from among the young adults who make up the



council at their first meeting following the Annual Conference. The pastor shall conduct the elections.

Section 3. No person under the age of twenty-six shall be eligible to run for office.

Section 4. Officers shall be elected for a period of one year.

#### ARTICLE IV — MEETINGS

Section 1. The local RAYAC shall meet quarterly to plan, organize, and evaluate youths work in the church. Goals and objectives shall also be set at its meetings.

Section 2. Other meetings as necessary may be called by the President.

#### ARTICLE V — DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The duties of all officers in the local church shall correspond with their counterparts on the Connectional, Episcopal, and Conference levels.

Section 2. The President shall be a member of the Official

#### Board. ARTICLE VI — COMMITTEES

Committees in the local RAYAC shall be appointed by the President and have the same function and

responsibility as those on the Connectional, Episcopal, Conference, and Presiding Elder levels.

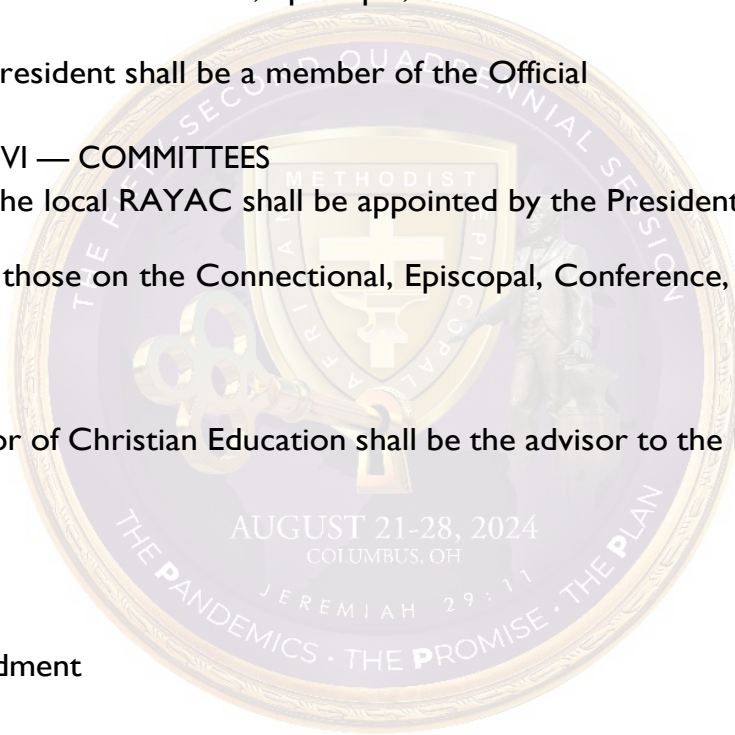
#### ARTICLE VII

The local director of Christian Education shall be the advisor to the RAYAC.

#### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto: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.

**Current Text**

The document as a whole found on pages 503-519

**Amended Text**

SECTION IV.

THE RICHARD ALLEN YOUNG ADULT COUNCIL

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Just as God called Joshua to lead the children of Israel into the Promise Land, Samuel to proclaim his word and Nehemiah to rebuild Jerusalem, even so, God has called a new generation of believers to make God known. God is calling for young men and women to serve as God's ambassadors and ministers of reconciliation in the midst of life's

transition. Now is the time to take our place in the struggle. Now is the time to serve the present age our callings to fulfill.

#### ARTICLE I — NAME

The name of this organization will be the Richard Allen Young Adult Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

#### ARTICLE II—MISSION

The mission of the RAYAC is to minister to the intellectual (mind), physical (body) and spiritual (spirit) needs of the members of the AME Church. ARTICLE III — PURPOSE The fourfold purpose of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council includes the following:

1. Discipleship Bring young adults into a covenant relationship with Jesus Christ, teaching them how to live Christ-centered lives, and serve as Christian mentors to youths.
2. Leadership training Develop young adults into Christian leaders within the AME Church and the community at large to effectively represent and voice the concerns of a new generation.
3. Fellowship Create and provide opportunities for Christian fellowship among young adults.
4. Networking
  - a. Provide resources for young adult ministries within the AME Church and the community at large.
  - b. Provide opportunities for young adults to use God-given gifts and talents for Kingdom building.

#### ARTICLE IV — MOTTO

“I Must Be About My Father’s

Business.” ARTICLE V —

#### COLORS

Black—Symbolizes the

mystery of God. Red—

Symbolizes the life of God.

Silver—Symbolizes the presence of God.

#### ARTICLE VI — STRUCTURE

Section 1. The structure of this organization shall be consistent on the connectional, episcopal, Conference, presiding elder district and local levels.

Section 2. Each level of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council, Young Adult Network and Young Adult Ministry shall operate within the framework of the Executive Board and the Bylaws as set forth from the Connectional Richard Allen Young Adult Council level.

#### ARTICLE VII — MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person, who is in good and regular standing in the local church between

the ages of 21  
- 45, clergy or lay, is eligible to  
be a member. ARTICLE VIII —

#### OFFICERS

Section 1. There shall be elected and appointed officers at each level of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council as set forth in the Bylaws of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council.

#### ARTICLE IX — AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These articles shall be amended at the Connectional Christian Education Congress during a meeting Richard Allen Young Adult Council, by two-thirds (2/3) vote upon the following conditions: a. All proposed constitutional amendments or Bylaws shall be received by the Constitution and Bylaws committee of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council no later than the last regularly scheduled Executive Board Meeting proceeding the Quadrennial Convention or the General Conference. b. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall meet at a time designated by the President and Chair to review and prepare the proposed amendments and Bylaws of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council. Proposed amendments shall be mailed to the registered delegates, no later than two months prior to the meeting at the Connectional Christian Education Congress.

Section 2. Upon adoption and before the effective date of the amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws, the secretary of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, may correct punctuation, grammar, or numbering when appropriate, if the correction(s) does (do) not change the meaning of the amendments.

Section 3. Constitution and Bylaw amendments shall become law only upon ratification by the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, collecting and assembling by the Compilation Committee of the General Conference, and printing per The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

#### B. Bylaws BYLAWS OF THE RICHARD ALLEN YOUNG ADULT COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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E I —

NAME

Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC) of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

#### ARTICLE II — OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Section 1. The Richard Allen Young Adult Council and its Executive Board are amenable to the Commission on Christian Education and the Executive Director (Secretary-



Treasurer) of the Department of Christian Education.

## Section 2. The Executive Board

The Executive Board of the RAYAC shall be comprised of the elected officers, appointed officers, and chairpersons of committees and the Immediate Past Connectional President. The Chairperson of the Commission on Christian Education and the Executive Secretary of Christian Education shall serve as ex-officio (non-voting) members of the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall be empowered to conduct the business of the organization during the interim of the RAYAC Quadrennial Convention which is held at the site of the Connectional Christian Education Congress.

## ARTICLE III — MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this organization shall be comprised of all lay and clergy members between the ages of 21 – 45 in good and regular standing in their local church.

Section 2. The voting membership of the RAYAC shall consist of all registered delegates between the ages of 21 - 45.

## ARTICLE IV — OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of the RAYAC shall be:

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Second Vice President
- d. Recording Secretary
- e. Corresponding Secretary
- f. Treasurer
- g. Parliamentarian
- h. Chaplain
- i. Editor
- j. Historian

Section 2. No person under twenty-six years of age shall be eligible to run for elected office on the connectional level.

Section 3. The appointed officers shall assume office when appointed by the Connectional President.

}

Section 4. The Connectional President of the RAYAC shall be recognized as a Connectional Officer of the AME Church, an ex-officio member of the General Board and a member of the General Conference.

## ARTICLE V — ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. All elected officers shall be elected by ballot and a majority vote will be needed for election.



Section 2. The Connectional Officers shall be elected to a four (4) year term.

Section 3. The Chair of the Commission on Christian Education or his or her designee shall conduct the election.

## ARTICLE VI — MEETINGS

Section 1. The Connectional RAYAC Convention shall meet quadrennially at the site of the Connectional Christian Education Congress.

Section 2. The executive board shall meet at least annually and conduct an annual leadership-training institute.

## ARTICLE VII — DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Council, appoint all committee chairpersons and members of all committees, and be an ex-officio member of all committees; shall be the chairperson of the Executive Board and the Quadrennial Convention. He or She shall have general supervision and direction of the work, which includes the coordination of the day to day operations of the RAYAC, and shall make appointments to fill vacant elected offices during the interim of the Quadrennium with the advice and consent of the Executive Board. The President shall represent the Connectional RAYAC at the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The President shall report to the Commission on Christian Education during the regular session of the General Board meeting concerning the activities of the RAYAC.

Section 2. The Vice President shall serve in the absence of the President. He or she shall serve as Coordinator of the Connectional Standing Committees. He or she shall plan, evaluate, and promote the programs of the Connectional RAYAC under the direction of the President and the Executive Board.

Section 3. The Second Vice President shall serve in the absence of the President and First Vice President. He or she shall represent Districts 14-20 when a representative is unable to attend Connectional RAYAC functions. He or she shall work with the Episcopal District RAYAC Presidents from Districts 14-20 to coordinate Connectional RAYAC projects and activities. He or she shall be a member in good and regular standing of the organization in Districts 14-20.

Section 4. The Recording Secretary shall keep accurate records of all RAYAC business and, under the direction of the President, perform all other duties common to the office. In addition, the Recording Secretary shall make available to all members of the Connectional RAYAC minutes of all meetings within 45 days after the meeting.

Section 5. The Corresponding Secretary shall review correspondence, report pertinent information to the Executive Board, and reply to correspondence as directed by the President, assist the Recording Secretary in keeping all records, and in the absence of the Secretary shall perform his or her duties. Section 6. The Treasurer, in cooperation with the Chairperson of Budget and Finance Committee, shall keep an accurate record of all funds allocated to the RAYAC. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Section 7. The Parliamentarian shall answer all questions of procedure referred to him or her and shall follow The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, RAYAC Constitution, and Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, at all meetings.

Section 8. The Chaplain shall open all meetings with devotional services and be responsible for all other programming as directed in consultation with the President and the Vice President. Section 9. The Editor shall edit and publish at least semi-annually a newsletter containing issues concerning the activities, plights and news of general interest to young adults throughout the Connectional Church.

The publication shall be distributed through all available media of mass communications to all officers and young adults throughout the church. The Editor shall be a member of the Public Relations Committee.

Section 10. The Historian shall be responsible for recording the history and other data of the RAYAC. In addition, the Historian shall keep statistical information important for research purposes. He or she shall report the compiled statistical information to the Chief Information Officer of the AME Church.

## ARTICLE VIII — COMMITTEES

### Section I. Standing Committees

- a. Program Planning
- b. Constitution and Bylaws
- c. Social Action
- d. Evangelism
- e. Budget and Finance
- f. Evaluation
- g. Public Relations

## ARTICLE IX — DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

### Section I. Standing Committee

a. Program Planning: This committee shall be responsible for planning and implementing the total program of the Connectional RAYAC. It shall promote evangelistic endeavors, the development of lay leadership among youth and young adults, the establishment of a youth church in all AME Churches and encourage youth and young adults to be involved in the total life of the AME Church, and in the world at large. All committee chairpersons shall be members of the Program Planning Committee.

b. Constitution and Bylaws: This committee shall revise, study and analyze all proposed constitutional changes and amendments and submit them to the Executive Board of the RAYAC. All revised, studied, and analyzed changes shall be submitted to the Executive Board no later than two months prior to the RAYAC Quadrennial Convention and/or prior to the General Conference.

c. Social Action: This committee shall devise ways and means to involve young adults in issues and concerns which impact upon them as Christians and as citizens. It shall seek to close the gap between church and community on social issues and international relations. It shall also be apprised of social concerns affecting Districts 14-20. At least one member from Districts 14-20 shall be a member of the Social Action Committee. The chairperson of this committee shall work closely with the Director of Social Action of the AME Church.

d. Evangelism: This committee shall devise effective ways and means for youths and young adults to understand and witness to what God has done and is doing through Jesus Christ. Included should be services, training sessions, neighborhood canvasses, and retreats. The chairperson of this committee, in consultation with the President and the Chairperson of the Program Committee, shall establish specific goals and objectives. The chairperson of this committee shall work closely with the Director of Church Growth and Development of the AME Church.

e. Budget and Finance: This committee shall study the complete financial picture of the Connectional RAYAC. In consultation with the President, the Chairperson of the Program Committee and the other Committee Chairpersons, he or she shall assess the financial needs of the Connectional RAYAC and submit the same to the Commission on Christian Education.

f. Evaluation: This committee shall survey the strengths and weaknesses of the RAYAC program and make recommendations for improvement.

g. Public Relations: This committee shall be the liaison for channeling information to the connectional church. The Editor shall be a member of the Public Relations Committee.

## ARTICLE X — AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may only be amended as set forth in the Article IX of the Constitution of the Connectional RAYAC.

### C. Episcopal District

#### RAYAC ARTICLE I

##### — PURPOSE

The purpose of the Episcopal District RAYAC shall be to implement and coordinate the work of the Connectional RAYAC in the conferences, as well as institute and implement programs and activities in the episcopal district which afford an opportunity for ministry, training, and fellowship.

#### ARTICLE II — Episcopal District Framework

Section I. The organization shall consist of the Episcopal District Directors of Christian Education, elected episcopal district officers of the RAYAC, committee chairpersons as set forth by the President, as well as the Episcopal Director and conference RAYAC Presidents.

Section 2. The Conference Directors of Christian Education shall be ex officio members.

### Article III - Membership

Section 1. Any person, who is between the ages of 21-45 and in good and regular standing in a local church within the bounds of an Episcopal District, is a member of the Episcopal District RAYAC for the respective Episcopal District.

Section 2. The voting membership of the Episcopal District RAYAC shall consist of all registered young adults between the ages of 21-45.

### ARTICLE IV — OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of the Episcopal District Richard Allen Young Adult Council shall be:

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Recording Secretary
- d. Corresponding Secretary
- e. Treasurer
- f. Parliamentarian
- g. Chaplain
- h. Editor
- i. Historian

Section 2. No person under twenty-six years of age shall be eligible to run for or hold elected office. Section 3. The appointed officers shall be chairpersons of standing committees who will assume office when appointed by the Episcopal District President.

Section 4. The Episcopal District President of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council shall be a member of the Episcopal District Board of Christian Education.

### ARTICLE V — ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers listed in Article III shall be elected by ballot and a plurality shall elect. Section

2. The episcopal district officers shall be elected to a two-year term at the Episcopal District Christian Education Congress.

Section 3. The election shall be conducted by the bishop of the episcopal district. In the absence of the bishop the election shall be conducted by the Connectional RAYAC President or the Episcopal District Director of Christian Education.

### ARTICLE VII — MEETINGS

The Episcopal District Richard Allen Young Adult Council shall meet twice a year to evaluate its work, prepare its goals and set objectives for the year. Meetings shall be at the Episcopal District Christian Education Congress, Episcopal District mid-year meetings, and/or biennial Episcopal District Conventions. Meeting times shall be set by the President of the Episcopal District RAYAC.



## ARTICLE VII — DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the council, appoint all committee chairpersons and members of all committees, and be an ex-officio member of all committees. He or she shall have general supervision and direction of the work.

Section 2. The Vice President shall serve in the absence of the President. He or she shall serve as chairperson of the Episcopal District Program Committee. He or she shall plan, evaluate, and promote the program under the direction of the Episcopal District President and the Episcopal District Director of the Youth Division of Christian Education.

Section 3. The Recording Secretary shall keep accurate records of all RAYAC business and, under the direction of the president, perform all other duties common to the office. In addition, the Recording Secretary shall make available to all members of the Episcopal RAYAC minutes of all meetings.

Section 4. The Corresponding Secretary shall review correspondence, report pertinent information to the Episcopal District RAYAC, reply to correspondence as directed by the President, assist the Recording Secretary in keeping all records, and in the absence of the Secretary shall perform his or her duties.

Section 5. The Treasurer, in cooperation with the Treasurer of the Episcopal District Board of Christian Education, shall keep an accurate record of all funds allocated to the RAYAC. He or she shall be chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Section 6. The Parliamentarian shall answer all questions of procedure referred to him or her and shall follow The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Constitution, and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised at all meetings.

Section 7. The Chaplain shall open all meetings with devotional services and be responsible for all other programming as directed by the President and Program Committee.

Section 8. The Editor shall be responsible for the RAYAC newsletter, to be published at least twice a year, as well as other public relations material and literature.

Section 9. The Historian shall be responsible for recording the history and other data of the RAYAC. In addition, the Historian shall keep statistical information important for research purposes.

## ARTICLE VIII — COMMITTEES

### Section 1. Standing Committees

a. Program Planning

b. Constitution and Bylaws

c. Social Action

d. Evangelism

### Section 2. Special Committees



a. Budget and Finance

b. Evaluation

## ARTICLE IX — DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

### Section 1.Standing Committees

a. Program Planning: This committee shall be responsible for planning and implementing the total program of the Episcopal District RAYAC. It shall promote evangelistic endeavors, the development of lay leadership among youths and young adults, the establishment of a youth church in all AME Churches in the episcopal district, and encourage youths and young adults to be involved in the total life of the church and in the world at large. All committee chairpersons shall be members of the Program Committee.

b. Constitution and Bylaws: This committee shall revise, study, and analyze all proposed constitutional changes and Bylaws and submit them to the Connectional Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

c. Social Action: This committee shall devise ways and means to involve youths and young adults in issues and concerns which impact upon them as Christians and citizens. It shall seek to close the gap between church and community on social issues. The chairperson of this committee shall work closely with the Connectional RAYAC Committee on Social Action.

d. Evangelism: This committee shall devise effective ways and means for youths and young adults to understand and witness to what God has done and is doing through Jesus Christ. Programs and services, retreats, and other activities should be planned. Specific goals should be established.

### Section 2.Special Committees

a. Budget and Finance: This committee, with the Treasurer as Chairperson, shall study and assess the financial needs of the Episcopal District RAYAC and submit the request to the Episcopal District Board of Christian Education.

b. Evaluation: This committee shall survey the strengths and weaknesses of the RAYAC program in the district. It shall be composed of conference chairpersons and directors of Christian Education and selected young adults from within the episcopal districts.

## D. Conference

### RAYAC ARTICLE I — PURPOSE

The purpose of the Conference RAYAC is to be the link between the Connectional, Episcopal and local organizations, and its purpose shall be the same as that of the RAYAC on the Connectional level.

## Article II – Conference RAYAC Framework

Section 1. The Conference RAYAC shall consist of the Conference Chairperson, Director of Christian Education, Conference RAYAC elected officers, conference committee chairpersons as appointed by the President, Conference President of the Allen Christian Fellowship, Conference Directors of the

Boy/Girl Scout agencies, and local RAYAC Presidents

Section 2. The Local Directors of Christian Education voting membership of the Conference RAYAC shall consist of all registered young adults between the ages of 21-45

### ARTICLE III — MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person, who is between the ages of 21-45 and in good and regular standing in a local church within the bounds of an Annual Conference, is a member of the Conference RAYAC for the respective Annual Conference.

Section 2. The voting membership of the Conference RAYAC shall consist of all registered young adults between the ages of 21-45

### ARTICLE IV — OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of this organization shall be the same as the Connectional level, with the same duties.

Section 2. No person under twenty-six years of age shall be eligible to run for or hold elected office. Section 3. The appointed officers shall be chairpersons of standing committees who will assume office when appointed by the Conference President.

Section 4. The Conference President of the RAYAC shall be a member of the Conference Board of Christian Education.

### ARTICLE V — ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers listed in Article III shall be elected by plurality.

Section 2. The conference officers shall be elected to a two (2) year term at a Conference Christian Education Institute to be set by the Conference Board of Christian Education.

Section 3. The election shall be conducted by the Chairperson of the Conference Board of Christian Education.

### ARTICLE VI — MEETINGS

The Conference RAYAC shall meet at least twice a year to prepare its goals and objectives for the year and to evaluate the work. Specific times and places shall be set by the President of the Conference RAYAC.

## ARTICLE VII — DUTIES OF OFFICERS

The duties of all officers on the Conference level shall parallel those of their Connectional and episcopal district level counterparts.

## ARTICLE VIII — COMMITTEES

All Conference committees shall be appointed by the President and shall have the same function and responsibility as those on the Connectional and episcopal district levels.

## ARTICLE

### E. Presiding Elder

#### District RAYAC ARTICLE I – PURPOSE

Section 1. The RAYAC in the Presiding Elder District shall serve to coordinate the work of all youths and young adults, youth groups, auxiliaries, and organizations in the local church. It shall serve as the steering organization for all youths work and activities in the Presiding Elder District.

#### ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Presiding Elder District RAYAC shall consist of Presiding Elder District Christian Education coordinators, Presiding Elder District RAYAC elected officers, and presiding elder directors or supervisors of youth departments or groups in the Presiding Elder's District church.

Section 2. Membership in this organization shall be comprised of all lay and clergy members between the ages of 21 – 45 in good and regular standing in their local church.

#### ARTICLE III — OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected officers of the Presiding Elder District RAYAC shall be the same as on the Connectional, Episcopal, and Conference levels.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected from among the young adults who make up the council at their first meeting following the Annual Conference. The Presiding Elder shall conduct the elections.

Section 3. No person under the age of twenty-six shall be eligible to run for office. Section 4. Officers shall be elected for a period of one year.

#### ARTICLE IV — MEETINGS

Section 1. The Presiding Elder District RAYAC shall meet during the District Conference and Church School Convention to plan, organize, and evaluate work of young adults in the Presiding Elder's District. Goals and objectives shall also be set at its meetings.

Section 2. Other meetings as necessary may be called by

509 the President ARTICLE V — DUTIES OF OFFICERS

510 the Presiding Elder District shall correspond with their counterparts on the  
511 Connectional, Episcopal, and Conference levels.

512 Section 2. The President shall be a member of the Presiding Elder's Council.

513

514 ARTICLE VI — COMMITTEES

515 Committees in the Presiding Elder District RAYAC shall be appointed by the President  
516 and have the same function and responsibility as those on the Connectional, Episcopal,  
517 and Conference levels.

518 ARTICLE VII

519 The Presiding Elder District director of Christian Education shall be the advisor to the  
520 RAYAC.

521

522 F. Local Church

523 RAYAC ARTICLE I — PURPOSE

524 Section 1. The RAYAC in the local church shall serve to coordinate the work of all  
525 young adults groups, auxiliaries and organizations in the local church. It shall serve as  
526 the steering organization for

527 all young adult work and activities in the local church.

528 Section 2. It shall also function as an opportunity to give young adults time for  
529 fellowship and Christian experience.

530

531 ARTICLE II — MEMBERSHIP

532 Section 1. Membership in the local RAYAC shall consist of the presidents or heads of  
533 every Young Adult organization in the church and the local Director of Christian  
534 Education.

535 Section 2. Membership in this organization shall be comprised of all lay and clergy  
536 members between the ages of 21 - 45 in good and regular standing.

537

538 ARTICLE III — OFFICERS

539 Section 1. The elected officers of the local RAYAC shall be the same as on the  
540 Connectional, Episcopal, Conference and Presiding Elder levels.

541 Section 2. Officers shall be elected from among the young adults who make up the  
542 council at their first meeting following the Annual Conference. The pastor shall  
543 conduct the elections.

544 Section 3. No person under the age of twenty-six shall be eligible to run  
545 for office. Section 4. Officers shall be elected for a period of one year.

546

547 ARTICLE IV — MEETINGS

548 Section 1. The local RAYAC shall meet quarterly to plan, organize, and evaluate youths  
549 work in the church. Goals and objectives shall also be set at its meetings.

550 Section 2. Other meetings as necessary may be called by the President.



551

## 552 ARTICLE V — DUTIES OF OFFICERS

553 Section 1. The duties of all officers in the local church shall correspond with their  
 554 counterparts on the Connectional, Episcopal, and Conference levels.

555 Section 2. The President shall be a member of the Official

## 556 Board. ARTICLE VI — COMMITTEES

557 Committees in the local RAYAC shall be appointed by the President and have the same  
 558 function and  
 559 responsibility as those on the Connectional, Episcopal, Conference and Presiding Elder  
 560 levels.

561

## 562 ARTICLE VII

563 The local director of Christian Education shall be the advisor to the RAYAC.

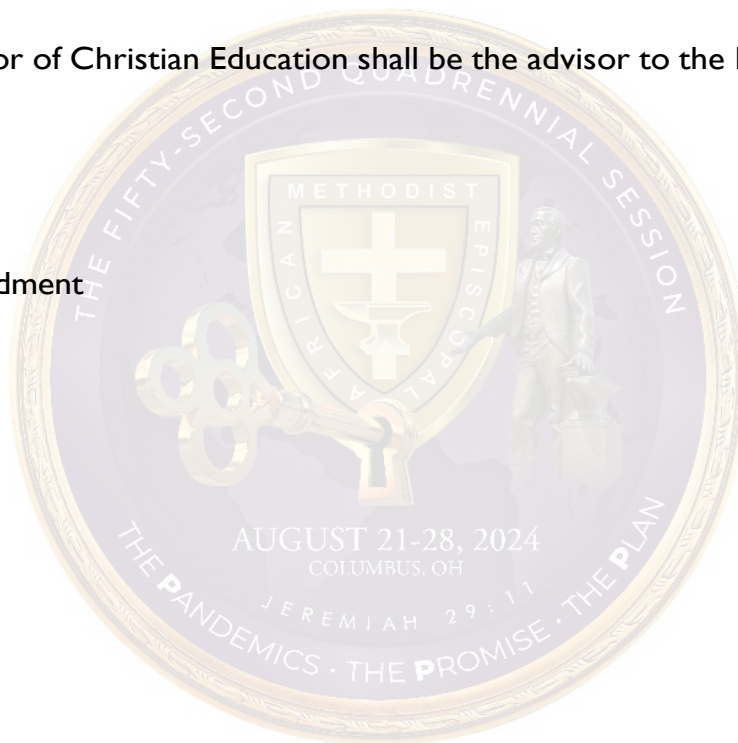
564

565 **Approved**

566 • No

567

568 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Association of African Methodist Episcopal Church Scouts (AAMES)

**First and Last Name**

Association of African Methodist Episcopal Church Scouts (AAMES)

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto:gpierce@ameced.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

pg 613-617

**Intent**

This ministry updated it's Constitution and Bylaws and adopted said changes at the 2024 Annual Ministries in Christian Education Meeting in March 2024 at St. Paul AME Church in Montgomery, AL.

**Rationale**

The entirety of the Constitution and Bylaws, highlighting the revisions, is submitted to [cio@ame-church.com](mailto:cio@ame-church.com)

**Current Text**

pg 613-617

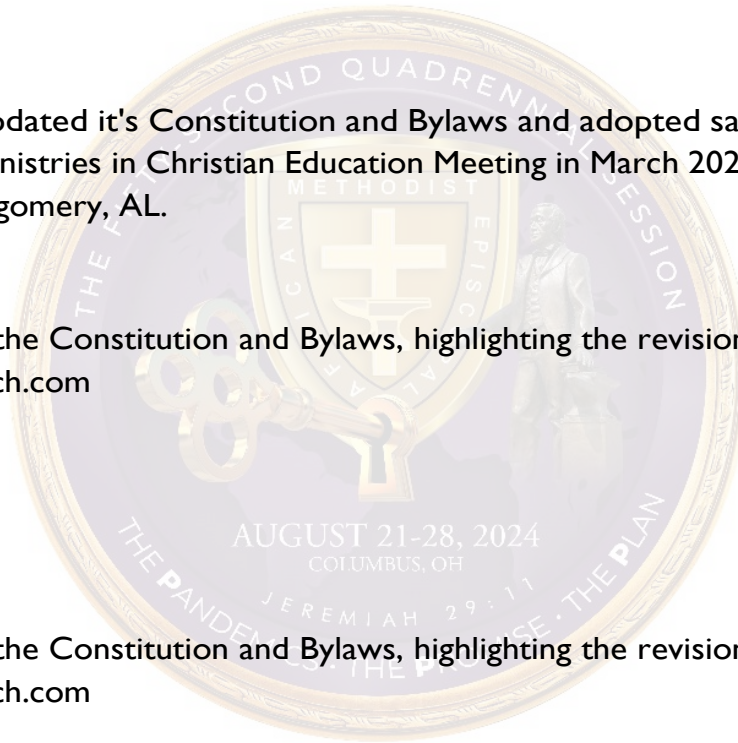
**Amended Text**

The entirety of the Constitution and Bylaws, highlighting the revisions, is submitted to [cio@ame-church.com](mailto:cio@ame-church.com)

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)

**First and Last Name**

Christian Debutante-Master Commission (CDMC)

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto:gpierce@ameced.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

pg. 629-635

**Intent**

This ministry updated it's Constitution and Bylaws and adopted said changes.

**Rationale**

The entirety of the Constitution and Bylaws, highlighting the revisions, is submitted to [cio@ame-church.com](mailto:cio@ame-church.com).

**Current Text**

pg. 629-635

**Amended Text**

The entirety of the Constitution and Bylaws, highlighting the revisions, is submitted to [cio@ame-church.com](mailto:cio@ame-church.com).

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators (CFCE)

**First and Last Name**

Connectional Fellowship of Church Educators (CFCE)

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto:gpierce@ameced.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

pg. 624-629

**Intent**

This ministry updated it's Constitution and Bylaws and adopted said changes at its meeting at the 2022 Connectional Christian Education Congress.

**Rationale**

The entirety of the Constitution and Bylaws, highlighting the revisions, is submitted to [cio@ame-church.com](mailto:cio@ame-church.com).

**Current Text**

pg. 624-629

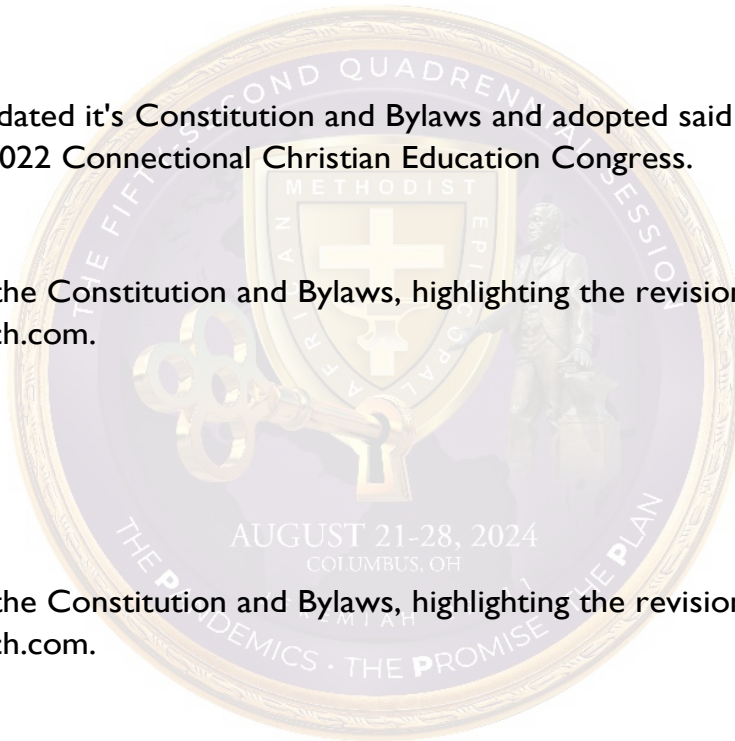
**Amended Text**

The entirety of the Constitution and Bylaws, highlighting the revisions, is submitted to [cio@ame-church.com](mailto:cio@ame-church.com).

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)

**First and Last Name**

Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)

**Email**

[gpierce@ameced.com](mailto:gpierce@ameced.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

pg. 535-552

**Intent**

This ministry updated it's Constitution and Bylaws and adopted said changes.

**Rationale**

The entirety of the Constitution and Bylaws, highlighting the revisions, is submitted to [cio@ame-church.com](mailto:cio@ame-church.com)

**Current Text**

pg. 535-552

**Amended Text**

The entirety of the Constitution and Bylaws, highlighting the revisions, is submitted to [cio@ame-church.com](mailto:cio@ame-church.com)

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

1 REVISIONS TO THE BENEFITS INCLUDED IN A PASTOR'S SALARY & BENEFITS PACKAGE -  
2 #2

**First and Last Name**

5 Cynthia Gordon-Floyd

**Email**

8 [cynthia@willingsteward.com](mailto:cynthia@willingsteward.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

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

**Intent**

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

**Rationale**

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

**Current Text**

38 If a housing allowance is given, it is the Stewards' duty to negotiate a  
39 reasonable housing allowance with the pastor.

**Amended Text**



**Title**

- 42 If a housing allowance is given, it is the Stewards' duty to negotiate a  
 43 reasonable housing allowance with the pastor after the pastor documents  
 44 his/her applicable housing expenses on a housing allowance worksheet. The  
 45 Stewards will document the fair market value of housing in the geographic  
 46 area and officially designate the approved amount of the pastor's housing  
 47 allowance in advance of payment.
- 48 No
  - 49
  - 50 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Cynthia Gordon-Floyd

**Email**

[cynthia@willingsteward.com](mailto: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  
I.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**

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

**Amended Text**

Part V-Local Church Organization Section I.A.2a - Stewards Paragraph  
2)b) The benefits include, but are not limited to: pension or retirement,  
insurance(s); health, disability, professional liability; parsonage or housing

42 allowance; continuing education; travel: connectional, episcopal district,  
43 conference, inner parish, and all other related to official duties.

44

45 **Approved**

46 • No

47

48 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

Cynthia Gordon-Floyd

**Email**

[cynthia@willingsteward.com](mailto: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 I.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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

- 42     **Approved**
- 43     • No
- 44
- 45     Read Full Amendment





**Title**

SATISFACTION/TERMINATION OF UNPAID PASTORAL WAGES AND LOANS

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto: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 pastor's 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 pastor's salary and/or loan repayments while endeavoring to raise his/her salary and meet church obligations.

**Current Text**

None

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

SATISFACTION/TERMINATION OF UNPAID PASTORAL WAGES AND LOANS

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes for Connectional AMEWIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto:jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Part XIV, Section IV

**Intent**

To prohibit the practice of pastors seeking payment for unreported indebtedness upon reassignment or removal.

**Rationale**

All indebtedness must be reported at the quarterly conference. It is unreasonable to expect the succeeding pastor to raise funds to cover unreported debt to the former pastor.

**Current Text**

None

**Amended Text**

Any financial agreements between the local church and the pastor, including but not limited to unpaid salary, salary-related expenses, benefits, or repayment of loans must be reported as an agreed-upon indebtedness on the adopted Quarterly Conference and Annual Conference Reports. The local church shall make every reasonable effort to satisfy all reported indebtedness in a timely manner. Any indebtedness owed to the pastor not previously reported on the quarterly conference or annual conference forms is void, terminated, and deemed satisfied in full upon the pastor's reassignment, new appointment, or removal from the charge.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

SATISFACTION/TERMINATION OF UNPAID PASTORAL WAGES AND LOANS

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes for Connectional AMEWIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto:jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Part XIV CONFERENCES, Section IV The Quarterly Conference, Page 306, Kindle Page 429

**Intent**

To prohibit the practice of pastors seeking payment for unreported indebtedness upon reassignment or removal.

**Rationale**

All indebtedness must be reported at the Quarterly Conference.

**Current Text**

None

**Amended Text**

4. Any financial agreements between the local church and the pastor, including but not limited to unpaid salary, salary -related expenses, benefits, or repayment of loans must be reported as an agreed-upon indebtedness on the adopted Quarterly Conference and Annual Conference Reports and acknowledged by the Bishop. The local church shall make every reasonable effort to satisfy all reported indebtedness in a timely manner. Any indebtedness owed to the pastor not previously reported on the quarterly conference or annual conference forms is void, terminated, and deemed satisfied in full upon the pastor's reassignment, new appointment, departure or removal from the charge.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Secretary

**First and Last Name**

TRIZZER EVELYN KUMWENDA

**Email**kumwendaevelyn95@gmail.com**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

I am the secretary in our church who takes minutes in meetings, gatherings and church h programs.

**Intent**

To attend the 52nd general conference, learn from others, share experiences and take minutes of the meetings. This will be shared to my fellow members back home on ways to uplift our lives spiritually.

**Rationale**

To take minutes at conference and share with members in my Church. To learn, share experience in Christ and keep records.

**Current Text**

As a secretary will need active participation at the conference so that I gather more information about uplifting our lives in Christ.

**Amended Text**

Taking meeting minutes and record keeping.  
Clerical support and ensure church compliance with regulations.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Section IV. Historical Statement

**First and Last Name**

Gail Brown

**Email**

[browng26@icloud.com](mailto:browng26@icloud.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

current AME Discipline: Page 10 and Section IV.

**Intent**

To remove the initials and add the person's name if known

**Rationale**

So the person can be identified who is being addressed in the write-up

**Current Text**

1. In this undertaking “they met with great opposition from an elder of the
2. Methodist Church (J.M.C.), who threatened that if they did not give up the
3. building, and make acknowledgments for having attempted such a thing, that
4. in three months they would all be publicly expelled from the Methodist society.

**Amended Text**

1. If the person's name is known should be spelled out and if you are going to use
2. the person's initials after that it should be (J.M.C.) after his name has been said
3. - if not known omit the initials completely. Example: ...”they met with great
4. opposition from an elder of the Methodist Church who threatened that if...

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Section IV. Historical Statement

**First and Last Name**

Gail Brown

**Email**

[browng26@icloud.com](mailto:browng26@icloud.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

current AME discipline: Page Reference: Page 11 and Section IV.

**Intent**

To change wording at the beginning of the paragraph

**Rationale**

The flow of the sentence

**Current Text**

I. Begin now as outcasts, they had to seek for friends where they could.

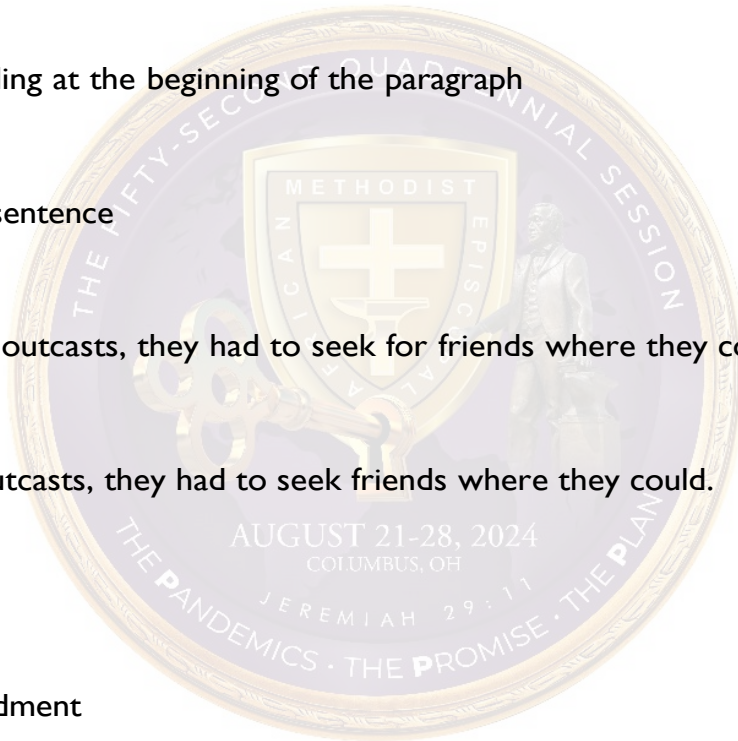
**Amended Text**

I. Now being outcasts, they had to seek friends where they could.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Section IV. Historical Statement

**First and Last Name**

Gail Brown

**Email**

[browng26@icloud.com](mailto:browng26@icloud.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

current AME Discipline: Page 11 and Section IV - third paragraph

**Intent**

To change from using initials without identifying who the person is

**Rationale**

Initials do not identify who the person is and if not known leave off the initials

**Current Text**

1. It was now proposed by the resident elder, (J.M.C.) that they should have the
2. church incorporated, that they might receive any donation or legacy, as well as
- enjoy any other advantages arising therefrom.

**Amended Text**

1. It was now proposed by the resident elder, that they should have the
2. church incorporated, that they might receive any donations or legacy, as well as
- enjoy any other advantages arising therefrom.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Section IV. Historical Statement

**First and Last Name**

Gail Brown

**Email**

[browng26@icloud.com](mailto:browng26@icloud.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

current AME Discipline: page 11 and Section IV - fourth paragraph

**Intent**

to change from initials or rewriting the sentence

**Rationale**

to try and identify who the initials stand for

**Current Text**

I. At one time the elder, (J.S.) demanded the keys of the house with the books and papers belonging thereto.

**Amended Text**

Amended Text:

I. At one time the elder, known only as J.S. demanded the keys of the house with the books and papers belonging thereto.

Amended Text:

I. At one time the one of the elders demanded the keys of the house with the books and papers belonging thereto.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Section IV. Historical Statement

**First and Last Name**

Gail Brown

**Email**

[browng26@icloud.com](mailto:browng26@icloud.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

current AME discipline: page 12 - last paragraph

**Intent**

to remove initials

**Rationale**

Change the wording by omitting the initials

**Current Text**

1. Shortly after this an elder (S.R.) then in Philadelphia declared that unless they
2. would appeal the supplement, neither he nor any of the Methodist preachers,
3. traveling or local, should preach anymore for them; So they were left to
4. themselves.

**Amended Text**

Amended Text:

1. Shortly after this an elder then in Philadelphia declared that unless they
2. would appeal the supplement, neither he nor any of the Methodist preachers,
3. traveling or local, should preach anymore for them; So they were left to
4. themselves.

Amended Text:

1. Shortly after this an elder from Philadelphia declared that unless they
2. would appeal the supplement... neither he nor any of the Methodist preachers,
3. traveling or local, should preach anymore for them; So they were left to
4. themselves.

**Approved**

- No

42 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

SECTION IV. CATECHISM ON FAITH

**First and Last Name**

SECTION IV. CATECHISM ON FAITH

**Email**sherrylsneed@gmail.com**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

SECTION IV. CATECHISM ON FAITH

PART IV – Question 14 (A), Page 47

**Intent**

To capitalize pronouns referring to Christ.

**Rationale**

Pronouns referring to Christ should be capitalized.

**Current Text**

1. A. It is good to have a deep sense of this, to be much ashamed before the Lord. But this should
2. only incite us the more earnestly to turn unto Christ every moment, and to draw light and life
3. and strength from him, that we may go on conquering and to conquer. And, therefore, when the
4. sense of our sin most abounds, the sense of his love should much more abound.

**Amended Text**

1. A. It is good to have a deep sense of this, to be much ashamed before the Lord. But this should
2. only incite us the more earnestly to turn unto Christ every moment, and to draw light and life
3. and strength from Him, that we may go on conquering and to conquer. And, therefore, when the
4. sense of our sin most abounds, the sense of His love should much more abound.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Section IX. International Health Commission: Constitution and Bylaws

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Dr. Natalie Mitchem

**Email**

[healcommission@aol.com](mailto:healcommission@aol.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Pages 599 -613 - Section IX. International Health Commission: Constitution and Bylaws

**Intent**

Revise and update the Constitution and Bylaws adopted July 2016

**Rationale**

Revisions and updates required for to align the 2016 Constitution and Bylaws with present work of the International Health Commission

**Current Text**

July, 2016

Section IX. International Health

Commission ARTICLE I - NAME OF

**ORGANIZATION**

The name of this organization shall be the International Health Commission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**ARTICLE II - MISSION STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVES****Section I. Mission.**

The International Health Commission serves, among other tasks, to help the denomination understand health as an integral part of the faith of the Christian Church, to seek to make our denomination a healing faith community, and to promote the health concerns of its members. Specifically, the mission is to:

- To empower our congregations to advocate for improved access to affordable and quality health care
- To provide Health Education and identify health resources.
- To assist with first aid for services and meetings at all levels: International, Annual Conference, District and Local

□ To collaborate with Ecumenical and Interfaith Health Projects while promoting health as a part of our faith and to care for our congregations by advocating health as a right not a privilege, by forming collaborative relationships with International, National, Regional and Local ecumenical and interfaith health programs or projects as well as Health Associations and Community Agencies.

## Section 2. Objectives.

- a. Establish Health Commissions on all levels, episcopal districts, Annual Conferences and local church
- b. Inclusion of one health presentation at each Annual Conference, District Conference, and Christian Education Congress
- c. Observe International, National and Local Health Observances at all levels using a broad variety of information for dissemination
- d. Institute and establish partnerships with other health agencies or programs at all levels.
- e. Expand and develop relationships with colleges and universities, medical, nursing, dental and schools of public health.
- f. Expand Health Ministries at all levels to include all components of healthcare to promote total wellness (physical, spiritual and emotional).
- g. Encourage connectional organizations to develop health programs and given them support as needed.
- h. Build relationships with corporate, Government, and institutional agencies allowing for programs and projects to expand preventive and curative resources
- i. Encourage health conferences every year targeting initiatives of The World Health Organization with focus areas as it relates to Africa, the Caribbean, India, South America, and those of the African Diaspora located in other parts of the world
- j. Expand International and regional training seminars.

## ARTICLE III - ORGANIZATION

The International Health Commission shall be composed of Episcopal District, Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District (where applicable) and Local Church Health Commissions.

## ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall consist of clergy or lay who are health professionals (physicians; nurses; dentists; dietitians and nutritionists; medical, nursing and dental students; health educators; psychologists; social workers, case managers and utilization review personnel; physical therapists and physical therapy assistants; public health professionals, occupational therapists; pharmacists; certified medical or nursing assistants; and those persons certified in CPR and first aid).

## Section 2. Dues.

Annual International dues for Districts One through Thirteen shall be:

82 Full  
 83 members  
 84 hip: \$25  
 85 Students:  
 86 \$10

87  
 88 The amount of annual membership dues at the Episcopal District, Annual Conference,  
 89 Presiding Elder District and Local church shall be determined by the respective  
 90 Executive Board and the respective general membership.

91  
 92 Global Health Coordinators in Districts Fourteen through Twenty shall establish a  
 93 comparable and affordable amount for the two categories. The funds are reported to  
 94 the International Treasurer and Secretary but shall be retained by the district  
 95 collecting the same and be used for operational expenses of the District Health  
 96 Commission.

#### 97 ARTICLE V - COLORS

98  
 99 The colors are royal blue with a red accent.  
 100

#### 101 102 ARTICLE VI – MOTTO

103  
 104 A Ministry that Cares Always, Helps and Assists Those in Need through Prevention,  
 105 Prayer and Education

#### 106 107 ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS

108  
 109 Section 1. The Elected Officers shall be:

110 Executive

111 Director

112 Medical

113 Director

114 Recording

115 Secretary

116 Correspo

117 nding

118 Secretary

119 Treasurer

120 Global Health Coordinators (2)

121

122 Section 2. Elected Officers on other levels.

123 Health Director (Health



Coordinator at local level)  
 Recording Secretary  
 Treasurer

Section 3. Election of Officers. International and Episcopal District Officers and Overseas Coordinators shall be elected every four (4) years. Annual Conference and Presiding Elder District Officers shall be elected every two (2) years. Local Church Officers shall be elected annually. There are no term limits.

The elected officers shall assume their duties at the close of the meeting at which they were elected. There shall be a nominating committee on all levels and election shall be Robert's Rules of Order. The Executive Director and Medical Director must be experienced health professionals with administrative skills. The transitional period for all officers shall not exceed 60 days at which time all records are transferred to the incoming officer.

#### ARTICLE VIII - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

##### Section I. Executive Director.

The Executive Director is a voting member of the General Conference and a member of the General Conference Commission and shall:

- Respond to requests for information on health programs and resources.
- Collaborate with International, National, Regional and Local ecumenical and interfaith health programs or projects as well as Health Associations and Community Agencies.
- Seek funding sources for programs, projects and ministries.
- Represent the Commission on International and National Health Meetings, Workshops and Seminars.
- Participate in Ecumenical and Interfaith Health Programs and Projects.
- Assist with the development and expansion of curriculum, programs, ministries, projects, website content, policies and procedures in collaboration with the Medical Director.
- Revise forms and updates handbook as needed in collaboration with the Medical Director.
- Communicate with the Chairman of the Commission on Health on International health activities.
- Develop a Quadrennial budget for the Commission in collaboration with the Medical Director and Treasurer.
- Consult with and assist Connectional organizations with the setting up of First Aid Stations for Connectional Meetings.
- Assist the host Episcopal District and Conference Health Directors with setting up



First Aid Stations for Connectional Meetings.

- Maintain an inventory of First Aid supplies and equipment.
- Compile reports from Episcopal District Health Directors and Overseas Coordinators along with the Medical Director and report the same to the Commission on Health at the meeting of the General Board.
- Maintain a directory of Health Directors and Health Coordinators (as provided by the Health Directors).
- Visit Districts and Annual Conference when requested to present workshops and seminars, and assist with/provide consultation for the development and organization of Health Commissions.
- Communicate with the Senior Bishop, President of the Bishops Council, President of the General Board, and Ecumenical Officer as needed.

## Section 2. Medical Director.

The Medical Director is a voting member of the General Conference and shall:

- Assist with the operational program of the Commission.
- Seek funding sources for programs, projects and ministries.
- Collaborate with International, National, Regional and Local ecumenical and interfaith health programs or projects as well as Health Associations and Community Agencies.
- Respond to requests for information on health programs and resources.
- Represent the Commission at International and National Health Workshops and Seminars.
- Participate in Ecumenical and Interfaith Health Programs and Projects.
- Communicate with the Overseas Coordinators and Episcopal District Health Directors as needed.
- Review the reports of the Overseas Coordinators and Episcopal District Health Directors. Visit Episcopal Districts when requested.
- Present workshops and seminars or assist with organizing health programs in Episcopal Districts when requested, or your designee.
- Communicate with the Chairman of the Commission on Health on International Health activities.
- Assist the Executive Director with compiling the Annual Report of the Overseas Coordinators and Episcopal District Health Directors for presentation to the Commission on Health at the General Board meeting.
- Develop curriculum, programs, procedures, policies, projects, website content and ministries with the Executive Director.
- Assist the Executive Director and Treasurer in developing a Quadrennial Budget.
- Communicate with coordinators of grant programs.
- Communicate with the Ecumenical Officer and participate in Ecumenical and Interfaith Health

## Projects and Programs.

- Communicate with the Senior Bishop, President of the Bishop's Council and President

210 of the General Board.

211 • Oversee the webpage with the Webmaster

212

213 Section 3. Global Health

214 Coordinators The Global

215 Health Coordinators shall:

216 • Should participate on the Global Development Council and are members of the  
217 Executive Board of the International Health Commission.

218 • Shall maintain a directory of Health Directors on all levels and communicate with  
219 them to assist them with developing health projects and programs for their  
220 locations.

221 • Organize Health Commissions in the Episcopal Districts on the continent of  
222 Africa, nations of the Caribbean Islands, India, South America and Europe.

223 • Organize a Health Consortium composed of Episcopal District and Annual  
224 Conference Health Directors to conduct the work.

225 • Develop a Quadrennial Budget and submit to the Executive Director and Treasurer.

226 • Seek international and national funding for health programs and projects.

227 • Communicate with the Chairman of the Commission on Health, the Executive  
228 Director and the Medical Director of the International Health Commission.

229 • Attend Global Development Meeting, General Board, Episcopal District and  
230 Annual Conference Meetings when funds allow.

231 • Collect and compile quarterly reports from the Episcopal District Health Directors  
232 and forward them to the Executive Director of the International Health Commission.

233 • Disseminate information to the Episcopal Districts about health programs and  
234 projects for further dissemination to the Health Directors and Coordinators.

235

236

237 Section 4. Episcopal District Health Directors.

238 The Episcopal District Health Director is a Member of the Executive Board of the  
239 International Health Commission and shall:

240

241 Organize a District Health Commission and maintain a directory of Annual Conference  
242 and Presiding Elder Health Directors, forward a copy to the Executive Director of the  
243 International Health Commission.

244

245 Disseminate International Health Programs.

246

247 Meet at least three times a year (Planning Meeting, Midyear and Education Congress)  
248 for training and to receive reports.

249

250 Develop a budget. Seek funding sources and grants for health programs

251

252 Compile quarterly reports of activities and forwards a copy to the

253 Executive Director Have a health seminar or leadership training at  
 254 least once a year

255 Develop an Episcopal District Constitution and Bylaws reflecting the International  
 256 Constitution and Bylaws and forward a copy to the Connection.

257

258

259 Section 5. Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District Health Director.

260 The Annual Conference (Presiding Elder District) Health Director is a Member of the  
 261 Episcopal District Executive Board (Annual Conference Executive Board) and shall:

262

263 Assist with organizing Local Church Commissions

264

265 Maintain a directory of Local Church Directors all levels and forward a copy to the  
 266 Episcopal District Health Director

267

268 Develop a budget. Seek funding sources and grants for health programs

269 or projects Meet at least once a year for training and reports

270 Collect and compile quarterly reports and send a copy to the Episcopal District Health  
 271 Director.

272

273 Develop a Constitution and Bylaws reflecting the International and Episcopal District  
 274 Constitution and By Laws

275 Disseminate information to the local churches about International

276 Health Programs. Section 6. Local Church Health Coordinator.

277 The Local Church Health Coordinator is a Member of the Presiding Elder District  
 278 Executive Board and  
 279 shall:

280

281 • Assess the health needs of the local congregation and develop programs to meet the  
 282 need.

283 • Carry out Connectional, Episcopal District and Annual Conference health projects and  
 284 programs.

285 • Develop a budget and submit to the Presiding Elder District Health Coordinator.

286 • Seek funding sources or grants for health programs and projects.

287 • Review regional and local health programs that can be incorporated into the local  
 288 church health program.

289 • Meet as often as needed.

- Report activities quarterly to the Conference Health Director.
- Develop a Constitution and Bylaws reflective of the International Constitution and Bylaws.

#### Section 8. Recording Secretary.

- Shall keep accurate records of proceedings under the directions of either the Executive Director or Medical Director (International), Health Director (Episcopal District or Annual Conference) or Health Coordinator (Presiding Elder or Local)
- Perform other duties common to the office.
- Make available to the members, minutes of all proceedings.

#### Section 10. Corresponding Secretary.

- Shall review all correspondence received, send information to members when directed by the Executive Director or Medical Director (International), Health Director (Episcopal District or Annual Conference) or Health Coordinator (Presiding Elder or Local)
- Shall maintain a directory of officers, health directors, consultants, project directors, ministry coordinators and program directors for the appropriate levels.

#### Section 11. Treasurer.

- International level: In cooperation with the Treasurer of the AME Church shall keep a record of all funds allocated by the church. Shall keep a record of all funds collected and raised by other funding sources. Shall keep a record of all funds dispersed. Shall have annual fiscal audits performed. Shall assist the Executive Director and Medical Director in developing the quadrennial budget. Shall provide reports to the Budget and Finance Committee of the Commission on Health. Shall receive fiscal reports from the Episcopal District Health Commission Treasurer.

- Episcopal District level: In cooperation with the Health Commission International Treasurer shall keep a record of all funds allocated by the district. Shall keep a record of all funds collected and raised by other funding sources. Shall keep a record of all funds dispersed. Shall assist the Health Director in developing the quadrennial budget. Shall provide reports to the International Treasurer. Shall receive fiscal reports from the Annual Conference Health Commission Treasurer.

- Annual Conference and Presiding Elder level: In cooperation with the Health Commission Episcopal District Treasurer shall keep a record of all funds allocated by the conference or district. Shall keep a record of all funds collected and raised by other funding sources. Shall keep a record of all funds dispersed. Shall assist the Health Director in developing the biennial budget. Shall provide reports to the Episcopal District Treasurer. Shall receive fiscal reports from the Local Health Commission



Treasurers.

- Local level: In cooperation with the Health Commission Presiding Elder District Treasurer shall keep a record of all funds allocated by the local church. Shall keep a record of all funds collected and raised by other funding sources. Shall keep a record of all funds dispersed. Shall assist the Health Coordinator in developing the annual budget. Shall provide reports to the Health Commission Presiding Elder District Treasurer.

#### Section 12. Qualifications for Executive and Medical Director (International positions)

The Executive Director and Medical Director must be experienced health professionals with administrative skills. The Executive Director and Medical Director should have actively served the Health Commission at the Episcopal District level for a minimum of two terms (4 years). The Executive Director and Medical Director should have served the Health Commission by volunteering at least one General Conference and one Episcopal District meeting. The Executive Director and Medical Director should be in good standing with their appropriate licensing body (active or retired).

#### Section 13. Qualifications for Global Health Coordinators (International Level) Health Director (Episcopal District and Annual Conference levels) and Health Coordinators (Presiding Elder and Local levels)

The Global Health Coordinators and Health Director must be experienced health professionals with administrative skills. The Health Coordinator must have an interest in the well-being of their fellow congregants and communities. The Global Health Coordinators and Health Director should be in good standing with their appropriate licensing body (active or retired).

The Health Coordinator must have an interest in the well-being of their fellow congregants and communities. It is not required that the Health Coordinator have any health professional training, but must be CPR certified.

#### Section 14. Qualifications for Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary

The secretaries must be able to utilize word processing software (e.g. Microsoft Word, etc.), social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and email merge.

#### Section 15. Qualifications for Treasurer

The Treasurer must be able to utilize accounting type software (Excel, Quickbooks, etc.), manage finances and account for all funds. At the International level, the treasurer should have actively served the Health Commission at the Episcopal District level for a minimum of one term (2 years).



## ARTICLE IX — STANDING COMMITTEES

### Section 1. Programs and New Initiatives.

Shall provide the Commission and Episcopal Districts Commissions with information on programs and initiatives available from International, National, Regional and Local ecumenical and interfaith health programs or projects as well as Health Associations and Community Agencies.

### Section 2. Grants.

Shall seek out and provide information about grants available from International, National, Regional and Local health organizations, associations, and agencies.

### Section 3. Virtual Communications.

Work with Webmaster. Develop information for web pages and a variety of social media.

### Section 4. Constitution and Bylaws and Handbook.

Study and review all proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws and the Handbook. Propose amendments for the Constitution and Bylaws and Handbook as needed.

Amend Constitution and Bylaws and Handbook

as needed. ARTICLE X — MINISTRIES

In general the Ministries shall :  
provide information and connect churches, Pastors, Presiding Elders and Episcopal Districts with health resources available to the faith based community.

provide support and referral resources on AMEHealth.org website and on the

Health Calendar. The Commission Ministries shall include but not be limited to:

Section 1. HIV/AIDS. Provide information for people living with HIV/AIDS. Encourage screening throughout the connection. Provide health education through seminars and workshops. Advocate healthcare for people living with HIV/AIDS. Recommend and encourage the AME church internationally to support World AIDS Day on Dec 1st and other national days of recognition like National Black HIV/AIDS Day (February 7) and Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS held during the 2nd week of March.

Section 2. Caregivers. Provide information to assist the caregivers to access resources available in the community. Develop support groups for caregivers.

Section 3. Spiritual Health. Provide spiritual support and referrals for counseling to

members of the congregation as requested. Provide moments for meditation during meetings. Establish a quiet place. Members of the Spiritual Health Committee must be certified counselors, psychologists, social workers, or human service workers— clergy or lay.

Section 4: Nutrition and Exercise. Provide nutrition and exercise information on AMEHealth.org website and on the Health Calendar. Recommend and encourage the AME church internationally to participate, support and promote the Annual July Faith Based Health, Wellness, Nutrition and Fitness month established by the International Health Commission of the AME Church. Recommend all meals served at all church related events offer healthy food choices and healthy beverages in order to prevent and fight disease. Recommend churches offer fitness programs and stretch breaks at programs to promote blood circulation, clear thinking and good health.

Section 5: Mental Health. Provide support and referral resources on AMEHealth.org website and on the Health Calendar. Provide churches and Episcopal District with free resources available via Mental Health organizations for church congregations.

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

Section 7: Clergy and Family Health. Recommend and encourage all Clergy to participate in the Annual August Clergy and Clergy Family Wellness month created to promote physical and mental health, reduce stress, encourage sabbatical and clergy self-care. Provide, support and offer resources that address family wellness which include, but are not limited to: blended families (i.e. stepchildren and stepparents), marriage, divorce, widows, single life, domestic violence, sexual abuse, child abuse, sexuality and financial wellness.

Section 8: Communicable Diseases and Immunizations. Provide information of immunizations. Provide information and updates on communicable diseases that arise during certain times of the year, outbreaks or epidemics, travel health advisories and precautions, recommendations and prevention on AMEHealth.org.

Section 9: Chronic Diseases. Recommend and encourage all churches to provide and support a

smoking free environment. Provide a variety of wellness pamphlets and brochures at church and workshops at major meetings, invite health professionals to speak at district meetings and Episcopal meetings. Promote annual physicals prevention and treatment

options in order to equip and empower the church to make important health decisions. Encourage all Episcopal Districts and Connection components to use utilize the Health Calendar and resources available on AMEChealth.org.

Section 10: Collaboration with other Connectional Agendas. Partner and support with other Connectional organizations that of mutual interest and concern in order to expand the outreach or scope of the agenda.

Section 11: Death, Dying and Hospice. Provide information and resources on programs. Encourage Clergy and Lay to become trained support members or teams. Recommend churches provide free resources pamphlet form.

Section 12: Disaster Preparedness and Response. Recommend and encourage all Episcopal Districts and Churches to participate in the Annual September Disaster Preparedness Month fire drills and evacuation drills. Provide information on preparedness, First Aid and CPR training, Earthquake and other Natural disaster responses. Provide information on partnerships with the Red Cross, SADA and Medical Corps.

Section 13: Substance Abuse, Addictions and Recovery. Provide information and resources on substance abuse, workshops, Clergy and Lay certification programs.

## ARTICLE XI — MEETINGS

Business meetings of the International Health Commission will be held every four years. Officers will be elected at the meeting preceding or during the General Conference. The site will be at the invitation of the Episcopal District or chosen by the Executive Board. There shall be quadrennial Leadership Training Workshop usually preceding the General Board.

Meetings of the Global Consortium shall be at the call of the Global Health Coordinators (a minimum of annually).

Episcopal district, Annual Conference, and Presiding Elder District meetings shall be at the call of the Directors on those levels (a minimum of bi-annually).

Local church commissions shall be at the call of the Coordinator (a minimum of quarterly).

## ARTICLE XII — THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board of the International Health Commission shall consist of elected officers, Episcopal District health directors, Global Health Coordinators. Ex-officio members shall include consultants, ministry coordinators, project directors, advisors, chairman of standing committees, and Annual Conference Health Directors.

The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the Executive Director of Medical Director, either by conference calls, webinars, or at a designated location. The Executive Board shall work closely with the Executive Director, Medical Director and the Global Coordinators for the planning, promoting, and implementing programs of the Commission.

The Executive Committee of the Global Health Consortium on the Continent of Africa, Nations of the Caribbean Islands, Europe, India and South America shall be composed of the Health Directors of each Episcopal District and Annual Conferences and consultants necessary to carry out their programs. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year to carry on the business of the Health Consortium.

#### ARTICLE XIII — GOVERNANCE

This organization shall be governed on all levels by: The Constitution and Bylaws of the International Health Commission, The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Roberts Rules of Order, International Health Commission Handbook and The Global Health Consortium.

Episcopal Districts, Annual Conferences, and local churches may compile a Constitution and Bylaws as long as it is not in conflict with the International Health Commission's Constitution and Bylaws and The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

#### ARTICLE XIV — AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a meeting of the Executive Board or by the members of International Health Commission meeting duly called for the purpose of amending the Constitution and Bylaws. A notice of the proposed amendment must be included in the notice of the meeting. No amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws shall become effective until approved by the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

#### ARTICLE XV – ACCOUNTS AND INVESTMENTS

Section I. Contracts, Checks, Bank Accounts. The Executive Board is authorized to select such depositories as it shall deem proper for the funds of the International



Health Commission and shall determine who shall be authorized in the organization's behalf to sign bills, notes, receipts, acceptances, endorsements, checks, releases, contracts and documents.

Section 2. Investments. The funds of the International Health Commission may be retained in whole or in part in cash or be invested and reinvested from time to time in such property, real, personal or otherwise, including stocks, bonds or other securities, as the Executive Board may deem desirable.

Section 3. Expenditures. No officer of the Executive Board can authorize expenditures over five thousand (\$5,000.00) dollars without the approval of the majority of the Executive Board.

## ARTICLE XVI - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Health Commission shall be June 1 to May 31.

### **Amended Text**

International Health Commission

## ARTICLE I - NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be the International Health Commission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Inc – a 501c3.

## ARTICLE II - MISSION STATEMENT AND OBJECTIVES

### Section I. Mission.

The International Health Commission serves, among other tasks, to help the denomination understand health as an integral part of the faith of the Christian Church, to seek to make our denomination a healing faith community, and to promote the health concerns of its members. Specifically, the mission is to:

- To empower our congregations to advocate for improved access to affordable and quality health care
- To provide Health Education and identify health resources.
- To assist with first aid for services and meetings at all levels: Connectional, Annual Conference, District and Local.
- To collaborate with Ecumenical and Interfaith Health Programs or Projects while promoting health as a part of our faith and to care for our congregations by advocating health as a right not a privilege, by forming collaborative relationships with International, National, Regional and Local ecumenical and interfaith health programs or projects as well as Health Associations and Community Agencies.
- To collaborate with International and National Organizations (i.e. CDC, WHO) for review and updating of the Pandemic Plan as needed.



Section 2. Objectives.

- a. Establish Health Commissions on all levels: Episcopal Districts, Annual Conferences, Presiding Elder District and local church
- b. Inclusion of one health presentation at each Annual Conference, District Conference, and Christian Education Congress
- c. Observe International, National and Local Health Observances at all levels using a broad variety of information for dissemination
- d. Institute and establish partnerships with other health agencies or programs at all levels.
- e. Expand and develop relationships with colleges and universities, medical, nursing, dental and schools of public health.
- f. Expand Health Commissions at all levels to include all components of healthcare to promote total wellness (physical, spiritual and emotional).
- g. Encourage connectional organizations to develop health programs and give them support as needed.
- h. Build relationships with corporate, government, and institutional agencies allowing for programs and projects to expand preventive and curative resources
- i. Encourage health conferences every year targeting initiatives of The World Health Organization with focus areas as it relates to Africa, the Caribbean, India, South America, and those of the African Diaspora located around the world
- j. Expand International and regional training seminars.

ARTICLE III - ORGANIZATION

The International Health Commission shall be composed of the Episcopal District, the Annual Conference, the Presiding Elder District and Local Church Health Commissions. (See Appendix 2)

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall consist of clergy or lay who are medical or health professionals (e.g., physicians; nurses; dentists; dietitians and nutritionists; medical, nursing and dental students; health educators; psychologists; social workers, mental health professionals and chaplains, case managers and utilization review personnel; physical therapists and physical therapy assistants; public health professionals, occupational therapists; pharmacists; certified medical or nursing assistants; and scientists); and those persons certified in CPR and first aid.

Section 2. Dues.

Annual International dues for Districts One through Thirteen (1-13) shall be: Membership: \$50

Students: \$10 (part-time or full-time students enrolled in an academic institution or program) Due by May 1st annually for the subsequent Conference year (June 1 to May 31)

IHC dues must be paid and recorded by the IHC prior to or in conjunction with dues at any other level.

The amount of annual membership dues at the Episcopal District, Annual Conference, Presiding Elder District and Local church shall be determined by the respective Executive Board and the respective general membership.

Episcopal District Health Directors in Districts Fourteen through Twenty (14-20) shall establish a comparable and affordable amount for International and all other levels. The funds are reported to the International Treasurer and Secretary but shall be retained by the district collecting the same and be used for operational expenses of the District Health Commission.

#### ARTICLE V - COLORS

The colors are royal blue with a red accent.

#### ARTICLE VI – MOTTO

A Ministry that Cares Always, Helps and Assists Those in Need through Prevention, Prayer, and Education

#### ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS

Section 1. The Elected International Officers shall be: Medical Director

Executive

Director

Recording

Secretary

Correspo

nding

Secretary

Treasurer

Section 2. Elected Officers on other levels.

Health Director (Health

Coordinator at local level)

Recording Secretary

Treasurer

Section 3. Election of Officers. International and Episcopal District Officers shall be elected during the meeting preceding the General Conference. Annual Conference and Presiding Elder District Officers shall be elected every two (2) years. Local Church Officers shall be elected annually. Medical Director and Executive Director cannot

serve at the Connectional Level and Episcopal District Level at the same time.

The elected officers shall assume their duties at the close of the meeting at which they were elected. There shall be a nominating committee on all levels and election shall be per Robert's Rules of Order. The transitional period for all officers shall not exceed 60 days at which time all records are transferred to the incoming officer. The newly elected Medical Director and Executive Director will assume their duties at the first IHC meeting following the close of the General Conference. Term limits shall not exceed 2 terms unless there is no other qualified person to be elected or appointed.

#### Section 4. Appointed Officers

(appointed by the Medical Director and confirmed by the Executive Board) US Health Consortium Director  
Global Health Consortium  
Director Health Ministry Director  
(4) Special Project and Grant Director  
Connectional Meetings Logistics Manager Health Care Justice Director

#### Section 5. Accountability

All elected and appointed officers are accountable to the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall evaluate the duties of all officers. The International Organization Chart shall be replicated at every level within the Health Commission, as applicable. (In addition, see the Financial Operating Protocol)

### ARTICLE VIII - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

#### Section I. Medical Director.

The Medical Director is a voting member of the General Conference and a member of the General Conference Commission and shall:

- Respond to requests for information on health programs and resources.
- Collaborates with International, National, Regional and Local ecumenical and interfaith health programs or projects as well as Health Associations and Community Agencies.
- Represents the Commission on International and National Health Meetings, Workshops and Seminars.
- Participates in Ecumenical and Interfaith Health Programs and Projects.
- Communicates with the Chair of the Commission on Health on International health activities.

- Visits Districts and Annual Conferences, when requested, to present workshops and seminars and assist with/provide consultation for the development and organization of Health Commissions.
- Oversees the Technology and Social Media Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry Lead
- Regularly meet with Health Consortium Directors, Health Ministry Directors, and the Special Project and Grants Director.
- Communicates with the Ecumenical Officer and participates in Ecumenical and Interfaith Health Projects and Programs.
- Communicates with the Senior Bishop, President of the Bishops Council, President of the General Board, and Ecumenical Officer as needed.

## Section 2. Executive Director.

The Executive Director is a voting member of the General Conference and a member of the General Conference Commission and shall:

- Seek funding sources for projects, programs, and ministries. Ensure the approval and signatures of the Commission Chair, Medical Director and Executive Director are on all formal MOU's.
- Finalize budgets presented to the Executive Board and Finance Team as required.
- Develop and expand of curriculum, programs, ministries, projects, website content, policies, and procedures
- Develop a Quadrennial Budget for the Commission in collaboration with the Medical Director, Executive Director, and Treasurer/Finance Team
- Be in consultation with Medical Director regarding logistics, protocol for pandemics, outbreaks, and first aid/wellness
- Work with Connectional Meetings Logistics Manager to maintain an inventory of First Aid Supplies and equipment.
- Compile the reports and prepare the annual reports and submit them to the Medical Director and Commission Chair for review and approval prior to submission to the General Board and General Conference. Work with the Commission on Health Secretary in compiling reports following Commission on Health meetings at General Board
- Work with the Secretary in maintaining Health Directors/Coordinators lists and convene the monthly meetings.

## Section 3. Recording Secretary.

- Shall keep accurate records of proceedings under the directions of the Medical Director, Executive Director, Health Director (Episcopal District) or Health Coordinator (Annual Conference, Presiding Elder or Local)
- Perform other duties common to the office.
- Make available to the members, minutes of all proceedings.

## Section 4. Corresponding Secretary.



- Shall review all correspondence received, send information to members when directed by the Medical Director, Executive Director , Health Director (Episcopal District) or Health Coordinator (Annual Conference, Presiding Elder or Local)
- Shall maintain a directory of officers, health directors/coordinators, consultants, project directors, ministry coordinators and program directors for the appropriate levels.

#### Section 5. Treasurer

- International level: In cooperation with the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the AME Church shall keep a record of all funds allocated by the church. Shall keep a record of all funds collected and raised by other funding sources. Shall keep a record of all funds dispersed. Shall have annual fiscal audit performed and all IRS required documents filed. Shall assist the Medical Director and Executive Director in developing the quadrennial budget. Shall provide reports to the Commission on Health. Shall receive fiscal reports from the Episcopal District Health Commission Treasurers. Shall present a financial report to Executive Board and General Membership during monthly IHC meeting.
- Episcopal District level: Shall keep a record of all funds allocated by the district and a record of all funds collected and raised by other funding sources; and shall keep a record of all funds dispersed. Shall assist the International Treasurer in developing the quadrennial budget. Shall provide all reports quarterly to the International Treasurer. Shall receive quarterly fiscal reports from the Annual Conference Health Commission Treasurers.
- Annual Conference and Presiding Elder level: Shall keep a record of all funds allocated by the conference/district and a record of all funds collected and raised by other funding sources; and shall keep a record of all funds dispersed. Shall assist the Episcopal District Health Director in developing the annual budget. Shall provide all reports quarterly to the Episcopal District Treasurer. Shall receive quarterly fiscal reports from the Local Health Commission Treasurers.
- Local level: Shall keep a record of all funds allocated by the district and a record of all funds collected and raised by other funding sources; and shall keep a record of all funds dispersed. Shall assist the Presiding Elder Health Treasurer in developing the annual budget. Shall assist the Health Coordinator in developing the annual budget. Shall provide quarterly reports to the Health Commission Presiding Elder District Treasurer.

#### Section 6. US (1-13) and Global (14-20) Health Consortium Directors These Directors shall:



- Be active members of the Executive Board of the International Health Commission.
- Shall maintain a directory of Health Directors/Coordinators on all levels in collaboration with the Corresponding Secretaries at all levels
- Shall communicate with Episcopal District Health Directors to assist them with developing health projects and programs for their locations.
- Organize Health Commissions in the Episcopal Districts
  - o Special attention shall be given to the Annual Conferences of countries in Districts 1-13 but are located outside of the Continental US (Bermuda, India, Bahamas)
- Organize Health Consortiums composed of the Episcopal District Health Director and Annual Conference Health Coordinators to conduct the work.
- Develop a Quadrennial Budget and submit to the Executive Director, Medical Director and International Treasurer.
- Seek international and national funding for health programs and projects in coordination with the Special Project and Grant Director.
- Communicate with the Medical Director of the International Health Commission.
- Attend Episcopal District and Annual Conference Meetings, time and funding permitting.
- Collect and compile quarterly reports from the Episcopal District Health Directors and forward them to the Executive Director and Medical Director.
- Disseminate information to the Episcopal Districts about health programs and projects for further dissemination to the Health Directors and Coordinators at all levels.
- Attend General Board, to be reimbursed when funds allow.
- The Global Health Consortium Director shall participate in the Global Development Council; and attend Global Development Council Meetings, to be reimbursed when funds allow.

#### Section 7. Health Ministries Directors (4)

- The Health Ministries Directors are voting members of the Executive Board.
- Seeks funding sources for programs, projects, and ministries.
- Assists with the development and expansion of curriculum, programs, ministries, projects, website content, policies and procedures in collaboration with the Medical Director, Health Consortium Directors, and Special Project and Grants Director.
- Assists Health Ministries in the development of their Quadrennial budgets in collaboration with the International Treasurer
- Collect and compile quarterly reports from the Health Ministries and forward them to the Executive Director and Medical Director
- Disseminate information to the Episcopal Districts about health programs and projects for further dissemination to the Health Directors and Coordinators.

#### Section 8. Special Project and Grant Director

- Seeks funding sources for programs, projects and ministries.

- Assists with the development and expansion of curriculum, programs, ministries, projects, website content, policies and procedures in collaboration with the Medical Director, Health Consortium Directors, and Health Ministry Directors.
- Assist Special Projects and Grant Leads in the development of their Quadrennial budgets in collaboration with the International Treasurer
- Collect and compile quarterly reports from the Special Projects and Grant Leads and forward them to the Executive Director and Medical Director
- Disseminate information to the Episcopal Districts about Special Projects and Grants for further dissemination to the Health Directors and Coordinators.

#### Section 9. Connectional Logistics Manager

- Consult with and assist Connectional organizations with the setting up of First Aid Stations and/or any other necessary stations (e.g., Communicable Disease screening) for Connectional Meetings in collaboration with the Executive Director, Medical Director, CFO's Connectional Meeting Planner and the host Episcopal District and Conference Health Directors
- o Consult with and assist Component organizations as requested.
- Maintain an inventory of First Aid supplies and equipment in collaboration with the Medical Director
- Coordinate with the International Health Commission to obtain volunteers for all Connectional Meetings
- Consult with and assist Connectional organizations with the setting up any required Pandemic or Communicable Disease protocols in collaboration with the Medical Director and Executive Director.
- o Consult with and assist Component organizations as requested.

#### Section 10. Episcopal District Health Directors

The Episcopal District Health Director is a Member of the Executive Board of the International Health Commission and shall:

- Organize a District Health Commission and maintain a directory of Annual Conference and Presiding Elder Health Coordinators and forward a copy to the Corresponding Secretary of the International Health Commission.
- Disseminate information about International Health Commission Programs.
- Meet at least three times a year (e.g., Planning Meeting, Midyear and Education Congress) for training and to receive reports.
- Develop a quadrennial budget. Seek funding sources and grants for health programs in collaboration with the Special Projects and Grants Director.
- Compile quarterly reports of activities and forward a copy to the appropriate US or Global Health Consortium Director
- Plan and implement a health seminar or leadership training at least once a year
- Encourage participation in the International Health Commission Annual Training
- Assist the Connectional Meetings Logistics Manager with requirements for

883 Connectional meetings held within the Episcopal District

- 884 • Create Episcopal District and Annual Conference Logistics teams for meetings held at
- 885 all levels
- 886 • Develop an Episcopal District Constitution and Bylaws that aligns with the
- 887 International Constitution and Bylaws and forward a copy to the Connection.

888 Section 11. Annual Conference and Presiding Elder District Health Coordinators

889 The Annual Conference and Presiding Elder District Health Coordinators are members of  
 890 the Episcopal District Executive Board or Annual Conference Executive Board,  
 891 respectively and shall:

- 892 • Assist with organizing Local Church Commissions
- 893 • Maintain a directory of Local Church Directors at all levels and forward a copy
- 894 to the Episcopal District Health Director
- 895 • Develop a budget. Seek funding sources and grants for health programs or projects
- 896 • Meet at least once a year for training and reports
- 897 • Collect and compile quarterly reports and send a copy to the Episcopal District Health
- 898 Director.
- 899 • Develop a Constitution and Bylaws that align with the International and
- 900 Episcopal District Constitution and By Laws
- 901 • Disseminate information to the local churches about International Health Programs.
- 902 • Create Annual Conference and Presiding Elder Logistics teams for meetings held at all
- 903 levels
- 904 • Encourage participation in the International Health Commission Annual Training

906 Section 12. Local Church Health Coordinator.

907 The Local Church Health Coordinator is a Member of the Presiding Elder District  
 908 Executive Board and shall:

- 909 • Assess the health needs of the local congregation and develop programs to meet the
- 910 needs.
- 911 • Carry out Connectional, Episcopal District and Annual Conference health projects and
- 912 programs.
- 913 • Develop a budget and submit it to the Presiding Elder District Health Coordinator.
- 914 • Seek funding sources or grants for health programs and projects, report these
- 915 investigations to the Episcopal District Health Director who shall coordinate with the
- 916 Special Projects and Grants Director.
- 917 • Review regional and local health programs that can be incorporated into the local
- 918 church health program.
- 919 • Meet as often as needed.
- 920 • Report activities quarterly to the Conference Health Director.
- 921 • Develop a Constitution and Bylaws that aligns with the International Constitution and
- 922 Bylaws.

923 ARTICLE IX - QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS



925 All officers must be active and dues paying members of the International Health

926 Commission Section I. Qualifications for Medical Director

927 The Medical Director must be an experienced medical professional (MD, DO, MBBCh,  
928 MBBS or equivalent) with administrative skills and experience. Demonstrated success  
929 in leading the delivery of medical care and service constituents in the safest manner, in  
930 line with institutional goals and healthcare regulations. Demonstrated success in  
931 public health and partnering faith and community- based organizations to address  
932 health education and health promotion. There is a preference that the Medical Director  
933 also hold a Master or Doctor of Public Health or similar degree. The Medical Director  
934 must have excellent interpersonal skills; organizational skills leading to a smoothly run  
935 Commission; and experience in conducting research and analysis for developing new  
936 and innovative programs.

937  
938 The Medical Director should have actively served the Health Commission at the  
939 Episcopal District level for a minimum of two terms (4 years). The Medical Director  
940 should have served the Health Commission by volunteering at least two General  
941 Conferences and three Episcopal District meetings. The Medical Director should be in  
942 good standing with their appropriate licensing body (active or retired).

943  
944 Section 2. Qualifications for Executive Director

945 The Executive Director must be an experienced health professional with  
946 administrative skills and experience. Demonstrated success in leading the delivery of  
947 health care and service constituents in the safest manner, in line with institutional  
948 goals and healthcare regulations. Demonstrated success in public health and  
949 partnering faith and community-based organizations to address health education and  
950 health promotion. There is a preference that the Executive Director hold a Master or  
951 Doctor of Public Health, or similar health related degree. The Executive Director  
952 must have excellent interpersonal skills; organizational skills leading to a smoothly  
953 run Commission; and experience in conducting research and analysis for developing  
954 new and innovative programs.

955  
956 The Executive Director should have actively served the Health Commission at the  
957 Episcopal District level for a minimum of two terms (4 years). The Executive Director  
958 should have served the Health Commission by volunteering at least two General  
959 Conferences and three Episcopal District meetings. The Executive Director should be in  
960 good standing with their appropriate licensing body (active or retired).

961  
962 Section 3. Qualifications for Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary

963 The secretaries must be able to utilize word processing and database software (e.g.,  
964 Microsoft Word, etc.), social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, AI, etc.).

Section 4. Qualifications for Treasurer

The Treasurer must be able to utilize accounting type software (Excel, QuickBooks, etc.), manage finances and account for all funds. At the International level, the Treasurer should have actively served the Health Commission at the Episcopal District level for a minimum of one term (2 years). The Treasurer must be eligible to be bonded. Accounting certification is preferred.

Section 5. Qualifications for US and Global Health Consortium Directors (International Level), Health Director (Episcopal District) and Health Coordinators (Annual Conference, Presiding Elder and Local levels)

The US and Global Health Directors and Health Directors must be experienced health professionals with administrative skills. The US and Global Health Directors and Health Coordinators/Directors should be in good standing with their appropriate licensing body (active or retired).

It is not required that the Local Health Coordinator have any professional health training but must be First Aid and CPR certified.

Section 6. Qualifications for Health Ministry Director

The Health Ministry Director must be an experienced health or public health professional with administrative skills. Demonstrated success in partnering faith and community-based organizations to address health education and health promotion. The Health Ministry Director must have excellent interpersonal skills; organizational skills to smoothly oversee the many and multifaceted ministries; and experience in conducting research and analysis for developing new and innovative programs.

Section 7. Qualifications for Special Project and Grant Director

The Special Project and Grant Director must have experience with planning and implementing grant programs, preparing budgets, researching funding opportunities, supervising grant staff, monitoring expenditures, identifying support agencies, tracking results, analyzing financial data and compiling and submitting appropriate grant reports. This Director must be familiar with enhancing funding models, identifying new sources of funding, and developing sustainable and effective grants programs.

Section 8. Qualifications for Connectional Meetings Logistics Manager

The Connectional Meetings Logistics Manager shall have a minimum of 2 years' experience in a similar role with a solid understanding of meeting logistics. Must have experience in local, national, and global pandemic and endemic mitigation, crisis management, and contingency planning. Must have the ability to travel to connectional meetings if and when required and demonstrate evidence of working with or in healthcare or public health in order to understand service requirements for the Commission. The Manager must have outstanding analytical, problem-solving,



and organizational abilities with verbal and written communication skills.

## ARTICLE IX — MEETINGS

Business meetings of the International Health Commission will be held monthly. Call meetings shall be initiated by the Commission Chair, Medical Director, or Executive Director at any time deemed necessary and the secretaries will send an email call meeting invitation to IHC members.

There shall be an Annual Leadership Training Workshop which usually precedes the General Board.

Meetings of the US and Global Health Consortium shall be at the call of the US and Global Health Director (a minimum of bi-annually).

Episcopal District, Annual Conference, and Presiding Elder District meetings shall be at the call of the Directors on those levels (a minimum of bi-annually).

Local church commissions shall be at the call of the Coordinator (a minimum of quarterly).

Quorum - After due notice has been given for the scheduled meeting, the following rule shall constitute a quorum necessary for the transaction of business: majority of the members present of the executive committee or a majority of the members present of the Commission, whichever scheduled meeting is occurring.

## ARTICLE X — THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board of the International Health Commission shall consist of the elected officers (Medical Director, Executive Director, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer) as well as the following appointed officers: US Health Consortium Director, Global Health Consortium Director, Health Ministry Directors, Special Project and Grant Director, and Connectional Meetings Logistics Manager.

Ex-officio members may include consultants, ministry coordinators, project directors, and advisors, as needed.

The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the Commission Chair, Medical Director or Executive Director, either by conference calls, webinars, or at a designated location. The Executive Board shall work closely with the Medical Director and Executive Director for the planning, promoting, and implementing programs of the Commission.

The Executive Committee of the US and Global Health Consortium shall be composed of the Health Directors of each corresponding Episcopal District. The Executive

Committee shall meet at least once a year to carry on the business of the Health Consortium. Ex-officio members may include Annual Conference Health Coordinators and consultants necessary to carry out their programs, as needed.

The Executive Board shall maintain and update the Constitution and By-Laws through a

quadrennial review. ARTICLE XI — GOVERNANCE

This organization shall be governed on all levels by: The Constitution and Bylaws of the International Health Commission, The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Roberts Rules of Order, and the International Health Commission Handbook.

Episcopal Districts, Annual Conferences, and local churches may compile a Constitution and Bylaws as long as it is not in conflict with the International Health Commission's Constitution and Bylaws and The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

ARTICLE XII — AMENDMENTS

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a meeting of the Executive Board or by the members of International Health Commission meeting duly called for the purpose of amending the Constitution and Bylaws. A notice of the proposed amendment must be included in the notice of the meeting.

ARTICLE XIII – ACCOUNTS AND INVESTMENTS

The Treasurer and Executive Board of International Health Commission (IHC) seeks to ensure that all IHC financial activities comply with generally accepted accounting principles and conform to federal and state regulations and the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Additionally, they will work to ensure efficiency in performing ministry responsibilities and duties and wise stewardship in the use of IHC resources. Therefore, all IHC ministries are to follow the financial policies and procedures as set forth in the Financial Responsibility Policy.

ARTICLE XV - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Health Commission shall be June 1 to

## May 31. ARTICLE X — MINISTRIES

In general, the Ministries shall:

- provide information and connect churches, Pastors, Presiding Elders and Episcopal Districts with health resources available to the faith-based community.
- provide support and referral resources on AMEHealth.org website and on the Health Calendar.

The Commission Ministries shall include but not be limited to:

Section 1: Clergy and Family Health. Recommend and encourage all Clergy to participate in the Annual August Clergy and Clergy Family Wellness month created to promote physical and mental health, reduce stress, encourage sabbatical and clergy self-care. Provide, support and offer resources that address family wellness which include, but are not limited to blended families (i.e. stepchildren and stepparents), marriage, divorce, widows, single life, domestic violence, sexual abuse, child abuse, sexuality and financial wellness.

Section 2: Communicable Diseases and Immunizations. Provide information of immunizations. Provide information and updates on communicable diseases that arise during certain times of the year, outbreaks or epidemics, travel health advisories and precautions, recommendations and prevention on AMEHealth.org.

Section 3: Chronic Diseases. Recommend and encourage all churches to provide and support a smoking free environment. Provide a variety of wellness pamphlets and brochures at church and workshops at major meetings, invite health professionals to speak at district meetings and Episcopal meetings. Promote annual physicals prevention and treatment options in order to equip and empower the church to make important health decisions. Encourage all Episcopal Districts and Connection components to use utilize the Health Calendar and resources available on AMEHealth.org.

Section 4: Disaster Preparedness and Response. Recommend and encourage all Episcopal Districts and Churches to participate in the Annual September Disaster Preparedness Month fire drills and evacuation drills. Provide information on preparedness, First Aid and CPR training, Earthquake and other Natural disaster responses. Provide information on partnerships with the Red Cross, SADA and Medical Corps.

Section 5. HIV/AIDS. Provide information for people living with HIV/AIDS. Encourage screening throughout the connection. Provide health education through seminars and workshops. Advocate healthcare for people living with HIV/AIDS. Recommend and encourage the AME church internationally to support World AIDS Day on Dec 1st and

other national days of recognition like National Black HIV/AIDS Day (February 7) and Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS held during the 2nd week of March. Offer the required 3-hour certification training.

**Section 6: Individual and Family Support Services.** Provide information to assist individuals and caregivers to access resources available in the community. Develop support groups for caregivers. Provide information and resources on death, dying and hospice programs. Encourage clergy and lay to become trained support members or teams. Recommend churches provide free resources.

**Section 7: Mental Health and Dementias.** Provide support and referral resources on AMEHealth.org website and on the Health Calendar. Provide churches and Episcopal District with free resources available via Mental Health organizations for church congregations.

**Section 8: Differently Abled (challenged).** Provide information on making our churches and worship welcoming and accessible for all people including those who are differently abled (challenged). Provide resources that will support churches in their effort to include persons who are differentially abled (challenged). Provide information on emergency evacuation and ensuring all persons can safely exit the building.

**Section 9. Nutrition and Exercise.** Provide nutrition and exercise information on AMEHealth.org website and on the Health Calendar. Recommend and encourage the AME Church internationally to participate, support and promote the Annual July Faith Based Health, Wellness, Nutrition and Fitness month established by the International Health Commission of the AME Church. Recommend all meals served at all church related events offer healthy food choices and healthy beverages in order to prevent and fight disease. Recommend churches offer fitness programs and stretch breaks at programs to promote blood circulation, clear thinking, and good health.

**Section 10: Pandemic Preparedness and Response.** Monitor trends and provide recommended responses and protocols, to include Preparedness Month drills. Provide information for meetings at all levels, in particular Connectional meetings. Coordinate with the Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry and the CFO's Connectional Meeting Planner.

**Section 11. Spiritual Health.** Provide spiritual support and referrals for counseling to members of the congregation as requested. Provide moments for meditation during meetings. Establish a quiet place. Members of the Spiritual Health Committee must be certified counselors, psychologists, social workers, or human service workers— clergy or lay.



Section 12: Substance Abuse, Addictions and Recovery. Provide information and resources on substance abuse, workshops, Clergy and Lay certification programs.

Section 13: Technology, Social Media and Publicity. Manage information to be distributed via the website, Newsletter, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram and other social media outlets.

## Appendix

### Title Page #

### Appendix A Definitions 15

## Appendix

### A:

### Definition

### s

### Differentl

### y Abled

Differently Abled: A person who has been evaluated and found to have mental retardation, a hearing impairment (including deafness), a speech or language impairment, a visual impairment (including blindness), a serious emotional disturbance, an orthopedic impairment, autism, traumatic brain injury, a specific learning disability, or multiple disabilities. Differently abled is used as an alternative to disabled or handicapped so that a more affirming message is offered, thereby, discouraging discrimination.

### First Aid

“First aid refers to the immediate and initial care provided to an injured or ill person before professional medical assistance” or a higher level of care “becomes available. It aims to preserve life, prevent further harm, and promote recovery. First aid is typically





administered by laypersons or individuals without advanced medical training, although it can also be provided by trained healthcare professionals in emergency situations.

The primary goals of first aid include assessing the situation, ensuring the safety of the affected person and the first aider, and providing appropriate and timely assistance. This assistance may include,” but may not be limited to, “providing basic life support (such as treatment of burns, “administering medications like epinephrine for severe allergic reactions, or using an automated external defibrillator (AED) in case of cardiac arrest.

First aid techniques are based on cardiopulmonary resuscitation or CPR), controlling bleeding, immobilizing fractures or sprains, immediate established protocols and guidelines, with the intention of stabilizing the injured or ill person until professional medical help arrives.”

Source: [www.firstaidforfree.com](http://www.firstaidforfree.com)

**Approved**

No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

SECTION V Pastors' Voluntary Sabbatical Program

**First and Last Name**

Rev Vernon Byrd Jr Esq

**Email**

[vbyrd2@gmail.com](mailto:vbyrd2@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

There is no page reference in the Current AME Discipline. I would propose that it come at the end of Procedures for Ministerial Service which is p. 127

**Intent**

To give formal recognition to a Pastor's voluntary sabbatical program.

**Rationale**

Pastoring can take a tremendous toll on pastors, impacting their physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Many pastors across the Christian church have walked away from ministry because of depression, stress, and anxiety. Much research has been done on pastors leaving the ministry particularly during and after the Covid 19 pandemic. We note also that other denominations offer and encourage their pastors to take sabbaticals for renewal and rest. Many of our pastors have taken advantage of the Lily Foundation grants on pastoral renewal. Churches benefit from leaders that take a health break.

**Current Text**

There is currently no provision for pastor self-care

**Amended Text**

Pastors Voluntary Sabbatical Program

A. Upon the approval of the presiding bishop and agreement of the local congregation, a pastor may be allowed up to two months leave of absence from the local charge to which she or he is assigned.

B. The bishop should consider how long the pastor has been traveling, how long the pastor has been working at the local charge from which he or she seeks sabbatical, and any other factor that may impact on the success of the voluntary sabbatical program.

C. The pastor, the church, and the bishop must agree on who the interim leader will be during the sabbatical.

D. The interim leader can be a retired pastor, an itinerant elder, or a local elder of that local charge.

E. The local church must agree on what if any remuneration is to be paid to the pastor and or the

interim leader. The proposed sabbatical must be agreed on by a majority vote of a church conference. The proposed sabbatical and the action taken by the church conference shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of said conference.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

SECTION V. GENERAL RULES OF THE UNITED SOCIETIES

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Sherryl H. King:

**Email**

sherrylsneed@gmail.com

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Paragraph 4 under SECTION V. GENERAL RULES OF THE SOCIETIES

Page 49

**Intent**

To add missing word

**Rationale**

add the word “be”

**Current Text**

1. There is only one condition previously required of those who desire admission into these
2. Societies—a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to saved from their sins.

**Amended Text**

1. There is only one condition previously required of those who desire admission into these
2. Societies—a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

SECTION V. GENERAL RULES OF THE UNITED SOCIETIES INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Sherryl H. King:

**Email**

Sherrylsneed@gmail.com

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

current doctrinal Affirmation: Section 5 GENERAL RULES OF  
THE SOCIETIES, in Current AME Discipline, Number 3. Page  
48

**Intent**

To remove bias-free language

**Rationale**

To use inclusive language

**Current Text**

Text:

1. There are about twelve persons in a class, of whom one is styled the "Leader." It is his duty:
2. a. To see each person in his class once a week

**Amended Text**

1. There are about twelve persons in a class, of whom one is styled the "Leader." It is his or her duty:
2. a. To see each person in his or her class once a week

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

SECTION V. GENERAL RULES OF THE UNITED SOCIETIES

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Sherryl H. King:

**Email**

SherryIsneed@gmail.com

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Paragraph I under SECTION V. GENERAL RULES OF THE SOCIETIES

Page 48

**Intent**

To make grammatically correct.

**Rationale**

Sentence is not a complete sentence.

**Current Text**

I. That he might have more time for this great work,

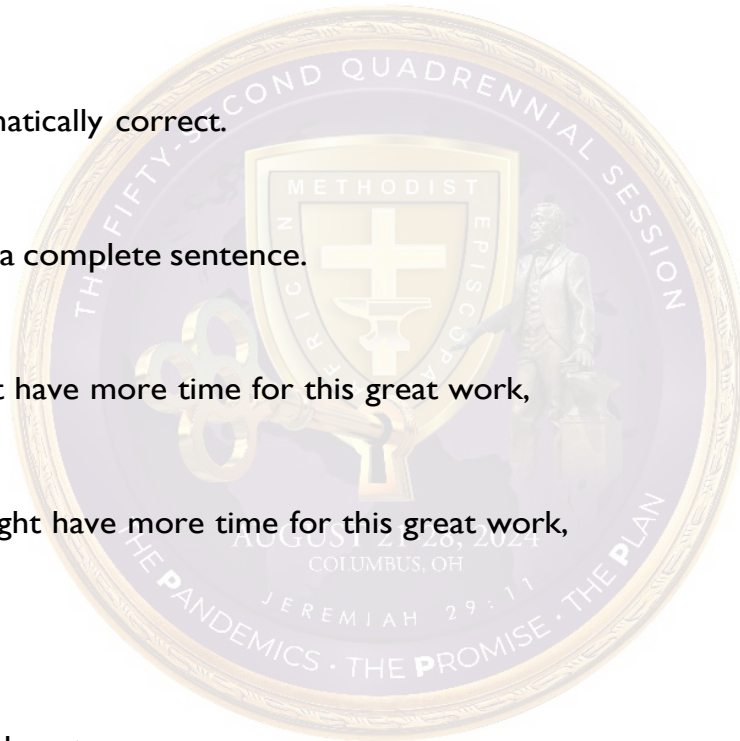
**Amended Text**

I. So that he might have more time for this great work,

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

SECTION VI. BAND SOCIETIES I

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Sherryl H. King:

**Email**sherrylsneed@gmail.com**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Letter A. Rules

# 6. Second

paragraph

Page 51

**Intent**

To use inclusive language.

**Rationale**

Sentence should read his or her

**Current Text**

Some of the questions proposed to everyone before he is admitted among us may be to this effect:

**Amended Text**

Some of the questions proposed to everyone before he or she is admitted among us may be to this effect.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

SECTION VI. BAND SOCIETIES II

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Sherryl H. King:

**Email**sherrylsneed@gmail.com**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Letter B.

Directions

Alphabet

section d. Page

52

**Intent**

To use inclusive language.

**Rationale**

Sentence should read his or her

**Current Text**

d. not to mention the fault of any behind his back, and stop those short who do so;

**Amended Text**

d. not to mention the fault of any behind his or her back, and stop those short who do so;

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

SECTION VI. BAND SOCIETIES

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Sherryl H. King:

**Email**sherrylsneed@gmail.com**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Current AME Discipline

Letter A. Rules

#6

Page 51

**Intent**

To use inclusive language.

**Rationale**

add the word “be”

**Current Text**

1. There is only one condition previously required of those who desire admission into these
2. Societies—a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to saved from their sins.

**Amended Text**

1. There is only one condition previously required of those who desire admission into these
2. Societies—a desire to flee from the wrath to come, and to be saved from their sins.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

SECTION VII. STEWARDSHIP: TITHES AND OFFERINGS (RULES FOR GIVING)

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Sherryl H. King:

**Email**

[sherrylsneed@gmail.com](mailto:sherrylsneed@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Letter E. God's Mandate, #3; #2 under #3, Paragraph 3

Page 55

**Intent**

Correct capitalization.

**Rationale**

Pronouns referring to God should be capitalized.

**Current Text**

If God is first in our affections and devotions, he cannot be last in our budgets.

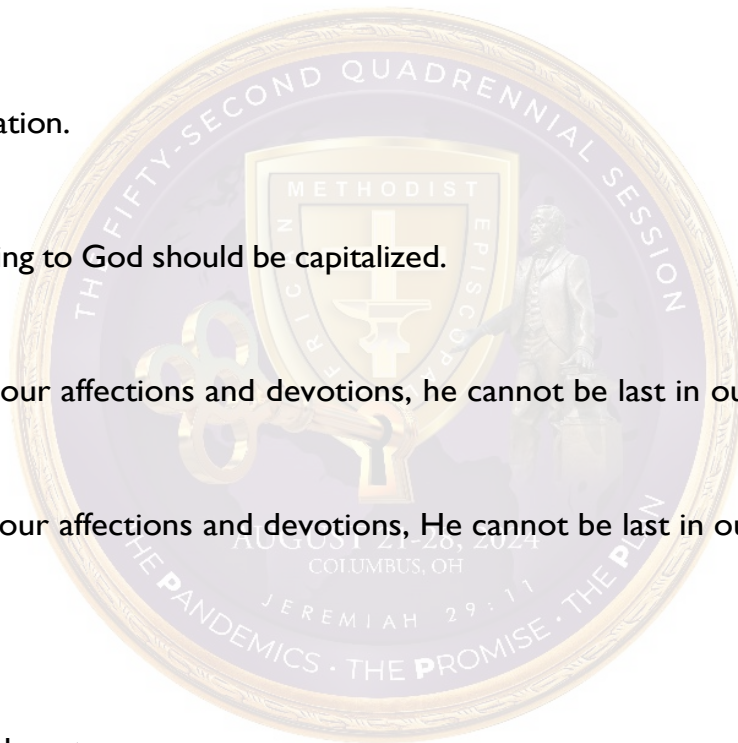
**Amended Text**

If God is first in our affections and devotions, He cannot be last in our budgets.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment





**Title**

SECTION VII. STEWARDSHIP: TITHES AND OFFERINGS (RULES FOR GIVING)

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Sherryl H. King:

**Email**

sherrylsneed@gmail.com

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Letter E. God's Mandate, #3, #1  
under #3 55Page

**Intent**

Correct capitalization.

**Rationale**

Pronouns referring to God should be capitalized.

**Current Text**

Current Text

I. Christ founded the Church and gave his life for it. Through it, he would win the world to Himself.

**Amended Text**

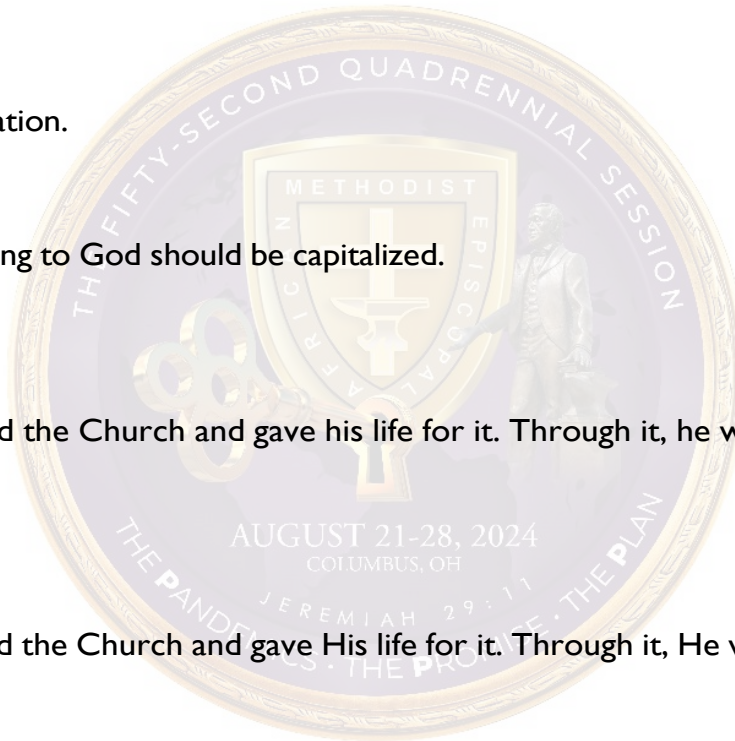
Amended Text:

I. Christ founded the Church and gave His life for it. Through it, He would win the world to Himself.

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

SECTION VII. STEWARDSHIP: TITHES AND OFFERINGS (RULES FOR GIVING)

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Sherryl H. King:

**Email**

sherrylsneed@gmail.com

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Letter E. God's Mandate, #3, 2nd paragraph; 2nd sentence; Page 54

**Intent**

Correct capitalization.

**Rationale**

Pronouns referring to God should be capitalized.

**Current Text**

1. We believe that God is over all, that all our powers and possessions are a sacred trust,  
and
2. that we are accountable to him for the use we make of them.

**Amended Text**

1. We believe that God is over all, that all our powers and possessions are a sacred trust,  
and
2. that we are accountable to Him for the use we make of them.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

SECTION VII. STEWARDSHIP: TITHES AND OFFERINGS (RULES FOR GIVING)

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Sherryl H. King:

**Email**

[sherrylsneed@gmail.com](mailto:sherrylsneed@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Reference in Current AME Discipline:

Letter E. God's Mandate, #2,

Page 54

**Intent**

Correct capitalization.

**Rationale**

Pronouns referring to God should be capitalized.

**Current Text**

2. God's will for us wholly good however much we may frustrate his purposes.

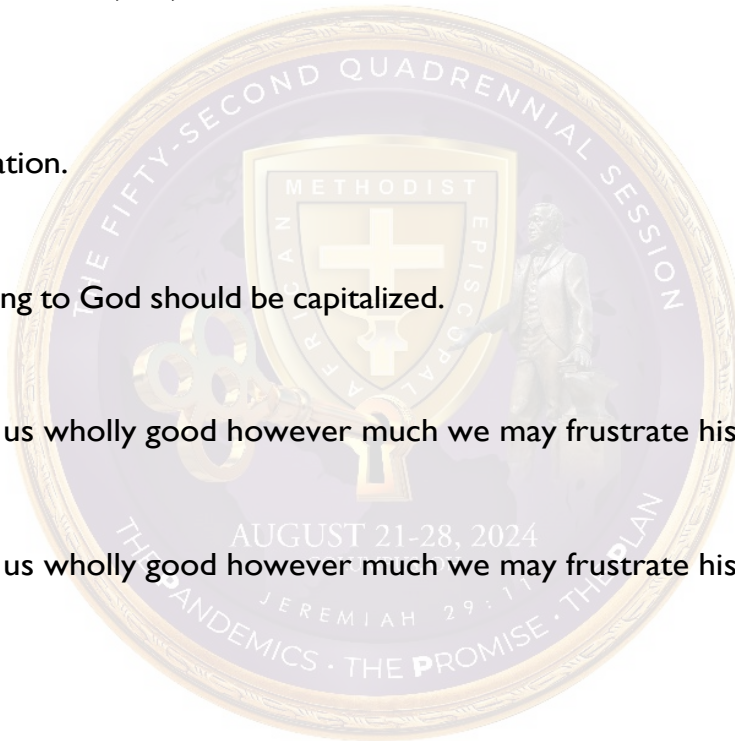
**Amended Text**

2. God's will for us wholly good however much we may frustrate his purposes.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

SECTION VII. STEWARDSHIP: TITHES AND OFFERINGS (RULES FOR GIVING)

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Sherryl H. King:

**Email**

[sherrylsneed@gmail.com](mailto:sherrylsneed@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Current AME Discipline:

Letter E. God's Mandate, #3; #2 under #3, Paragraph 4

Page 55

**Intent**

Correct capitalization.

**Rationale**

Pronouns referring to God should be capitalized.

**Current Text**

Not even our lives are withheld from him whom we implicitly trust,

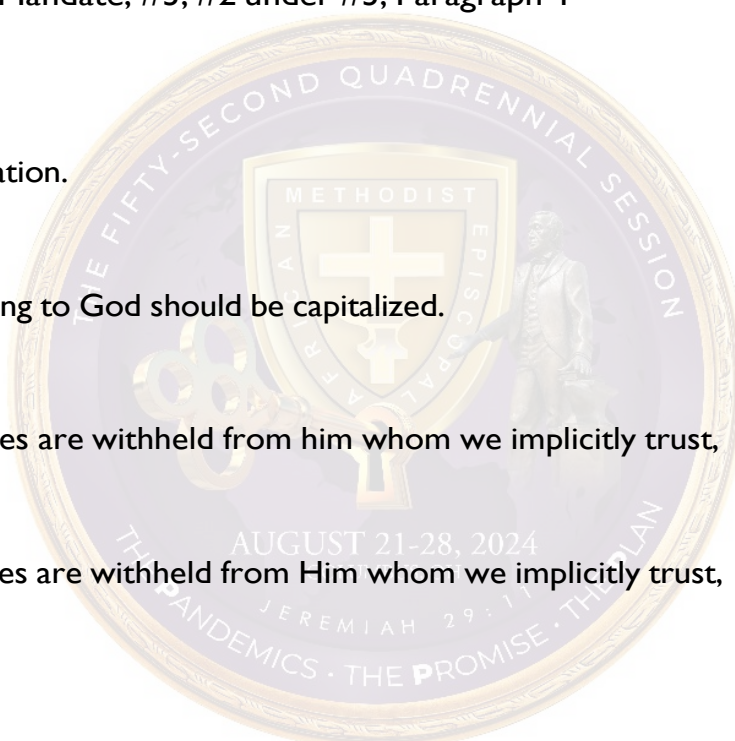
**Amended Text**

Not even our lives are withheld from Him whom we implicitly trust,

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Social Action Commission and the AME General Conference

**First and Last Name**

Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker

**Email**

[jdupontwalker@gmail.com](mailto:jdupontwalker@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

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

**Intent**

To authorize the designation of the Director/Consultante 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 aested in the work of the Social Action Commission, led by its Director/Consultant. (aka Social Action Officer). As such the Director is actively engaged through the Quadrennial in a network of inter-faith, ecumenical, and social justice, civic, and quality of life conversations and initiatives, speaking on behalf of and engaging with worldwide bodies on behalf of the AME Church. The next step and logical outcome of this involvement is to take action via legislation, resolution, and engagement at the highest level of deliberation of the AME Church. The Director's ability to take proactive steps as well as react to potentially harmful policy and social/racial injustices are limited without the ability to participate in the active dialogue and voting at the General Conference. Essentially the Director/Consultant of the Social Action Commission cannot responsibly carry out the designated duties and bring integrity, transparency and credibility in this role as advocate without voice and vote in the AME Church's most important decision making arena.

This request is consistent with authority granted to 80% of the Connectional Officers. The SAC Director is the only official with external responsibilities who is not a voting member of the General Conference - our body charged with critical policy decisions. This legislation has NO fiscal impact. The budget of the Social Action Commission would continue to cover any costs for participation at the General Conference. (e.g. transportation, lodging, registration)

**Current Text**

I. The composition of the General Conference shall be the bishops, general officers elected by the General Conference,



2. the presidents of the universities and colleges, the deans of seminaries that have been in operation continually for one

3. (1) or more years prior to the General Conference, the president and treasurer of the Women's Missionary Society, the

4. editor of the Women's Missionary Magazine, the Director of the Young People's and Children's Division, the Connection

5. presidents of the Women in Ministry (WIM), Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC), the Connectional Lay President,

6. Episcopal District Lay Presidents, the president of the Connectional Council, the Executive and Medical Directors of the

7. Health Commission, active duty military and veterans administration chaplains who have been ordained for at least

8. four years preceding the General Conference and those who are retired with a minimum of twenty

(20) years of service 9. in the Armed Forces of the United States, former World War II chaplains who are in good and regular standing in their 10. annual conferences, the administrators of all

Connectional institutions, the President of the Connectional Presiding..... 11. Elders Council, and

elected clergy and lay delegates from each annual conference.

### **Amended Text**

1. The composition of the General Conference shall be the bishops, general officers elected by the General Conference,

2. the presidents of .the universities and colleges, the deans of seminaries that have been in operation continually one (1) 3. or more years prior to the General Conference, the presidents

....., the Executive and Medical Directors of the Health

4. Commission, the Director/Consultant of the Social Action Commission, and other clergy and lay delegates from each

5. annual conference

6.

7. This legislation has NO FISCAL IMPACT. (NOTE Connectional Officers cover their own costs from their budgets)

8.

9. Submitted by the Social Action Commission

### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Social Action Commission Membership in the General Conference

**First and Last Name**

JACQUELYN DUPONT-WALKER

**Email**

[jdupontw@aol.com](mailto: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**

The composition of the General Conference shall be the bishops, the general officers elected by the General Conference, the presidents of the universities and colleges, the deans of seminaries that have been in operation continually for one (1) or more years prior to the general Conference, the president and treasurer of the Women's Missionary Society, the editor of the Women's Missionary Magazine, the director of Young People's and Children's Division, the Connectional presidents of Women in Ministry (WIM), Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC), Young People's and Children's Division (YPD), and Lay Organization, Episcopal District Lay Presidents, the president of the Connectional Council, the Executive Director and Medical Director of

the Health Commission, active- duty military and veterans administration chaplains who have been ordained for at least four (4) years preceding the General Conference and those who are retired with a minimum of twenty (20) years of service in the Armed Forces of the United States, former World War II Chaplains who are in good and regular standing in their annual conferences, the administrators of all Connectional institutions, the president of the Connectional Presiding Elders Council and elected clergy and lay delegates from each annual conference.

**Amended Text**

The composition of the General Conference shall be bishops, the general officers elected by the General Conference Medical Director; the Director/Consultant of the Social Action Commission;  
active duty military and veterans.....NOTE: Intended to capture the short phrase, which adds the  
Director of Social Action Commission, in the midst of the full paragraph.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

SONS OF ALLEN: THE CONNECTIONAL MEN'S MINISTRY

**First and Last Name**

Monroe Miller

**Email**

[mmiller22@bellsouth.net](mailto: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**

Currently, there is no text in The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**Amended Text****ARTICLE XV - SONS OF ALLEN BENEDICTION**

"May the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and the God of our founder, Richard Allen, bless, strengthen and empower us to serve the present age as Christian men empowered by the Holy Spirit. Amen."

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Standardized General Budget Accounting and Review Process

**First and Last Name**

Angela Pettis

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Part XII The General Board, Section IV. Duties, F. Assess Financial Accountability of Church Department or Agencies and G. Request Annual Reports from Church Departments or Agencies, Page 214

**Intent**

To specify how often the General Board shall summon the Executive Directors or other representatives of each department or agency of the AME church to give a monthly interpretation of their stewardship and the specifics of their performance. A standardized and integrated chart of accounts used by all departments/agencies would enhance the transparency of department finances, make it easier to compare trends across departments, reveal opportunities to reallocate funding when surpluses exist in a specific department and identify financial opportunities and challenges. This process can also avoid costly year-end spending to maintain budget levels. It would include a standardized and integrated chart of accounts each department uses.

**Rationale**

As funding sources tighten, it is necessary to pay closer attention to the uses and allocations of funds during the interim period between General Conferences. This approach can assist in managing funds and forecasting fiscal problems in Connectional Departments.

**Current Text**

CURRENT TEXT: Part XII The General Board, Section IV. Duties, F. Assess Financial Accountability of Church Departments or Agencies and G. Request Annual Reports from Church Departments or Agencies, Page 214

F. Assess Financial Accountability of Church Departments or Agencies

It shall summon the Executive Directors or other representatives of each department or agency of the AME Church authorized to receive funds from the general budget to appear before the General Board at a designated time and place to give an account of



their stewardship. This would include the annual audit showing the amounts received and disbursed.

#### G. Request Annual Reports from Church Departments or Agencies

It shall request that the Executive Directors or other authorized representatives of agencies of the AME Church mail to each member of the General Board annually, one (1) month in advance of its

annual board meeting, a report of the condition and recommendations of that department or agency.

#### **Amended Text**

AMENDED TEXT: Part XII The General Board, Section IV. Duties, F. Assess Financial Accountability of Church Departments or Agencies and G. Request Annual Reports from Church Departments or Agencies, Page 214

#### F. Assess Financial Accountability of Church Departments or Agencies

It shall summon the Executive Directors or other representatives of each department or agency of the AME Church authorized to receive funds from the general budget to appear before the General Board at least twice annually, at a designated time and place, to give an account of their stewardship. This would include monthly accounting reports and the annual audit showing the amounts received and disbursed.

#### G. Request Monthly, Semiannual, and Annual Reports from Church Departments or Agencies

It shall request that the Executive Directors or other authorized representatives of agencies of the AME Church provide electronically generated reports to respective commission members of the General Board, monthly a description of the condition and recommendations of that department or agency. The reporting schedule is to include an annual report that is submitted one (1) month in advance of its annual board meeting

It shall request that the Executive Directors or other authorized representatives of departments/agencies of the AME Church produce and submit monthly accounting reports reflecting variance to budgeted figures to General Board Committee members assigned oversight of the various departments or agencies. These reports should go to the standing commissions that oversee the departments/agencies and are to meet bi-monthly to review Department finances and operations.

a) All departments or agencies will use a standardized integrated chart of accounts. This account structure will assign consistent income and expense categories across departments, allowing for summarization up to a "Total AME Church General Budget" level. Special line items would address department-specific revenue and expense activities under the uniform categories.

b) All departments or agencies would summarize to a total AME Church General Budget.

Financial Impact: The impact on the general budget of the Connectional Church should be determined in collaboration with accounting firms bidding on, developing and maintaining the account structure.

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Standing Commission of the General Conference Board I. Duties

**First and Last Name**

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Six Episcopal District

**Email**

[Sbrown@ame6.Church](mailto:Sbrown@ame6.Church)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

2021 AMEC Book of Discipline, Part X, Section VI. Organization, Standing Commissions,  
I. Duties, Pg. 217.218

**Intent**

To provide clear and specific duties of the Commissions of the General Board or ensure effective oversight and accountability so that the General Board will be thoroughly informed of the activities, plans, achievements, decisions, and standing of the Departments of the church. Additionally, to provide options for a better, more convenient, and appropriate time for commissions to meet and do their work.

**Rationale**

Currently there are no specific duties of the commissions of the General Board or responsibilities of the Departments of the church to the General Board. There is nothing to require Departments of the Church to inform or respond to their Commissions or authority of the Commissions to compel them to do so. Also, many of the Commissions do not have sufficient time to conduct their meetings.

**Current Text**

1. b. Evaluate the performance of the Church Departments
2. 1.) The Standing Commissions shall review the audit, efficiency, and program of the
3. Department of the church.
4. 2.) They shall develop questionnaires and a check-dash list system for evaluating the
5. Effectiveness of the program in reference to the money allocated.
6. c. Submit reports to the General Board
7. The General Board shall receive the reports of the Standing Commissions.
8. d. Work Year Round
9. Commission members should work Year round.
10. 2. Meetings
11. a. The standing Commission shall meet at 9:00a.m. one (1) day prior to the opening
12. of the General Board at the site of the meeting. Each General Board member
13. should serve on no more than three (3) Commissions.

14. b. Commission meetings should not exceed two (2) hours and devotions should  
 15. honor a fifteen minute (15) maximum length of time. This is to ensure a proper  
 16. evaluation of the departments and agencies of the church.  
 17. c. All regular meetings of the standing commissions and board shall be held at  
 18. the same site and in the same week as one (1 ) of the meeting of the Council of  
 19. Bishops and the Connectional Circuit. Establish a time block exclusively for the  
 20. General Board to conduct all of its business. The suggested time block will  
 21. commence at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday and conclude at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday. No  
 22. other  
 23. departments/components to be permitted to schedule activities during this  
 24. block of time. Re-ordering the schedule of Commission meetings will eliminate  
 25. /minimize any other General Board member from having to attend more than  
 26. One commission meeting during the same time frame.

### **Amended Text**

1. b. Evaluate the performance and provide oversight of General Officers and Church  
 2. Departments  
 3. 1) The standing commissions shall review the audit, efficiency, and program of the  
 4. Departments of the church.  
 5. 2) They show develop questionnaires and a check list system for evaluating the  
 6. effectiveness of the program in reference to the money allocated.  
 7. c. Submit reports to the general board  
 8. The General Board will receive the reports of the Standing Commissions  
 9. d. Work Year Round  
 10. Commission numbers should work year round.  
 11. e. General Officers shall make a verbal and written report to their Commission  
 12. which will include:  
 13. \*decisions made which impact the mission and goals of the department  
 14. \*Department budget would shows spending and balances  
 15. \*certified audit of the department  
 16. \*goals, concerns and recommendation for the coming year  
 17. Commission shall respond to the report of the general officer  
 18. Commission shall respond to any recommendations or concerns of the audit  
 19. commissions are to approve or reject recommendations from the general  
 20. officer and report the same to the General Board  
 21. Each college, university, seminary and school must through its board chairperson  
 22. or President submit a report to its Commission, including accreditation status  
 23. and finances.  
 24. 2} Meetings  
 25. a. The standing Commission shall have two options for its general meeting.  
 26. 1. one (1) day prior to the opening of the general board at the site of  
 27. the meeting.

- 84 28. 2. Virtually, at the call of the commission's chair, at least ten (10) days  
85 29. Prior to that general board meeting and shall be made public through the  
86 Christian Recorder or Office  
87 Secretary/CIO  
88  
89 **Approved**  
90 • No  
91 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

Stewardship and Finance Ministry

**First and Last Name**

Gaylis Shakir

**Email**

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**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 117; Section II. Local Church Organization-Optional Commissions, Letter C3  
Commission on Stewardship and Finance

**Intent**

Change the Commission on Stewardship and Finance to the Stewardship and Finance Ministry and place this ministry under Section I. Local Church Organization-Required, 4. Organizations and Ministries, new letter i.

**Rationale**

The rationale is multifaceted:

- a) To greater emphasize the spiritual nature of stewardship and finance and to establish it as a required and necessary ministry within the local church versus an optional entity.
- b) Utilize terminology that better supports the idea that handling church finances is truly financial “ministry” and not merely financial “management.” The Stewardship and Finance Ministry would work to practice good and faithful stewardship over God’s money.
- c) Create diversity in the ministry composition which helps foster transparency and accountability for both Lay and clergy by allowing some of the ministry members to be appointed by the pastor and some elected by church members.
- d) Move the creation, implementation and oversight of the Central Budget Fund from the optional Commission on Stewardship and Finance to a required ministry in the local church, The Stewardship and Finance Ministry.

**Current Text**

Page 113 & 117

SECTION II. LOCAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION-OPTIONAL COMMISSIONS A. Guidelines for Establishing Commissions

## 1. Types

There may be constituted in each local church the following commissions, whose respective duties are hereinafter defined: a) The Commission on Membership, Evangelism and Discipleship b) The Commission on Christian Education, c) The Commission on Missions and Welfare, d) The Commission on Stewardship and Finance, e) The Commission on Public Relations, f) The Commission on Christian Social Action and g) The Commission on Health.

## 2. Chairpersons

a) The pastor shall be the chairperson of the Commission on Stewardship and Finance and is ex officio chairperson of the other commissions.

b) The chairperson of each commission shall be a steward and, therefore, a member of the Official Board and Quarterly Conference to which he or she is amenable.

c) Exception: The chairperson of the Commission on Missions and Welfare may be either a steward or a trustee.

d) Chairpersons shall make monthly reports to the Official Board and also quarterly reports to the Quarterly Conference.

## 3. Election of Members

a) The members shall be elected by the Church Conference, except that the Commission on Christian Education shall be composed of the pastor, the superintendent of the Church School, president of the Allen Christian Fellowship, director of the Young People's and Children's Division of the Women's Missionary Society, directors of Bureau Service Agencies and additional members who shall be nominated by the pastor and elected by the Quarterly Conference.

b) The director of Christian Education shall be ex officio a member of this commission.

## 4. Composition

a) Each commission shall be composed of no fewer than three (3) nor more than seven (7) members who are in good and regular standing in the AME Church and eighteen (18) years of age or older.

b) This rule may not apply in the case of mission charges, and does not apply to the Commission on Stewardship and Finance, which shall be composed of an equal number of stewards and trustees, plus Official Board members-at-large. The total number of persons on this commission shall not be fewer than three (3) nor more than nine (9).

c) Each commission shall cooperate with the Connectional and Annual Conference Commission.

## C. DUTIES OF EACH COMMISSION

### 3. Commission on Stewardship and Finance

#### a. Purpose

The Commission on Stewardship and Finance shall promote and cultivate Christian stewardship and administer the financial program of the church.

b. Duties In keeping with this overall function, the duties of this commission are as follows:

1) Each year the Commission shall set up a budget for the church and shall submit the same to the Official Board for its action and determination.

2) Upon approval of the annual budget by the Official Board, the Commission shall, under the direction of the Board, take action to provide the income sufficient to cover same, and shall administer the funds received according to the plan of the Official Board.

3) There shall be an annual "Every Member Canvas" for individual pledges. All payments shall be credited to the donors and a proper account shall be kept of each subscriber and contributor.

4) The funds shall be deposited promptly in a bank approved by the Board and the account shall be in the name of the local church.

5) Funds received shall be disbursed as the Official Board directs, subject to the approval of the pastor. The income received each month shall have been shared proportionately among the budgeted items, after the pastor's salary and that of the entire church staff shall be given priority.

6) A report shall be made by the financial secretary and treasurer(s) to the Official Board each month and to the Quarterly Conference of all receipts and disbursements, and of unpaid obligations against the budget.

7) It shall be the continuing duty of the Commission to inform the congregation of the financial needs of the church.

8) No lottery, raffle or other games of chance shall be used in raising money for any purpose.

c. Central Budget Fund The work of the local church requires the support of each member. Participation through services and gifts is a Christian duty and a means of grace. In order that all members of the AME Church on the local level may share in its manifold ministries at home and abroad, and that work committed to us may prosper, the following financial plan is hereby duly approved and adopted. [See Part II, Section VII: Stewardship: Tithes and Offerings (Rules for Giving)]

1) There may be established a central fund in the local church known as the "Central Budget Fund."

2) The various causes and services included in this local fund shall be:

a) Ministers' Support

b) Benevolences

c) Christian Education

d) Public Relations

e) Connectional Budget

f) Conference Budget (District, Annual)

g) Community Projects

h) Current Trustee Expenses i) Purchase and Repair

j) Church Expansion (Local)

k) Travel (Minister and Lay)

l) Extra Budget Projects

- m) Insurance
- n) Contingency

3) All monies raised by organizations of or for the church shall be reported immediately to this Fund. Each commission shall be permitted to draw on this fund, upon presentation of a voucher previously prepared for such purposes. Each organization shall withdraw funds for incidental needs, using the same procedure.

4) This Fund shall be administered by the Commission on Stewardship and Finance.

### **Amended Text**

SECTION I. LOCAL CHURCH ORGANIZATION-REQUIRED A. Boards, Licensed Missionary Workers, and Organizations and Ministries 4. Organizations and Ministries (new letter i, after “choirs”)

i. Stewardship and Finance Ministry

1) Chairperson

The pastor shall be the chairperson of the Stewardship and Finance Ministry

2) Election of Members

Some of the members shall be elected by the Church Conference (see Composition)

3) Composition

The Stewardship and Finance Ministry shall be composed of an equal number of stewards and trustees appointed to the Ministry by the pastor. The Ministry will also include members-at-large with

½ of the members-at-large being elected by the Church Conference (round down if this number falls between two whole numbers, e.g., 1.5 is rounded down to 1). and at least ½ of the members-at-large being appointed by the pastor The total number of persons on the Ministry shall not be fewer than

three (3) nor more than nine (9). All members must be in good and regular standing of the local AME Church and eighteen (18) years of age or older.

4) Purpose

The Stewardship and Finance Ministry shall promote and cultivate Christian stewardship utilizing biblical teaching and administer the financial program of the church utilizing financial best practices.

5) Duties In keeping with this overall function, the duties of this Ministry are as follows:

a) Each year the Ministry shall set up a budget for the church and shall submit the same to the Official Board for its action and determination.

b) Upon approval of the annual budget by the Official Board, the Ministry shall, under the direction of the Board, take action to provide the income sufficient to cover same, and shall administer the funds received according to the plan of the Official Board.

c) Conduct an annual “Every Member Canvas” for individual pledges. All payments shall be credited to the donors and a proper account shall be kept of each subscriber



- 170 and contributor.
- 171 d) Plan and implement a stewardship month (or stewardship initiative with a defined
- 172 period of time) on an annual basis in collaboration with the pastor and Steward Board.
- 173 The goal is to complement the work mandated for Pastors, Presiding Elders and Others.
- 174 (See Part VII. Stewardship: Tithes and Offerings (Rules for Giving))
- 175 e) Ensure that the funds shall be deposited promptly in a bank approved by the
- 176 Board and the account shall be in the name of the local church.
- 177 f) Ensure that funds received shall be disbursed as the Official Board directs, subject
- 178 to the approval of the pastor. The income received each month shall have been
- 179 shared proportionately among the budgeted items, after the pastor's salary and that
- 180 of the entire church staff shall be given priority.
- 181 g) Ensure that a report shall be made by the financial secretary and treasurer(s) to the
- 182 Official Board each month and to the Quarterly Conference of all receipts and
- 183 disbursements, and of unpaid obligations against the budget.
- 184 h) Inform the congregation of the financial needs of the church on a continuing basis.
- 185 i) The Ministry shall create, adhere to, implement and update written
- 186 financial policies and procedures for the church.
- 187 j) Ensure that no lottery, raffle or other games of chance shall be used in raising
- 188 money for any purpose.
- 189 6) Central Budget Fund. The work of the local church requires the support of each
- 190 member. Participation through services and gifts is a Christian duty and a means of
- 191 grace. In order that all members of the AME Church on the local level may share in its
- 192 manifold ministries at home and abroad, and that work committed to us may prosper,
- 193 the following financial plan is hereby duly approved and adopted. [See Part II, Section
- 194 VII: Stewardship: Tithes and Offerings (Rules for Giving)]
- 195 a) There may be established a central fund in the local church known as the "Central
- 196 Budget Fund."
- 197 b) The various causes and services included in this local fund shall be:
- 198 i. Ministers' Support
- 199 ii. Benevolences
- 200 iii. Christian Education
- 201 iv. Public Relations
- 202 v. Connectional Budget
- 203 vi. Conference Budget (District, Annual)
- 204 vii. Community Projects
- 205 viii. Current Trustee Expenses
- 206 ix. Purchase and Repair
- 207 x. Church Expansion (Local)
- 208 xi. Extra Budget Projects
- 209 xii. Insurance
- 210 xiii. Contingency
- 211
- 212 c) All monies raised by organizations of or for the church shall be reported



213 immediately to this Fund. Each commission shall be permitted to draw on this fund,  
214 upon presentation of a voucher with the authorized signatures previously prepared  
215 for such purposes. Each organization/ministry shall withdraw funds for incidental  
216 needs, using the same procedure.

217 d) This Fund shall be administered by the Stewardship and Finance Ministry

218

219 **Approved**

220 • No

221

222 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Stewardship: Tithes and Offerings (Rules for Giving)

**First and Last Name**

Angela Pettis

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2021, Section VII  
Stewardship: Tithes and Offerings (Rules for Giving), C. Mandate for Pastors, Presiding  
Elders and Others, page 53

**Intent**

To clarify that every pastor provides the members with information on how to become  
regular tithers.

**Rationale**

Every pastor must ensure that tithing is discussed with the church members at least  
once a month. The pastor will do this through sermons, lectures, workshops, or other  
presentations to enlighten and encourage members to become regular tithers.

**Current Text**

CURRENT TEXT: Section VII. Stewardship: Tithes and Offerings (Rules for Giving), C,  
Mandate for Pastors, Presiding Elders, and Others

I. Every pastor shall at least once each month include in his or her worship bulletin some  
reference to tithing.

**Amended Text**

AMENDED NEW TEXT: Section VII. Stewardship: Tithes and Offerings (Rules for Giving) C.  
Mandate for Pastors, Presiding Elders, and Others, page 53

I. Every pastor will at least once each month include in his or her communication to the  
members some reference of tithing.

Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

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

- 42     **Approved**
- 43     • No
- 44
- 45     Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Sultant de oral généalogie

**First and Last Name**

Ntumba Kadima Richard

**Email**

[Kadriche@live.fr](mailto: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 généalogie que nous possédons par apport a vos liens avec vos ancêtres de l'Afrique

**Rationale**

Francophone

**Current Text**

de Family search internationale en Afrique centrale

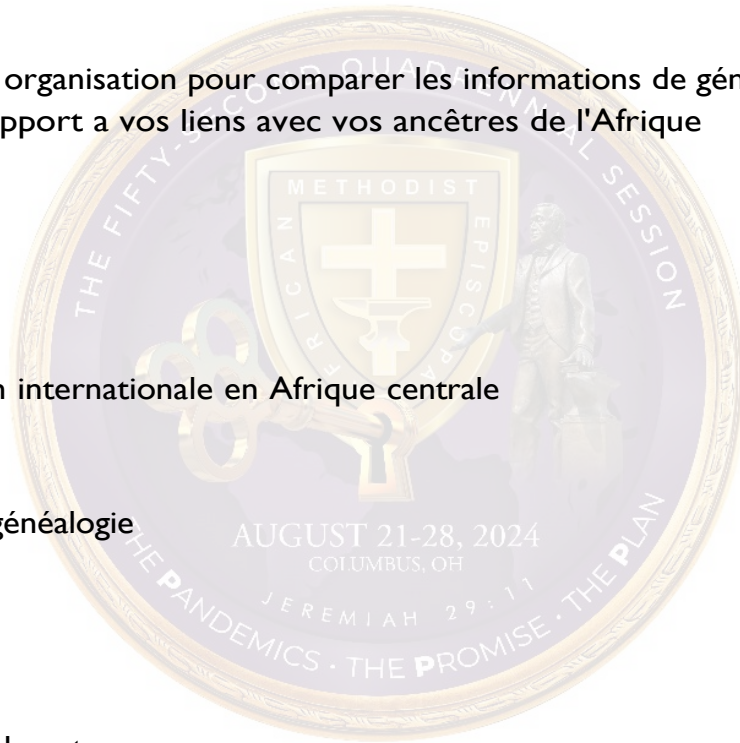
**Amended Text**

Technologie et généalogie

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Superannuated Clergy Transfer of Roll Call

**First and Last Name**

Reverend Dr. Lesly Devereaux, Esq.

**Email**

[drdevereauxL@gmail.com](mailto:drdevereauxL@gmail.com)

**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 amend current legislation. This legislation would permit retired clergy who have moved from one district or annual conference to another to transfer their membership and answer the roll in the district where they now reside.

**Rationale**

The mandatory retirement age is seventy-five. Upon superannuation, some clergy may relocate to be closer to family, moving out of the district where they were ordained. Currently, answering roll call after such a move necessitates traveling back to the original district solely for roll call or writing a letter to request to be excused. This situation presents several issues for clergy who are required to answer roll call.

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Residency in a new district

Established relationships in the new district

Once approved, superannuated clergy would be permitted to transfer and answer roll



call in the conference and state where they currently reside.

**Current Text**

VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT: CLERGY WHO RETIRE BEFORE THE AGE OF SEVENTY-FIVE (75) MUST SUBMIT A RETIREMENT REQUEST LETTER TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. THE RETIRED MINISTER WILL REMAIN A MEMBER OF A QUARTERLY CONFERENCE. RETIRED MINISTERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE PREACHING AND MAY ASSIST IN THEIR LOCAL CHURCH OR OTHER CAPACITIES, AS REQUESTED BY THE BISHOP, PRESIDING ELDER, OR LOCAL PASTOR.

**Amended Text**

VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT: CLERGY WHO RETIRE BEFORE THE AGE OF SEVENTY-FIVE (75) MUST

SUBMIT A RETIREMENT REQUEST LETTER TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. THE RETIRED MINISTER WILL REMAIN A MEMBER OF A QUARTERLY CONFERENCE. RETIRED MINISTERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE PREACHING AND MAY ASSIST IN THEIR LOCAL CHURCH OR OTHER CAPACITIES, AS REQUESTED BY THE BISHOP, PRESIDING ELDER, OR LOCAL PASTOR.

RETIRED CLERGY: AS REQUESTED BY THE BISHOP, PRESIDING ELDER, OR LOCAL PASTOR. RETIRED PREACHERS WHO MOVE TO A LOCATION OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE WHERE THEY RETIRED WILL BE ALLOWED TO TRANSFER TO ANOTHER EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OR ANNUAL CONFERENCE. THEY MUST REPORT TO THE NEW ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND BECOME A MEMBER OF A QUARTERLY CONFERENCE. PROOF OF NEW RESIDENCY MUST BE ESTABLISHED BY CLERGY.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Superannuated Elders Transfer

**First and Last Name**

Myron D Hill

**Email**

[myrondavidhill@comcast.net](mailto:myrondavidhill@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

new legislation

**Intent**

to provide uniformity across the church; to honor the retiree's wishes who have gladly have served the church where sent

**Rationale**

Currently, the superannuated pastor must answer the roll in the annual conference from where they retired, when they could have retired many miles from that annual conference to live out the balance of their life. This bill allows the superannuate to be apart an annual conference of the superannuate's request and provides additional dignity to his/her retirement.

**Current Text**

new legislation

**Amended Text**

When a pastor superannuates from an annual conference, that pastor will be allowed to request placement on an Annual Conference roll to where they moving as long as the retiring bishop and the receiving bishop agree. An appropriate certificate will be presented to the retiree honoring the request and shall be received by the receiving bishop and name placed on that annual conference roll under "superannuate preacher."

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Support for 18th Episcopal District Primary and High Schools

**First and Last Name**

Francine Brookins

**Email**

[BishopBrookins141@gmail.com](mailto:BishopBrookins141@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

None

**Intent**

To provide financial and technical support for primary, secondary and high schools in the 18th Episcopal District

To use existing relationships with students, parents, teachers and school boards as an evangelism tool for church growth.

To create meaningful international relationships of support for teachers and students.

**Rationale**

The 18th Episcopal District is home to 38 primary and High schools, serving over 8642 students. Without the support of the Connectional church, our school infrastructures will continue to deteriorate. Most of these schools were started by AME churches. While the government pays for students to attend school, there is no support for maintaining the school infrastructures. These schools bear our name. Ensuring adequate roofing, flooring, lighting, seating and working facilities with a small but intentional investment/allocation will:

a. reinforce the church's ownership over these institutions, preventing their alienation from the AME Church

b. transform the lives of students, teachers, churches and village communities, and

c. preserve the church's educational legacy in the 18th District

2. Supporting these schools is an evangelism tool for a shrinking church membership.

We can pursue the idea of "school planting" as opposed to "church planting". It is easier to plant a church where there is an AME School. Schools provide daily engagement with core members of the community.

5. In every school there are dedicated teachers and students ready to learn. Volunteer school boards give of their daily time and treasure. The government support for the schools is minimal. The local churches do not have the financial means to maintain school infrastructures.

6. Despite the large number of students attending, some schools have no working toilets, no running water, no solid roofing, no paved flooring, no desks or chairs.

7. Lack of support lends to theft of church property, others taking over the schools and curriculum, and loss of good will in the community.

**Current Text**

We could find no mention of primary, secondary or high schools in the AME Book of Discipline.

**Amended Text**

The AME Church formally recognizes the invaluable contribution of our primary, secondary and high schools in the 18th Episcopal District.

There shall be a \$5,000.00 per year general budget allocation for the support of the schools, school infrastructures and school boards in the 18th Episcopal District.

The secondary and high schools shall report to the General Board standing commission on seminaries, universities, colleges and schools.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL

**First and Last Name**

PAUL MUGALA

**Email**mugalapm@gmail.com**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

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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 WE SERVE.

PAGE 298:

**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**

PAGE 297

GLOBAL WITNESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA, THE NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN, EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA AND INDIA

PAGE 298

### **SECTION I. PREAMBLE**

#### **A. BACKGROUND:**

Last Sentence:

The initiative is now known as the Global Development Council.

### **Amended Text**

PAGE 297

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

PAGE 298

THE INITIATIVE HAS NOW BEEN REVERTED BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL NAME KNOWN AS THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL. THE AJC IS WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT [AS OF THE 51ST QUADRENNIAL OF THE AMEC 2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE CONVENED IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA] TO HAVE ITS OWN GOVERNANCE AND MODE OF ELECTION FOR ONLY PEOPLE BORN IN AFRICA AND MEET THE APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS SHALL CONTEST FOR ALL THE ELECTED OFFICES TO SERVE IN LEADERSHIP ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL

**First and Last Name**

PAUL MUGALA

**Email**mugalapm@gmail.com**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

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PAGE 298

PAGE 298

PART XV

SECTION I.

PREAMBLE

A. BACKGROUND:

LAST SENTENCE

PAGE 299 TO PAGE 314

**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 WE SERVE.

PAGE 298:

TO REPLACE THE LAST SENTENCE TO REFLECT THE NEW NAME OF AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL ALONG WITH AN APPROPRIATE STATEMENT

### **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**

PAGE 297

GLOBAL WITNESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA, THE NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN, EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA AND INDIA

PAGE 298

Last Sentence:

The initiative is now known as the Global Development Council.

PAGE 299

PART XV

SECTION I.

PREAMBLE

CURRENT

TEXT:

B. GLOBAL

DEVELOPMENT

COUNCIL I NAME

The name of this initiative shall be the GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF THE AME CHURCH\

2. Mission and Purpose

c. unite all AME Churches in Africa, the nations of the Caribbean, South America, Europe and India.

h. promote deeper understanding, collaboration and cohesion among Churches

in Africa, the nations of the Caribbean, South America, Europe, India and Canada with those in the US.

j. propose legislation in the General Conference to move the process beyond the Global Development Council.

3. Membership The membership of the Global Development Council shall be:

a. all bishops page 300

b. general officers

c. connectional officers and field representatives

d. members of the General Board

e. supervisors and presidents of episcopal auxiliaries

and organizations residing and serving in Africa, the

nations of the Caribbean, South America, Europe and

India, and

f. one (1) clergy and one (1) layperson from each annual

conference, elected by simple majority at the first (1st)

session of the annual conference after the closure of the 47th

Session of the General Conference of the AME Church,

rotating between one (1) youth [age eighteen (18) to thirty-

five (35)] and adult layperson with each succeeding General

Conference.

4. Members of the Executive Board The members of the

Executive Board shall be:

a. all bishops serving in Africa, the nations of the Caribbean, South America and Europe.

b. one (1) layperson and one (1) clergy of each episcopal district.

c. all Field Representatives.

d. the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer elected

at the biennial meetings of the Global Development

Council.

5. Election The mode of election shall be determined by the Global

Development Council in accordance with The Doctrine and Discipline of the African

Methodist Episcopal Church.

6. Duties of the Executive Board The duties of the Executive Board shall be to:

a. facilitate the realization of the aspirations of the

members of the AME Church resident in the Global

Community.

b. create, appoint and spell out the terms of references of ad

hoc task forces, committees or coordinators and, when need

arises, address specific issues and matters.

c. receive, hear, edit and prepare all bills agreed upon by the Global

Development Council meetings for submission to the biennial meetings for subsequent

submission to the General Conference Revisions Committee.

d. draft rules, procedures, regulations and Bylaws that are in keeping with The Doctrine



and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to govern the Global Development Council.

PAGE 301

e. develop budgets for its operations and submit to the Global Development Council for approval.

f. consider reports from the Field Representatives for possible advice, direction, feedback and implementation.

g. raise, receive and administer funds received from the Connectional Church, episcopal districts, and other sources independent of the Connectional Church for its operation.

## 7. Meetings

a. The Global Development Council will hold biennial meetings. The first biennial meeting shall be called by the senior bishop serving in the Global community not later than February 15, 2005.

b. The Executive Board of the Global Development Council shall meet at least annually.

c. The expenses of members attending meetings (Biennial or Executive Board Annual Meetings) of the Global Development Council shall be borne by their respective annual conference.

## 8. Program Coordinator

a. As part of the development and empowerment program for ministry, the Global Development Council may appoint a Program Coordinator from time to time, to plan and implement specific activities (i.e., Joint Leadership Congress and other such activities), and

b. One (1) of the two (2) Episcopal representatives to the Global Development Council must be designated by his or her presiding bishop as Global Development Council Episcopal Coordinator, responsible for the total program of the Global Development in consultation with the bishop.

9. Amenability The Global Development Council shall be amenable to the General Board Commission on Global Development of Africa and shall be governed by The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

10. Amendments This legislation can be amended by the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

11. Parliamentary Procedure The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order page 302 Newly Revised, when not in conflict with The Discipline, shall govern the proceedings of the Global Development Council.



**Amended Text**

PAGE 297

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

PAGE 298

THE INITIATIVE HAS NOW BEEN REVERTED BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL NAME KNOWN AS THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL. THE AJC IS WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT [AS OF THE 51ST QUADRENNIAL OF THE AMEC 2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE CONVENED IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA] TO HAVE ITS OWN GOVERNANCE AND MODE OF ELECTION FOR ONLY PEOPLE BORN IN AFRICA AND MEET THE APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS SHALL CONTEST FOR ALL THE ELECTED OFFICES TO SERVE IN LEADERSHIP ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

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T:

B. AFRICAN

JURISDICTION

COUNCIL I NAME

THE NAME OF THIS INITIATIVE SHALL BE THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL OF THE AME CHURCH AMENABLE TO THE CONNECTIONAL AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR DOCTRINE AND SOME PARTS OF THE DISCIPLINE ONLY

2. Mission and Purpose

c. Unite all AME Churches in Africa and pursue new opportunities in areas where there is no AMEC presence; such as the, Ethiopia, Chad, exploit Church Growth opportunities in Ghana and Nigeria.

f. Secure for members in the emerging African and its Islands Communities for opportunities for service in the ministry of governance.

h. Promote deeper understanding, collaboration and cohesion among Churches in Africa and its surrounding Islands

\* Please Note that the following items are not relevant to the AJC... so please Get rid of these items completely – i, j, .

### 3. Membership

The membership of the African Jurisdiction Council shall be:

- a. All AJC elected and consecrated Bishops
- b. All AJC elected Connectional and General officers; the Judicial Council
- c. All the African Episcopal Districts' Constituents
- d. All members of the AJC General Board Members
- e. All the AJC supervisors and presidents of episcopal auxiliaries and organizations serving in Africa and its surrounding Islands

• 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; and 11 becomes 7 as noted below....

### 4. ELECTIONS / MEETINGS, ETC REFER TO PAGE 247 PART XIV

FOR NOW, PLEASE REFER TO PAGE 247 PART XIV TO BE

RATIFIED AT THE AJC ORGANIZATION GENERAL

CONFERENCE TO BE ORGANIZED

PRIOR TO THE CONNECTIONAL 51ST QUADRENNIAL

SESSION OF THE AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE

CURRENTLY POSTPONED TO THE YEAR 2021

SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA USA

### 5. AMENABILITY

THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL OF THE AME

CHURCH SHALL BE AMENABLE TO THE

CONNECTIONAL

AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR DOCTRINE AND

SOME PARTS OF THE DISCIPLINE ONLY. HOWEVER, SHALL

HAVE ITS OWN AUTONOMY TO ORGANIZE ITS OWN

GENERAL CONFERENCE IN CONFORMITY TO THE

CONNECTIONAL GENERAL CONFERENCE SET UP

### 6. AMENDMENTS

THIS LEGISLATION CAN BE AMENDED BY THE AJC

GENERAL CONFERENCE AND RATIFIED AT THE

CONNECTIONAL GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

### 7. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE AFRICAN

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND THE CURRENT

EDITION OF ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER PAGE 302

NEWLY REVISED, WHEN NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THE

DISCIPLINE, SHALL GOVERN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE

256 AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL

257 8. JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION – PLEASE REFER TO

258 PAGE 315 PART XVI PAGE 315 PART XVI JUDICIAL

259 ADMINISTRATION SHALL SERVE AS THE JUDICIAL

260 ADMINISTRATION OF THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION

261 COUNCIL UNTIL IT IS RATIFIED AT THE

262 ORGANIZATION GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AJC.

263 9. THE AJC POTENTIAL EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS RE-

264 DISTRICTING MAP HERE IS THE SUGGESTED AJC

265 EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS MAPPING TO BE RATIFIED AT

266 THE ORGANIZATION GENERAL CONFERENCE PRIOR

267 TO THE CONNECTIONAL 51ST QUADRENNIAL

268 SESSION OF THE AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE:

269 A. THE 14TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT – Burkina Faso, Cote DeVore, Guinea, Liberia,

270 Mali, Senegal, and Sierra Leone

271 B. THE 15TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Angola, Botswana, and Namibia

272 C. THE 17TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT – Zambia

273 D. THE 18TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT – Madagascar, Mozambique, and Swaziland

274 E. 19TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT – Lesotho and South Africa

275 F. 20TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT – Malawi and Zimbabwe

276 G. 21ST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Cameroon, Central, African Republic, Gabon, Congo

277 Brazzaville, and Congo DRC

278 H. 22ND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda

279 I. 23RD EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Somalia

280 J. 24TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Benin, Chad, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo

281 K. THE ECUMENICAL ECONOMICAL EMPOWERMENT EPISCOPAL OFFICE TO OPERATE

282 FROM THE AJC HQ

283 L. POTENTIAL AJC HQ – NIGERIA DUE TO ITS MAJOR HARVEST IN TERMS OF CHURCH

284 GROWTH WITH ITS MASSIVE POPULATION OF MORE THAN 200 MILLION GOD’S

285 PEOPLE

286 M. REGIONAL OFFICES IN ETHIOPIA, GHANA, CAMEROON, AND SOUTH AFRICA/ZAMBIA

287 10. THE AJC GOVERNANCE MODEL AND

288 CONNECTIONAL AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE

289 ENGAGEMENT IN ALIGNMENT TO – PAGE 159

290 PART X ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF

291 GENERAL AND CONNECTIONAL DIVISIONS

292 12. THE AJC COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

293 IN ORDER TO EXERCISE FAIR PLAY AND JUSTICE ONLY

294 BISHOPS ELECTED BY THE AJC GENERAL CONFERENCE SHALL

295 HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO SERVE

296 IN THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS

297

298 PAGE 302 PART XV SECTION II TO

299 SECTION VIII INTENT TEXT:

300 IN ORDER TO HAVE A TOTAL AFRICAN CONSTITUENT CONSENSUS THESE SECTIONS  
 301 BEGINNING WITH SECTION II TO SECTION VIII SHALL BE REVIEWED AND RATIFIED AT  
 302 THE ORGANIZATION GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL  
 303 TO BE CALLED AHEAD OF THE CONNECTIONAL GENERAL CONFERENCE BARRING NO  
 304 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

305 RATIONALE TEXT:

306 TO REFLECT THE AFRICAN PURSUIT OF CONSTITUENTS VOICE INCLUSION IN  
 307 THE SHAPING THE VISION, MINISTRY, AND MISSION OF THE AFRICAN  
 308 JURISDICTION COUNCIL

309 CURRENT TEXT:

310 PLEASE REFER TO THE APPROPRIATE SECTIONS FROM PAGE 302 SECTION II TO PAGE  
 311 312 SECTION VIII

312 AMENDED TEXT:

313 LEAVE AS IS FOR NOW BUT SHALL BE RATIFIED BY THE AFRICAN CONSTITUENTS AS A  
 314 VOICE OF INCLUSION IN THE SHAPING OF THE VISION, MINISTRY, AND MISSION OF THE  
 315 AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL AT THE ORGANIZATION AJC GENERAL CONFERENCE

316

317 BUDGET:

318 ZERO BUDGET IMPACT TO THE GENERAL TREASURY AME CHURCH.

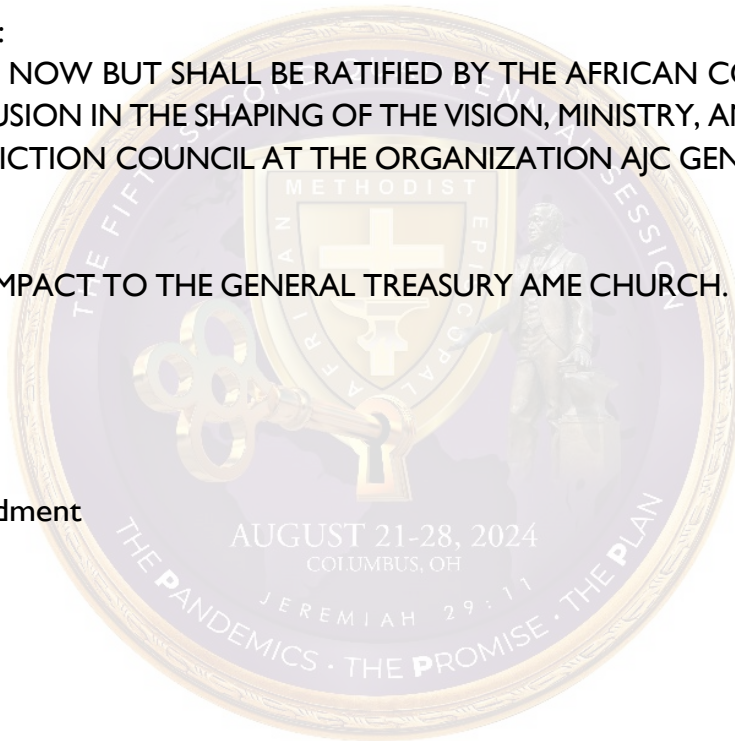
319

320 **Approved**

321 • No

322

323 Read Full Amendment





**Title**

THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL

**First and Last Name**

PAUL MUGALA

**Email**

[mugalapm@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

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

**First and Last Name**

PAUL MUGALA

**Email**

[mugalapm@gmail.com](mailto:mugalapm@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

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PAGE 298

PART XV

SECTION I.

PREAMBLE

A. BACKGROUND:

LAST SENTENCE

PAGE 299 TO PAGE 314

**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 WE SERVE.

PAGE 298:

TO REPLACE THE LAST SENTENCE TO REFLECT THE NEW NAME OF AFRICAN  
JURISDICTION COUNCIL ALONG WITH AN APPROPRIATE STATEMENT

## **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**

PAGE 297

GLOBAL WITNESS AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA, THE NATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN,  
EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA AND INDIA

PAGE 298

Last Sentence:

The initiative is now known as the Global Development Council.

PAGE 299

PART XV

SECTION I.

PREAMBLE

CURRENT

TEXT:

B. GLOBAL

DEVELOPMENT

COUNCIL I NAME

The name of this initiative shall be the GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF THE AME  
CHURCH\

2. Mission and Purpose

c. unite all AME Churches in Africa, the nations of the  
Caribbean, South America, Europe and India.

h. promote deeper understanding, collaboration and cohesion among Churches in Africa, the nations of the Caribbean, South America, Europe, India and Canada with those in the US.

j. propose legislation in the General Conference to move the process beyond the Global Development Council.

3. Membership The membership of the Global Development Council shall be:

a. all bishops page 300

b. general officers

c. connectional officers and field representatives

d. members of the General Board

e. supervisors and presidents of episcopal auxiliaries and organizations residing and serving in Africa, the nations of the Caribbean, South America, Europe and India, and

f. one (1) clergy and one (1) layperson from each annual conference, elected by simple majority at the first (1st) session of the annual conference after the closure of the 47th Session of the General Conference of the AME Church, rotating between one (1) youth [age eighteen (18) to thirty-five (35)] and adult layperson with each succeeding General Conference.

4. Members of the Executive Board The members of the Executive Board shall be:

a. all bishops serving in Africa, the nations of the Caribbean, South America and Europe.

b. one (1) layperson and one (1) clergy of each episcopal district.

c. all Field Representatives.

d. the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer elected at the biennial meetings of the Global Development Council.

5. Election The mode of election shall be determined by the Global Development Council in accordance with The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist

Episcopal Church.

6. Duties of the Executive Board The duties of the Executive Board shall be to:

a. facilitate the realization of the aspirations of the members of the AME Church resident in the Global Community.

b. create, appoint and spell out the terms of references of ad hoc task forces, committees or coordinators and, when need arises, address specific issues and matters.

c. receive, hear, edit and prepare all bills agreed upon by the Global

Development Council meetings for submission to the biennial meetings for subsequent submission to the General Conference Revisions Committee.

d. draft rules, procedures, regulations and Bylaws that are in keeping with The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to govern the Global Development Council.

PAGE 301

e. develop budgets for its operations and submit to the Global Development Council for approval.

f. consider reports from the Field Representatives for possible advice, direction, feedback and implementation.

g. raise, receive and administer funds received from the Connectional Church, episcopal districts, and other sources independent of the Connectional Church for its operation.

## 7. Meetings

a. The Global Development Council will hold biennial meetings. The first biennial meeting shall be called by the senior bishop serving in the Global community not later than February 15, 2005.

b. The Executive Board of the Global Development Council shall meet at least annually.

c. The expenses of members attending meetings (Biennial or Executive Board Annual Meetings) of the Global Development Council shall be borne by their respective annual conference.

## 8. Program Coordinator

a. As part of the development and empowerment program for ministry, the Global Development Council may appoint a Program Coordinator from time to time, to plan and implement specific activities (i.e., Joint Leadership Congress and other such activities), and

b. One (1) of the two (2) Episcopal representatives to the Global Development Council must be designated by his or her presiding bishop as Global Development Council Episcopal Coordinator, responsible for the total program of the Global Development in consultation with the bishop.

9. Amenability The Global Development Council shall be amenable to the General Board Commission on Global Development of Africa and shall be governed by The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

10. Amendments This legislation can be amended by the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

11. Parliamentary Procedure The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal



Church and the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order page  
302 Newly Revised, when not in  
conflict with The Discipline, shall govern the proceedings of  
the Global Development Council.

# **Amended Text**

## **PAGE 297**

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

## **PAGE 298**

THE INITIATIVE HAS NOW BEEN REVERTED BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL NAME KNOWN AS  
THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL. THE AJC IS WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT [AS OF THE  
51ST QUADRENNIAL OF THE AMEC 2020 GENERAL CONFERENCE CONVENED IN  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA] TO HAVE ITS OWN GOVERNANCE AND MODE OF ELECTION FOR  
ONLY PEOPLE BORN IN AFRICA AND MEET THE APPROPRIATE REQUIREMENTS SHALL  
CONTEST FOR ALL THE ELECTED OFFICES TO SERVE IN LEADERSHIP ROLES AND  
RESPONSIBILITIES.

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T:

B. AFRICAN

JURISDICTION

COUNCIL I NAME

THE NAME OF THIS INITIATIVE SHALL BE THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL OF THE  
AME CHURCH AMENABLE TO THE CONNECTIONAL AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR  
DOCTRINE AND SOME PARTS OF THE DISCIPLINE ONLY

## **2. Mission and Purpose**

c. Unite all AME Churches in Africa and pursue new  
opportunities in areas where there is no AMEC presence; such  
as the, Ethiopia, Chad, exploit Church Growth opportunities in  
Ghana and Nigeria.

f. Secure for members in the emerging African and its Islands  
Communities for opportunities for service in the ministry of



governance.

h. Promote deeper understanding, collaboration and cohesion among Churches in Africa and its surrounding Islands

\* Please Note that the following items are not relevant to the AJC... so please Get rid of these items completely – i, j, .

### 3. Membership

The membership of the African Jurisdiction Council shall be:

- a. All AJC elected and consecrated Bishops
- b. All AJC elected Connectional and General officers; the Judicial Council
- c. All the African Episcopal Districts' Constituents
- d. All members of the AJC General Board Members
- e. All the AJC supervisors and presidents of episcopal auxiliaries and organizations serving in Africa and its surrounding Islands

• 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; and 11 becomes 7 as noted below....

### 4. ELECTIONS / MEETINGS, ETC REFER TO PAGE 247 PART XIV

FOR NOW, PLEASE REFER TO PAGE 247 PART XIV TO BE RATIFIED AT THE AJC ORGANIZATION GENERAL CONFERENCE TO BE ORGANIZED PRIOR TO THE CONNECTIONAL 51ST QUADRENNIAL SESSION OF THE AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE CURRENTLY POSTPONED TO THE YEAR 2021 SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA USA

### 5. AMENABILITY

THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL OF THE AME CHURCH SHALL BE AMENABLE TO THE CONNECTIONAL AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE FOR DOCTRINE AND SOME PARTS OF THE DISCIPLINE ONLY. HOWEVER, SHALL HAVE ITS OWN AUTONOMY TO ORGANIZE ITS OWN GENERAL CONFERENCE IN CONFORMITY TO THE CONNECTIONAL GENERAL CONFERENCE SET UP

### 6. AMENDMENTS

THIS LEGISLATION CAN BE AMENDED BY THE AJC GENERAL CONFERENCE AND RATIFIED AT THE CONNECTIONAL GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

### 7. PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

THE DOCTRINE AND DISCIPLINE OF THE AFRICAN

256 METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND THE CURRENT  
 257 EDITION OF ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER PAGE 302  
 258 NEWLY REVISED, WHEN NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THE  
 259 DISCIPLINE, SHALL GOVERN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
 260 AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL  
 261 8. JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION – PLEASE REFER TO  
 262 PAGE 315 PART XVI PAGE 315 PART XVI JUDICIAL  
 263 ADMINISTRATION SHALL SERVE AS THE JUDICIAL  
 264 ADMINISTRATION OF THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION  
 265 COUNCIL UNTIL IT IS RATIFIED AT THE  
 266 ORGANIZATION GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AJC.  
 267 9. THE AJC POTENTIAL EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS RE-  
 268 DISTRICTING MAP HERE IS THE SUGGESTED AJC  
 269 EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS MAPPING TO BE RATIFIED AT  
 270 THE ORGANIZATION GENERAL CONFERENCE PRIOR  
 271 TO THE CONNECTIONAL 51ST QUADRENNIAL  
 272 SESSION OF THE AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE:  
 273 A. THE 14TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT – Burkina Faso, Cote DeVore, Guinea, Liberia,  
 274 Mali, Senegal, and Sierra Leone  
 275 B. THE 15TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Angola, Botswana, and Namibia  
 276 C. THE 17TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT – Zambia  
 277 D. THE 18TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT – Madagascar, Mozambique, and Swaziland  
 278 E. 19TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT – Lesotho and South Africa  
 279 F. 20TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT – Malawi and Zimbabwe  
 280 G. 21ST EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Cameroon, Central, African Republic, Gabon, Congo  
 281 Brazzaville, and Congo DRC  
 282 H. 22ND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda  
 283 I. 23RD EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, and Somalia  
 284 J. 24TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT - Benin, Chad, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, and Togo  
 285 K. THE ECUMENICAL ECONOMICAL EMPOWERMENT EPISCOPAL OFFICE TO OPERATE  
 286 FROM THE AJC HQ  
 287 L. POTENTIAL AJC HQ – NIGERIA DUE TO ITS MAJOR HARVEST IN TERMS OF CHURCH  
 288 GROWTH WITH ITS MASSIVE POPULATION OF MORE THAN 200 MILLION GOD'S  
 289 PEOPLE  
 290 M. REGIONAL OFFICES IN ETHIOPIA, GHANA, CAMEROON, AND SOUTH AFRICA/ZAMBIA  
 291 10. THE AJC GOVERNANCE MODEL AND  
 292 CONNECTIONAL AMEC GENERAL CONFERENCE  
 293 ENGAGEMENT IN ALIGNMENT TO – PAGE 159  
 294 PART X ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF  
 295 GENERAL AND CONNECTIONAL DIVISIONS  
 296 12. THE AJC COUNCIL OF BISHOPS  
 297 IN ORDER TO EXERCISE FAIR PLAY AND JUSTICE ONLY  
 298 BISHOPS ELECTED BY THE AJC GENERAL CONFERENCE SHALL

299 HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO SERVE  
 300 IN THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION EPISCOPAL DISTRICTS

301  
 302 PAGE 302 PART XV SECTION II TO  
 303 SECTION VIII INTENT TEXT:

304 IN ORDER TO HAVE A TOTAL AFRICAN CONSTITUENT CONSENSUS THESE SECTIONS  
 305 BEGINNING WITH SECTION II TO SECTION VIII SHALL BE REVIEWED AND RATIFIED AT  
 306 THE ORGANIZATION GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL  
 307 TO BE CALLED AHEAD OF THE CONNECTIONAL GENERAL CONFERENCE BARRING NO  
 308 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

309 RATIONALE TEXT:

310 TO REFLECT THE AFRICAN PURSUIT OF CONSTITUENTS VOICE INCLUSION IN  
 311 THE SHAPING THE VISION, MINISTRY, AND MISSION OF THE AFRICAN  
 312 JURISDICTION COUNCIL

313 CURRENT TEXT:

314 PLEASE REFER TO THE APPROPRIATE SECTIONS FROM PAGE 302 SECTION II TO PAGE  
 315 312 SECTION VIII

316 AMENDED TEXT:

317 LEAVE AS IS FOR NOW BUT SHALL BE RATIFIED BY THE AFRICAN CONSTITUENTS AS A  
 318 VOICE OF INCLUSION IN THE SHAPING OF THE VISION, MINISTRY, AND MISSION OF THE  
 319 AFRICAN JURISDICTION COUNCIL AT THE ORGANIZATION AJC GENERAL CONFERENCE

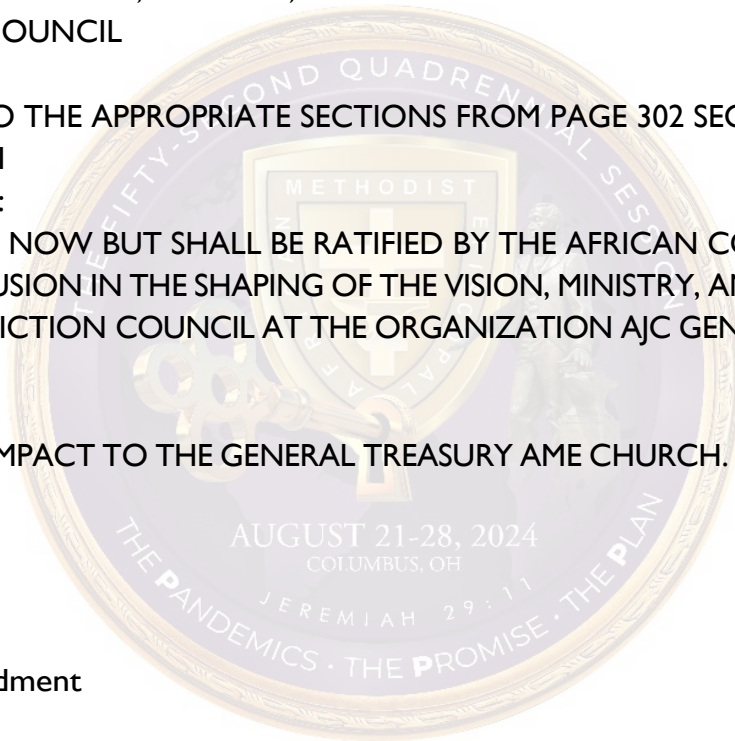
320  
 321 BUDGET:

322 ZERO BUDGET IMPACT TO THE GENERAL TREASURY AME CHURCH.

323  
 324 **Approved**

325 • No

326  
 327 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

The Ecumenical Officer of the AME Church\_I

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Dr. V. Gordon Glenn III

**Email**

[rev\\_glenn@yahoo.com](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

The Ecumenical Officer of the AME Church\_2

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Dr. V. Gordon Glenn III

**Email**

[rev\\_glenn@yahoo.com](mailto: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**

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

**Amended Text**

The Executive Director of Ecumenical Affairs will oversee the Ecumenical Office of the AME Church as defined below.

The Executive Director of Ecumenical Affairs shall undertake study and reflect with others on the nature of the unity to which Christians are called in the light of God’s purpose for the world and the Church.

The Executive Director of Ecumenical Affairs shall be a theological resource and enabler, expanding and extending the vision of Christian unity and sharing in the task of making the vision a reality.

Within the AME Connection:

The Executive Director of Ecumenical Affairs shall, so far as possible, draw attention to the ecumenical dimension in every aspect of life of the Connectional Church...

1. By being in attendance at required Connectional meetings

2. By advising the Bishop's Council and their staff on matters where there is ecumenical participation and potential.

3. By contributing to the work of the General Board, Bishop’s Council and other



42 Connectional boards and committees so that they may build links with equivalent  
 43 structures in partner churches throughout the Christian diaspora and, whenever  
 44 possible, develop mutually beneficial strategies.

45 4. By maintaining creative dialogue and developing joint activities with training and  
 46 resource personnel, including those responsible for ministerial training and for mission  
 47 development across the Connectional Church.

48 Outside the AME Connection:

49 The Executive Director of Ecumenical Affairs shall help to make the Connectional Church  
 50 aware of international developments of ecumenical significance which involve or affect  
 51 the AME Church...

52 1. By representing the AME Church on the World Council of Churches, National  
 53 Council of Churches and other global and national ecumenical boards, councils and  
 54 bodies.

55 2. By contributing in any appropriate way to the World Council of Churches,  
 56 National Council of Churches and other global and national ecumenical boards,  
 57 council's and bodies.

58 3. By providing the AME Church with the content and local implications of  
 59 global and national dialogues and agreements.

60  
 61 **Approved**

62 • No

63  
 64 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

The Episcopal Committee

**First and Last Name**

Leodis Strong

**Email**

[leodis-strong@att.net](mailto:leodis-strong@att.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 269. Section d., Organization

**Intent**

To synchronize the term limits of the position of Chairperson of the Episcopal Committee with the Spirit and letter of term limits already in practice and working well at other levels of Connectional Church and to further safeguard our Church from the harm which could be caused by the accumulation of an imbalance of power in position which could be tilted against the our best Connection-wide interests of our global Church.

**Rationale**

The current prevailing pattern of the election of the same person to Chairperson of the Episcopal Committee is antithetical to, out step with the letter and out of sync with Spirit with the provision embedded in the term limits ("The Eight Year Law") required of office holders and presently in practice at multiple levels from the Episcopal District to Connectional level Presidents. Even Bishops are subject to "The Eight Year Law". For the same reasons that the "Eight Year Law" is in place and in practice for other Servants at lofty levels of our Church and has a proven track record of serving and safeguarding the best interests of our Church for so many years, the time has come for us to apply the legacy of lessons-learned from the Spirit of the "Eight Year Law" to the office/position of the magnitude of the Chairmanship of the Episcopal Committee.

**Current Text**

"From the total number of certified ministerial delegates, a chairperson shall be elected by the General Conference using voting machines whenever there is more than one (1) candidate for the office. The Chairperson of the Committee shall be one (1) of its elected members. The Chairperson shall assemble the Committee and proceed to elect by ballot the following officers:

**Amended Text**

From the total number of certified ministerial delegates, a chairperson shall be elected

**Title**

42 by the General Conference, using voting machines whenever there is more than one (1)  
 43 candidate for the office. The Chairperson of the Committee shall be one of its elected  
 44 members. No person who is elected Chairperson of the Episcopal Committee shall  
 45 serve more than two (2) terms as the Chairperson of the Episcopal Committee. The  
 46 Chairperson shall assemble the Committee and shall proceed to elect by secret ballot  
 47 the following officers:

- 48 No

49  
 50 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

The Episcopal Committee

**First and Last Name**

Leodis Strong

**Email**

[leodis-strong@att.net](mailto:leodis-strong@att.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 269, Section d. Organization

**Intent**

To synchronize the term limits of this position more in harmony with the Spirit and letter of term limits already existing at other levels of our Connectional Church and to safeguard against the accumulation of an imbalance of power in this position which could be tilted against the best Connection-wide interests of our global Church.

**Rationale**

The current historical pattern of the election of the same person a Chairperson of the Episcopal Committee is antithetical to and inconsistent with the provision of term limits ("The Eight Year Law") required for offices and positions held throughout the AME Church, at all levels, from the Episcopal District WMS President, Episcopal District Lay President, Connectional level Presidents. Even Bishops of our Church are subject to "The Eight Year Law". For the same reasons that "The Eight Year Law" is in place for other Servants at lofty levels of our Church, and has a proven track record of serving the best interests of our Church for so many years, the time has come to apply that same "Eight Year Law" to the office/position of the magnitude of the Chairmanship (Chairperson) of the Episcopal Committee.

**Current Text**

"From the total number of certified ministerial delegates , a chairperson shall be elected by the General Conference, using voting machines whenever there is more than one (1) candidate for the office. The Chairperson of the Committee shall be one (1) of its elected members. The Chairperson shall assemble the Committee and proceed to elect by ballot the following officers:

**Amended Text**

From the total number of certified ministerial delegates, a chairperson shall be elected by the General Conference, using voting machines whenever there is more than one

(1) candidate for the office. The Chairperson of the Committee shall be one (1) of its elected members. No person who is elected Chairperson of the Episcopal Committee shall serve more than two (2) terms as the Chairperson of the Committee. The Chairperson shall assemble the Committee and shall proceed to elect by secret ballot the following officers:

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment





**Title**

The General Conference and Social Action Commission

**First and Last Name**

JACQUELYN DUPONT-WALKER

**Email**

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 I - 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 the 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**

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

**Amended Text**

The composition of the General Conference shall be the bishops, general officers elected by the General Conference..... the President and Treasurer of the Women's Missionary Society,.....the Connectional President of the Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC) the Connectional Lay President, the Executive and Medical Directors of the Health Commission,..the Director/Consultant of the Social Action Commission, active-duty military.....

This Legislation has NO FISCAL IMPACT. Connectional Officers cover costs from their budgets. Submitted by the Social Action Commission

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

The Local Church Organization

**First and Last Name**

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

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto: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 CURRENT TEXT: page 103, Section 3 Commission on Stewardship and Finance, c.

2 c. Central Budget Fund The work of the local church requires the support of each member.

3 Participation through services and gifts is a Christian duty and a means of grace. In order that all

4 members of the AME Church on the local level may share in its manifold ministries at home and

5 abroad, and that work committed to us may prosper, the following financial plan is hereby duly

6 approved and adopted. [(See Part II, Section VII: Stewardship: Tithes and Offerings (Rules for

7 Giving)]

8 I) There may be established a central fund in the local church known as the “Central Budget

9 Fund.”

10 2) The various causes and services included in this local fund shall be:

11 a) Ministers’ Support

12 b) Benevolences

13 c) Christian Education

14 d) Public Relations

15 e) Connectional Budget

16 f) Conference Budget (District, Annual)

17 g) Community Projects

18 h) Current Trustee Expenses

19 i) Purchase and Repair

20 j) Church Expansion (Local)

21 k) Travel (Minister and Lay)

22 l) Extra Budget Projects

23 m) Insurance

24 n) Contingency

# **Amended Text**

1 AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to page 99, Section 4 Business, new number e

2 e. Central Budget Fund – The work of the local church requires the support of each member.

3 Participation through services and gifts is a Christian duty and a means of grace. In  
order that all

4 members of the AME Church on the local level may share in its manifold ministries at  
home and

5 abroad, and that work committed to us may prosper, the following financial plan is  
hereby duly

6 approved and adopted. [See Part II, Section VII: Stewardship: Tithes and Offerings  
(Rules for

7 Giving)]

8 1) There may be established a central fund in the local church known as the “Central  
Budget

9 Fund.”

10 2) The various causes and services included in and not limited to this local fund shall  
be:

11 a) Ministers’ Support

12 b) Benevolences

13 c) Christian Education

14 d) Public Relations

15 e) Connectional Budget

16 f) Conference Budget (District, Annual)

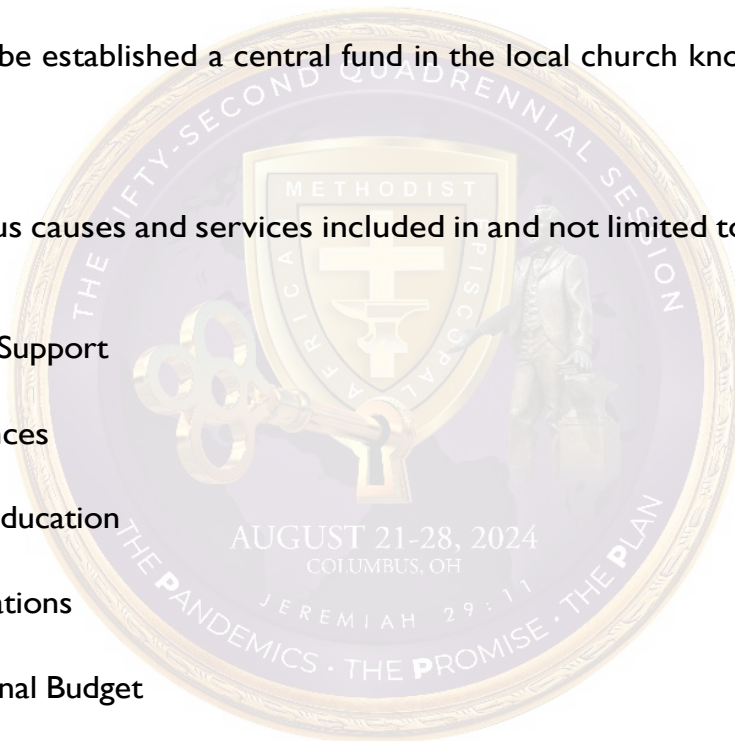
17 g) Community Projects

18 h) Current Trustee Expenses

19 i) Purchase and Repair

20 j) Church Expansion (Local)

21 k) Travel (Minister and Lay)





129 22 l) Extra Budget Projects

130

131 23 m) Insurance

132

133 24 n) Contingency

134

135 25

136

137 26

138

139 27 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

140

141 **Approved**

142 • No

143

144 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

The Local Church Organization

**First and Last Name**

Angela Pettis

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021, Section I, B, 4 (page 112) and Section II, C, 3 c (pages 118-119)

**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**

CURRENT TEXT: page 118, Section 3 Commission on Stewardship and Finance, c.

c. Central Budget Fund The work of the local church requires the support of each member. Participation through services and gifts is a Christian duty and a means of grace. In order that all members of the AME Church on the local level may share in its manifold ministries at home and abroad, and that work committed to us may prosper, the following financial plan is hereby duly approved and adopted. [(See Part II, Section VII: Stewardship: Tithes and Offerings (Rules for Giving)]

1) There may be established a central fund in the local church known as the “Central Budget Fund.”

2) The various causes and services included in this local fund shall be:

- a) Ministers’ Support
- b) Benevolences
- c) Christian Education
- d) Public Relations
- e) Connectional Budget

- f) Conference Budget (District, Annual)
- g) Community Projects
- h) Current Trustee Expenses
- i) Purchase and Repair
- j) Church Expansion (Local)
- k) Travel (Minister and Lay)
- l) Extra Budget Projects
- m) Insurance
- n) Contingency

## **Amended Text**

AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to page 112, Section 4 Business, new number e

e. Central Budget Fund – The work of the local church requires the support of each member. Participation through services and gifts is a Christian duty and a means of grace. In order that all members of the AME Church on the local level may share in its manifold ministries at home and abroad, and that work committed to us may prosper, the following financial plan is hereby duly approved and adopted. [See Part II, Section VII: Stewardship: Tithes and Offerings (Rules for Giving)]

- 1) There may be established a central fund in the local church known as the “Central Budget Fund.”
- 2) The various causes and services included in and not limited to this local fund shall be:
  - a) Ministers’ Support
  - b) Benevolences
  - c) Christian Education
  - d) Public Relations
  - e) Connectional Budget
  - f) Conference Budget (District, Annual)
  - g) Community Projects
  - h) Current Trustee Expenses
  - i) Purchase and Repair
  - j) Church Expansion (Local)
  - k) Travel (Minister and Lay)
  - l) Extra Budget Projects
  - m) Insurance
  - n) Contingency

Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

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

**Approved**

- 85 • No
- 86
- 87 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Time of Meetings

**First and Last Name**

Judicial Council

**Email**

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**

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

**Amended Text**

Delete: "but not more than twice a year in addition to the General Conference" and delete: "The Judicial Council shall not meet at a time and place designated for a meeting of the Council of Bishops or of any other connectional meeting of the AME Church, except the General Conference." the new text reads "...It shall also meet at such



42 times and places as it many deem necessary.”

43

44 **Approved**

45 • No

46

47 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Timeframe for Notifying a Pastor to Request Location

**First and Last Name**

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

**Email**

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

**Amended Text**

I. AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Section I. THE LOCATED MINISTER

2. C. Request for Location by a Committee on Ministerial Efficiency, page 156

3. Whenever it is determined by a Committee on Ministerial Efficiency that a member of the

4. Annual Conference is unacceptable, inefficient or indifferent, or that secular affairs

5. disqualifies him or her from pastoral work, the Committee shall notify said pastor in writing

6. three (3) months prior to the Annual Conference session and ask the pastor to request

7. location.

8.

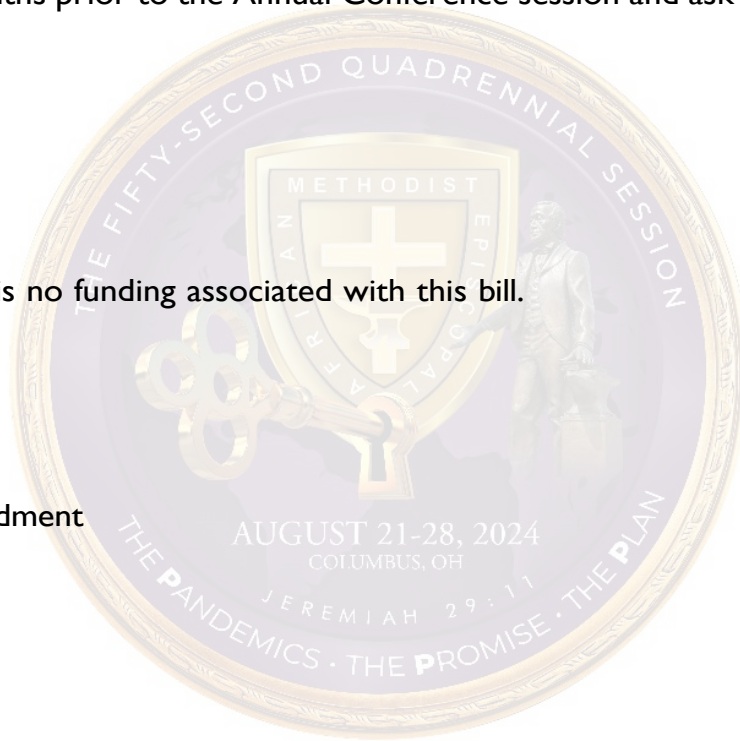
9.

Funding: There is no funding associated with this bill.

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Timeframe for Notifying a Pastor to Request Location

**First and Last Name**

Angela Pettis

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021, Part IX Ministerial Location, Retirement and Termination Section I-C – Request for Location by a Committee on Ministerial Efficiency (page 170)

**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**

CURRENT TEXT: Section I. THE LOCATED MINISTER

C. Request for Location by a Committee on Ministerial Efficiency, page 170

Whenever it is determined by a Committee on Ministerial Efficiency that a member of the Annual Conference is unacceptable, inefficient or indifferent, or that secular affairs disqualifies him or her from pastoral work, the Committee shall notify said pastor in writing six (6) months prior to the Annual Conference session and ask the pastor to request location.

**Amended Text**

AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Section I. THE LOCATED MINISTER

C. Request for Location by a Committee on Ministerial Efficiency, page 170

Whenever it is determined by a Committee on Ministerial Efficiency that a member of the Annual Conference is unacceptable, inefficient or indifferent, or that secular affairs

disqualifies him or her from pastoral work, the Committee shall notify said pastor in writing three (3) months prior to the Annual Conference session and ask the pastor to request location.

Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment





**Title**

Timeframe for Request by Presiding Elders to Locate a Preacher

**First and Last Name**

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

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto: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**

I. CURRENT TEXT: Section I. THE LOCATED MINISTER

2. D. Request by Presiding Elders to Locate a Preacher, page 156

3. Whenever it is unanimously agreed by the presiding elders of an

4. Annual Conference that a minister should be located for the above specified reasons, they

5. shall notify the preacher in writing six (6) months prior to the session of the Annual

6. Conference. The Conference shall take such action as provided for in the above

7. paragraph regarding the report of the Committee on Ministerial Efficiency (Part IX,

8. Section I-C).

**Amended Text**

I. AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Section I. THE LOCATED MINISTER

2. D. Request by Presiding Elders to Locate a Preacher, page 156

3. Whenever it is unanimously agreed by the presiding elders of an Annual Conference

4. that a minister should be located for the above specified reasons, they shall notify

5. the preacher in writing three (3) months prior to the session of the Annual

6. Conference. The Conference shall take such action as provided for in the above

7. paragraph regarding the report of the Committee on Ministerial Efficiency (Part

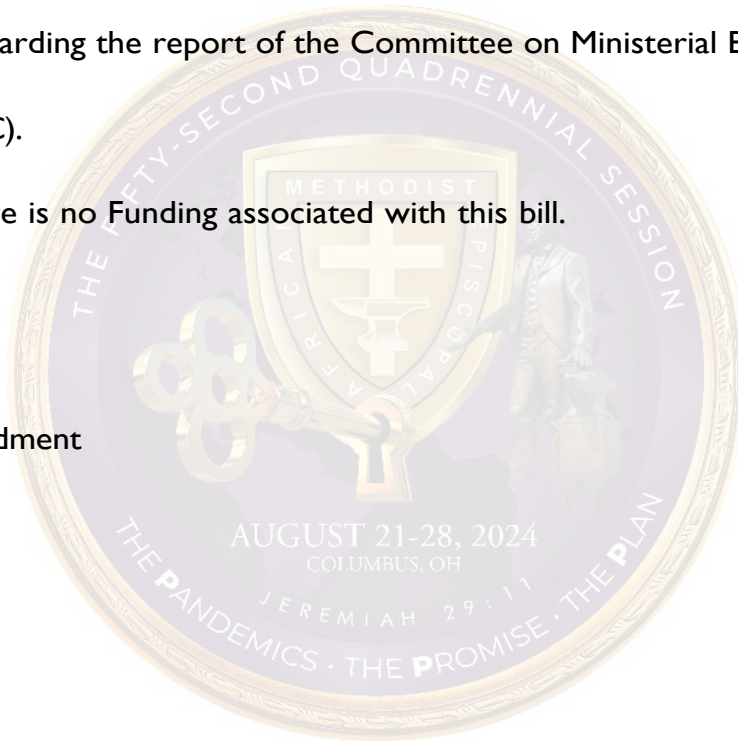
8. IX, Section I-C).

9. Funding: There is no Funding associated with this bill.

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Timeframe for Request by Presiding Elders to Locate a Preacher

**First and Last Name**

Angela Pettis

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021, Part IX  
Section I-D. – Request by Presiding Elders to Locate a Preacher (page 170)

**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**

CURRENT TEXT: Section I. THE LOCATED MINISTER

D. Request by Presiding Elders to Locate a Preacher, page 170

Whenever it is unanimously agreed by the presiding elders of an Annual Conference that a minister should be located for

the above specified reasons, they shall notify the preacher in writing six (6) months prior to the session of the Annual

Conference. The Conference shall take such action as provided for in the above paragraph regarding the report of the

Committee on Ministerial Efficiency (Part IX, Section I-C).

**Amended Text**

AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Section I. THE LOCATED MINISTER

D. Request by Presiding Elders to Locate a Preacher, page 170

Whenever it is unanimously agreed by the presiding elders of an Annual Conference that a minister should be located for

the above specified reasons, they shall notify the preacher in writing three (3) months prior to the session of the Annual

Conference. The Conference shall take such action as provided for in the above paragraph regarding the report of the

Committee on Ministerial Efficiency (Part IX,

Section I-C). Funding: There is no funding

associated with this bill.

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

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Training for Evangelist & Exhorter

**First and Last Name**

Second Episcopal District- Presiding Elder Dr. A. Qismat Alim

**Email**

[valdes2nddistrict@gmail.com](mailto:valdes2nddistrict@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021, Section IV, E, F page 159

**Intent**

To provide continuity in training of those called to be an evangelist and exhorter

**Rationale**

There is no mention of what type of specific training is required for those called to this office. In order to provide continuity throughout the connexional church a formal training component is necessary

**Current Text**

none

**Amended Text**

Added Text

Section IV. E. add 5) An Evangelist is to go through the training for Evangelist provided through the Church Growth and development Division of the AME Church. Upon satisfactory completion of the program, a certificate will be given to the participant, who will present such to the Board of Examiners. The Board of Examiners will ensure that said person will adhere to Evangelist training the psychological assessment and background check in next steps towards readiness for ministry. The Board of Examiners will present said candidates along with all required credentials to the bishop of the district for licensure.

Section IV. F. add 4) An Exhorter is to receive continuity of training provided through the Board of Examiners.

**Approved**

• No



42

43 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

1 Training in Ethics

2  
3 **First and Last Name**

4 Vernon Byrd

5  
6 **Email**

7 vbyrd2@gmail.com

8  
9 **Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

10 p. 130 and p. 137

11  
12 **Intent**

13 To begin to be more intentional about our culture.

14  
15 **Rationale**

16 The church should maintain high ethical standards and it should not assume that  
17 everyone knows what they are. When churches and other entities are intentional  
18 about having an ethical culture, it engenders trust both internally and externally.

19 But this is only a start. Leaders must model avoiding conflicts of interest, transparency  
20 and adhering to fiduciary responsibilities.

21  
22 **Current Text**

23 Educational Requirements p 130

24  
25 **Amended Text**

26 C. Educational Requirements p130

27  
28 3. All candidates for ordination as itinerate deacons and elders must successfully  
29 pass a course in avoiding conflicts of interest, understanding fiduciary duties and  
30 making ethical decisions. Such a course shall preferably be given by an attorney or  
31 accountant or an otherwise qualified individual.

32  
33 D. Course of Instruction for Preachers p137

34  
35 c) Second Year Studies

36  
37 4) Ministerial Ethics [amendment]: which shall include avoiding conflicts of interest,  
38 understanding fiduciary responsibilities, and ethical decision making.

39  
40 e) Fourth Year Studies

**Title**

- 42 4) Ministerial Ethics [amendment]: which shall include avoiding conflicts of interest,  
43 understanding fiduciary responsibilities, and ethical decision making.
- 44 No
- 45  
46 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Transfer of Local Church Property

**First and Last Name**

Gerald Cooper

**Email**

[gacooper40@gmail.com](mailto:gacooper40@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 71-72, PART III.SECTION III.B. and C.

**Intent**

The intent of this legislation is to clarify and refine the process a local church must follow to purchase, mortgage, sell, transfer and convey real and personal property.

**Rationale**

Ambiguous and overlapping provisions in the current law can lead to disparate interpretations. Subsection B and Subsection C both include provisions for mortgaging local church property and it is open to interpretation as to how these provisions should be harmonized. Furthermore, the current law could be interpreted to require church conference, quarterly conference, and annual conference trustee approval for the purchase or sale of personal property. This is not the current practice, nor should it be. This presumably unintended ambiguity needs to be clarified. The revised Subsection B will replace the current Subsections B and C.

**Current Text**

PART III.SECTION III.

B. Local Church Property – Transfer of Property

The Board of Trustees, duly elected by the local church as provided by The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, may take such steps to purchase, mortgage, sell, transfer and convey real and personal property, PROVIDED that such transfer has been duly approved by the resolution in Quarterly Conference of the said church, and also by the trustees of the Annual Conference in which the property is located, and of which the presiding bishop is president.

The Board of Trustees and members of the local church hold property of whatever kind IN TRUST for the Annual Conference of the General Church and not in their individual capacities.

When the local church shall be incorporated under The African Methodist Episcopal Church, all property— real, personal, or mixed— shall be deeded to it in its corporate name, IN TRUST for the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Incorporated. Failure of

the local church to deed said property to the local church corporation shall not eliminate the Connectional, IN TRUST character of the property or change the authority and duty of the local trustees and members to administer the property as directed by The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The local church corporation shall have the power to sell, convey and dispose of both real and personal property as directed by The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The proceeds of or from the sale of any local church property shall be held IN TRUST for the

African Methodist Episcopal Church or disbursed for another improvement of other property owned by it, or to be purchased by it. No property shall be sold except with the approval of the Quarterly Conference, by Resolution.

### C. Mortgaging Property

The Board of Trustees and Incorporators of the local church, elected, and organized as prescribed in The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, shall have the power to mortgage or encumber the property of the local church or corporation, PROVIDED such action has been authorized by majority vote of the membership present in a duly called Church Conference for this specific purpose. It shall be required that NOTICE of such meetings must be given fourteen (14) days previously, including two (2) Sundays, and such action must be approved by Resolution in a regular session of the Quarterly Conference. When a local church complies with the requirements set forth in this section, consent for the same is not necessary to be obtained from the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Incorporated.

Wherever these laws conflict with the laws of the legal jurisdiction (local, state/ comparable division or national) in which the property is located, the pastor and the Trustees shall proceed in a manner to conform with these laws).

### **Amended Text**

#### **B. LOCAL CHURCH PROPERTY**

a. In Trust: The Board of Trustees and members of the local church hold property of whatever kind IN TRUST for the Annual Conference of the General Church and not in their individual capacities. When the local church shall be incorporated under The African Methodist Episcopal Church, all property— real, personal, or mixed— shall be deeded to it in its corporate name, IN TRUST for the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Incorporated. Failure of the local church to deed said property to the local church corporation shall not eliminate the Connectional, IN TRUST character of the property or change the authority and duty of the local trustees and members to administer the property as directed by The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The local church corporation shall have the power to sell, convey and dispose of both real and personal property as directed by The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

b. Transfer of Real Property: The Board of Trustees of the local church may purchase,



mortgage, sell, transfer, and convey real property, provided that such transfer has been approved as follows:

i. Church Conference: By a majority vote of the membership present in a duly called Church Conference. The pastor must give notice of such a meeting at least fourteen (14) days in advance, including two (2) Sundays.

ii. Quarterly Conference: By resolution adopted in a regular session of the Quarterly Conference.

iii. Annual Conference Trustees: By resolution adopted by the Trustees of the Annual Conference in which the local church is located. The Annual Conference Trustee Board secretary and the presiding bishop shall sign this resolution.

c. Transfer of Personal Property: The Board of Trustees of the local church may purchase, sell, or transfer personal property. With respect to personal property valued at one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more, the local church trustees must first obtain approval by majority vote in a duly called Church Conference. Said approval may be obtained through the approval of the church budget or the approval of a larger church improvement project.

d. Proceeds: The proceeds of or from the sale of any local church property shall be held IN TRUST for the African Methodist Episcopal Church or disbursed for another improvement of other property

owned by it, or to be purchased by it.

Civil Law: To the extent that provisions herein conflict with the laws of the legal jurisdictions in which the property is located, the pastor and the Trustees shall proceed in a manner to conform with these laws.

### **Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Transfer to Another Annual Conference

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes 2nd VP Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto: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**

None

**Amended Text**

...conference. Absent extenuating circumstances, the certificate of transfer or written denial shall be issued within 90 days of the request. The written denial must include why the requesting minister is not considered in good and regular standing. The certificate of transfer once issued shall be accepted by the receiving Bishop. Open transfers shall also be acknowledged.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Transfer to Another Annual Conference

**First and Last Name**

Joelynn Stokes for Connectional AME WIM

**Email**

[jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com](mailto:jtstokes@jtstokesandassoc.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Part VIII Ministerial Classification, Rules and Support, Section III Ministers Bill of Rights  
B9, Page 156, Kindle page 234

**Intent**

To reduce the time from 90 days to 30 days by which a certificate or denial must be issued

**Rationale**

To preclude lengthy delays in issuing certificates or denials.

**Current Text**

...conference. Absent extenuating circumstances, the certificate of transfer or written denial shall be issued within 90 days of the request. The written denial must include why the requesting minister is not considered in good and regular standing. The certificate of transfer, inclusive of Open Transfers, once issued shall be accepted by the receiving Bishop for appropriate processing

**Amended Text**

...conference. Absent extenuating circumstances, the certificate of transfer or written denial shall be issued within 30 days of the request. The written denial must include why the requesting minister is not considered in good and regular standing. The certificate of transfer, inclusive of Open Transfers, once issued shall be accepted by the receiving Bishop for appropriate processing.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Transparency of the Connectional Budget for the African Methodist Episcopal Church

**First and Last Name**

Bill Dickens

**Email**

[dickensb@comcast.net](mailto: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**

N/A

**Amended Text**

There is no no amended text other than restoring Section IX Church Financial Section back to the 2020 Book of Doctrine and Discipline. This proposed legislation has no financial impact on the General Church Budget.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Trustee Board Nomination Flexibility

**First and Last Name**

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**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

p. 99

PART V. Section I.A.2. b.3) d)

**Intent**

To provide flexibility in the process for nominating local church trustees.

**Rationale**

Some churches face the challenge of not having enough willing or suitable members for the pastor to nominate twice the number of trustees to be elected. Churches in this predicament will either elect a Trustee Board that is too small to efficiently serve the congregation, resort to various means of circumventing the law, or ignore the law altogether. Additionally, some pastors and congregations would welcome the opportunity for members to have greater input into who is nominated to serve on the Trustee Board. The proposed revision:

1. Preserves the pastor's authority to nominate twice the number to be elected,
2. Preserves the right of members to have options to choose from when electing trustees, and
3. Provides an opportunity for members to make nominations if the pastor nominates fewer than twice the number to be elected.

**Current Text**

PART V. Section I.A.2. b.3) d)

The minister at the meeting for election shall nominate twice the number of persons to be elected. Said persons shall have given consent in writing for their names to be placed in nomination.

**Amended Text**

The pastor shall nominate the number of trustees to be elected and may nominate up to twice the number to be elected. Said nominees shall have given consent in writing for their names to be placed in nomination. If the pastor nominates fewer than twice the number to be elected, the pastor shall accept nominations from the floor, but the total



number of nominees shall not exceed twice the number to be elected. Persons nominated from the floor must be present to accept the nomination or shall have previously consented in writing to be nominated. If there are no nominations from the floor, or if the total number of nominees is less than twice the number to be elected, the election shall proceed with those candidates who have been duly nominated.

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Uniform AME Pulpit and Altar Color Calendar

**First and Last Name**

Anthony Steele

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**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**

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

**Amended Text**

4.) To dress the pulpit and altar with suitable, clean, colored coverings for the various seasons of the Christian year as prescribed by the African Methodist Episcopal Church seasonal calendar.

The pulpit and altar are to be dressed in the colors for the AME Christian Season except on 1st Sunday or Communion Services. Colors for funerals and memorials are at the discretion of the minister in charge. They are to be dressed in these colors until the following season.

- 42  
43 AME Christian Seasons Color Calendar  
44 1st Sunday or Communion  
45 Services - White Advent  
46 Season - Purple  
47 Christmas Eve - White  
48 After Epiphany (Ordinary  
49 Time) - Green Lenten Season -  
50 Purple  
51 Easter - White  
52 Pentecost - Red  
53 After Pentecost (Ordinary Time) - Green  
54  
55 **Approved**  
56 • No  
57  
58 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

UPDATED DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS FOR QUARTERLY CONFERENCE

**First and Last Name**

W. Raymond Bryant

**Email**

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**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**

The Following questions shall be asked by the Presiding Elder and answered by the pastor, in general and in particular and recorded:

1. Are there any appeals from members of the society?
2. Is there any application for license to preach or exhort?
3. Is there any license to be renewed?
4. How many persons have been converted?
5. How many persons have been received as new members?
6. How many persons have been received into full membership?
7. How many persons are now ready to be received into full membership?
8. How many persons have been received by certificate?

- 42 9. How many have left with certificate? Names. Where did they go?
- 43 10. How many have left without certificate?
- 44 11. Total number of persons joining the church this quarter?
- 45 12. How many expelled? Names. Why?
- 46 13. How many members have died this quarter, and what are their names?
- 47 14. What is the number of full members in this church or on this circuit?
- 48 15. How many of this church or circuit are registered voters?
- 49 16. What is the number of new members in this church or on this circuit? (New
- 50 members are persons transferring from other Methodist denominations, joining from
- 51 non-Methodist churches and converts.)
- 52 17. Have the new members been instructed in doctrine, laws and history of our
- 53 church during this quarter.
- 54 18. Number of affiliated members?(Affiliated members are members of our
- 55 denomination residing in the community who have joined temporarily and whose
- 56 memberships are in AME churches in other locales. They are not to be counted as
- 57 accessions.)
- 58 19. Number of preparatory members. (Preparatory members are youth through age
- 59 17. They are not to be counted as full members.)
- 60 20. What has been the increase of full members this quarter?
- 61 21. How many marriages have been performed by the minister this quarter?
- 62 22. How many baptisms this quarter?
- 63 a. Infants (a weeks to 5 years of age)
- 64 b. Children (6-12)
- 65 c. Youth (13-17)
- 66 d. Adults (18 and over)
- 67 23. How many Church Schools?
- 68 a. Give Church School reports, which should include total number of
- 69 pupils on roll and average attendance.
- 70 b. Include amount of money collected and disbursed-purpose and manner of
- 71 appropriation.
- 72 c. Books in the library?
- 73 24. Does this station, circuit or mission have a Lay Organization?
- 74 a. If so, how many members does the Lay Organization have?
- 75 25. Does the station, circuit or mission have a Women's Missionary Society?
- 76 a. If so, how many does the Women's Missionary Society have?
- 77 26. Is the church incorporated properly?
- 78 a. Where are the incorporation papers located?
- 79 27. What are the number of community projects within the church receiving funds
- 80 from outside the church? (Child care, Senior Citizens homes, etc.)
- 81 28. Give report of stewards, which should include money raised to pay minister and
- 82 presiding elder, benevolence and all other purposes.
- 83 29. Give report of trustees, which must include all money handed by the
- 84 trustees, manner and purpose of disbursements.



30. Are all church properties insured? For what amount?

31. What is the present indebted?

32. How much money has been collected for the General Budget Fund?

a. For retirement and hospitalization?

33. How many subscribers are there this quarter for our church periodicals? Name the periodicals.

34. The chairperson will call for reports from all organizations and auxiliaries of the church, mission and circuit.

35. All reports shall be carefully written out prior to the quarterly conference session. The conference may receive and adopt these reports at once, or send them back to their respective

departments for correction. If necessary, they shall be returned to the next quarterly conference, unless otherwise ordered.

### **Amended Text**

The Following questions shall be asked by the Presiding Elder and answered by the pastor, in general and in particular and recorded:

#### **THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF THE CONGREGATION**

1. Has any member registered an appeal with the Elder before the convening of this quarter?

2. What date was the Church Conference held to organize for the new Conference year (ask at the first quarter)?

3. Who are the stewards to be nominated for this conference year?

4. Who is the steward delegate to the District Conference?

5. Are there any applications for licenses to preach, to be renewed or license to exhort?

6. Who are the preachers serving in this church? (List name and order)

a. Itinerant Elders

b. Itinerant Deacons

c. Locals

d. Licentiates

e. Exhorters

7. How many have confessed Christ as their Savior this quarter? (List total and names)

a. At a worship service

b. Through other evangelistic efforts of the church

8. Who are those persons who have joined this church this quarter? (List names and total)

a. From other denominations

b. With no other church affiliation

c. Transferred from another affiliated Methodist tradition

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 Doctrine of the African Methodist Episcopal Church?

10. Who are they that have been read into full membership of our church this past quarter? Please give number and names.

11. Name those persons who have left this church this quarter.

a. With letter

b. Without letter

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 prior to the quarter?

13. Please list the names of the persons who have died this quarter.

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.

a. Adults

b. Affiliated

c. Young Adults (18-39)

15. What is the number of preparatory members (17 and under)?

16. What youth ministries does this church have?

17. How many worship services did you have this Quarter?

a. What is the average attendance to each worship service?

18. How many Bible Studies are there weekly and what is the average attendance?

a. Does the Pastor teach Bible Study?

b. Is there an online or teleconference Bible Study and what is the attendance?

19. Has your full membership increased beyond your reported verified membership, if so by what number?

20. Name those who have been baptized this quarter.

a. Infants

b. Children (6-12)

c. Youth (13-17)

d. Adults

21. Name those persons who have been married by the clergy of the church this quarter.

22. The following components are to submit a brief summary of their activities, successes, and challenges during the quarter:

a. Christian Education e. Youth Ministries

b. Church School f. Young Adult Ministry

c. Missionary Society

d. Lay Organization

## CHURCH FISCAL MANAGEMENT

### I. FINANCIAL REPORT

a. Please provide for the quarter a comprehensive financial report dating from the close of the

previous quarter. All income and disbursement must be itemized. The report should include all and any accounts in the name of the Church including Certificates of Deposits, investments, grants and gifts, not associated with your 501(c)3. Pursuant to the Discipline "Board of Stewards"—they shall make accurate reports of every 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 this report.

b. Please submit by the second quarter an operating budget.

c. Please provide for the quarter an aging report of all bills: 30 days (current) 60 days (past due) 90 days (past due).

d. What was the support of the pastor for the quarter?

e. What is the outstanding debt owed the pastor?

f. What is the outstanding debt owed the Presiding Elder?

g. Name the Insurance Company what is the current renewal date; who is the agent and provide proof that the policy is current and at replacement value?

213

214 a. Includes wind damage&gt; Yes\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_

215 b. Includes flood damage Yes\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_

216 c. Includes earthquake damage Yes\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_

217

218 g. Mortgage company information

219 · Who holds the mortgage?

220 · What are the basic terms of the mortgage?

221 · Who are the guarantors on the mortgage?

222 · What is the interest rate?

223 · What was the principle and initial date of the loan?

224 · What is the monthly payment and show a statement that provides proof that  
225 the mortgage is current?

226 · Have you changed your mortgage company since the last Quarter?

227

228 h. Have all Connectional, Episcopal District, Annual Conference, and Presiding  
229 Elder's District Financial obligations been met?

230

231 i. What other financial obligation, i.e. additional debt, with contractual obligation, open  
232 line of credit, credit cards, and leases are outstanding? What is the amount due?

233

234

235 **2. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS**

236 a. How many times has the pastor met with the Board of Stewards this quarter?

237

238 b. What has been the work of the Board of Stewards this quarter?

239

240 c. What successes, new endeavors and challenges have you met?

241 d. What goals have you accomplished?

242

243 e. What are you planning with the pastor to implement church growth?

244

245 f. Have all of the officers of the church taken the sexual harassment training per  
246 Discipline?

247

248 g. Does the church have an active Health Ministry? Yes\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_ In development Yes\_No\_\_\_\_\_

249

250 h. Did the church engage in ministry or awareness events towards eliminating or  
251 addressing congregation or community needs associated with the HIV/AIDS

252 pandemic? Yes\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_ Pr

253

254 i. Does the church actively seek to support the inclusion of persons who are  
255 differently abled? (include services for the hearing and vision impaired, emergency



evacuation and ensuring all persons can safely exit the building, etc.).

j. Have all persons working with children had background checks? Yes\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_

### 3. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

a. What has been the work of the Trustees this quarter?

1) How many times has the pastor met with the Board of Stewards this quarter?

2) List the addresses of all properties. Are these properties included in the insurance policy at replacement value or liability?

3) Has there been any property sold since the last quarter? If so, for what amount?

4) Is there a resolution from the church conference for the sale of the property and for what amount?

5) Is there a resolution from the church conference to borrow money or to incur property?

6) What property is being leased and for how much? And provide proof that the taxes are being paid on this property.

7) Are all leased or rental property properly insured showing the local church (Conference Trustees) as loss payee?

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 quarters.

9) Please list problem areas on the property.

10) If the Church owns a cemetery is it property managed, cataloged and insured?

11) Where are the important documents of the church kept? Annually, please present to the quarter.

12) Has the church initiated an active shooter training? Yes\_\_\_\_\_No\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

13) Has the church conducted disaster preparedness activities? Yes

\_\_\_\_No

\_\_\_\_(include evacuation drills, CPR/AED training, gathering of recommended supplies, training, etc.)



## 299 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

300 There are no financial implications associated with this bill.

301

302 **Approved**

303 • No

304

305 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Updating the Provinces of the Canadian Annual Conference in the 4th Episcopal District.

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Jennifer S. Leath and Rev. Kenesha Blake-Newell

**Email**

[chossenvessel.kbn@gmail.com](mailto:chossenvessel.kbn@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page Reference in Current AME Discipline: p.292.

**Intent**

To remove the provinces where there are no AME churches and add the province of Quebec to the boundaries of the Canadian Annual Conference within the 4th Episcopal District.

**Rationale**

The current text of the composition of the Canadian Annual Conference does not include the province of Quebec where we have an AME church. The current text includes provinces where we do not have AME churches.

**Current Text**

FOURTH DISTRICT (6 Conferences)

1. Indiana Conference: The Indiana Conference comprises the State of Indiana.

2. Illinois Conference: The Illinois Conference includes that part of the State south of an imaginary line beginning at the junction of the State lines of Indiana and Illinois on Lake Michigan and thence diagonally through Streator, Yates City, Chillicothe and Bushness to Warsaw on the Mississippi River, and Galesburg, Kewanee, Monmouth, Moline, Rock Island and East Moline; the Des Moines and Quincy.

3. Chicago Conference: The Chicago Conference consists of all the part of the State of Illinois not embraced in the Illinois Conference nor in the Indiana Conference, and shall include the St. Paul District of the Northwest Conference, states represented: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa (excluding Des Moines), and the northeastern part of Wisconsin, and the following province in western Canada: Manitoba.

4. Canadian Conference: The Canadian Conference comprises Nova Scotia, Prince Edward's Island, New Brunswick and Ontario.

5. Michigan Conference: The Michigan Conference comprises all the State of Michigan.

6. India Conference: The India Conference comprises the country of India and the nation of Nepal.

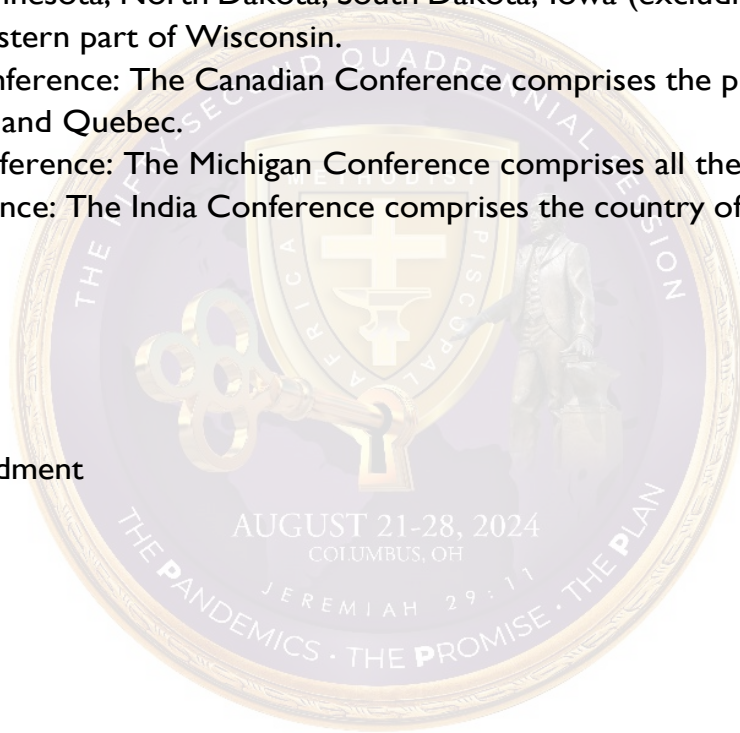
**Amended Text**

1. Indiana Conference: The Indiana Conference comprises the State of Indiana.
2. Illinois Conference: The Illinois Conference includes that part of the State south of an imaginary line beginning at the junction of the State lines of Indiana and Illinois on Lake Michigan and thence diagonally through Streator, Yates City, Chillicothe and Bushness to Warsaw on the Mississippi River, and Galesburg, Kewanee, Monmouth, Moline, Rock Island and East Moline; the Des Moines and Quincy.
3. Chicago Conference: The Chicago Conference consists of all the part of the State of Illinois not embraced in the Illinois Conference nor in the Indiana Conference, and shall include the St. Paul District of the Northwest Conference, states represented: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa (excluding Des Moines), and the northeastern part of Wisconsin.
4. Canadian Conference: The Canadian Conference comprises the provinces of Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec.
5. Michigan Conference: The Michigan Conference comprises all the State of Michigan.
6. India Conference: The India Conference comprises the country of India and the nation of Nepal.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Voting Rights

**First and Last Name**

Judicial Council

**Email**

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**

No current text

**Amended Text**

Members of the Judicial Council shall have the right to vote on all matters before the General Conference, except proposed legislation.

**Approved**

- No

Read Full Amendment

**Title**

Withholding FICA Taxes

**First and Last Name**

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

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Publication  
15-A Employer's 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**

CURRENT TEXT: No current text.

**Amended Text**

AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to page 88, Local Church Organization, 2. Boards  
3 b. Trustees, 5) Duties, new letter f.  
4 All employees of a church must have a job description and an employment  
5 contract that outlines their duties and responsibilities. Income and Federal  
6 Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes must be withheld, reported and paid for  
7 all employees. Since this is a personnel issue, the Trustee Board is responsible  
8 for  
9 executin  
10 g this



42 task.

43 9

44 10 Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

45

46 **Approved**

47 • No

48

49 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Withholding FICA Taxes

**First and Last Name**

Angela Pettis

**Email**

[tripettis@comcast.net](mailto:tripettis@comcast.net)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Publication 15-A Employer's 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**

CURRENT TEXT: No current text.

**Amended Text**

AMENDED/NEW TEXT: Add to page 101, Local Church Organization, 2. Boards b. Trustees, 5) Duties, new letter f.

All employees of a church must have a job description and an employment contract that outlines their duties and responsibilities. Income and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes must be withheld, reported and paid for all employees. Since this is a personnel issue, the Trustee Board is responsible for

executing this task. Funding: There is no funding associated with this Bill.

- 40 Submitted by the Chicago Conference Legislative Task Force, 4th Episcopal District  
41  
42 **Approved**  
43 • No  
44 Read Full Amendment



**Title**

Women in Ministry Benediction

**First and Last Name**

Rev. Dr. Mary F. Rhodes

**Email**

[maryrhodes90@gmail.com](mailto:maryrhodes90@gmail.com)

**Page Reference in Current AME Discipline**

Page 599

**Intent**

The Benediction we propose captures our commitment to service, empowerment, and unity within our ministry. It would serve as a profound conclusion to our gatherings and as a unifying force, strengthening the bonds of fellowship and purpose among our members.

**Rationale**

Currently, the Women in Ministry do not have a unifying Benediction.

**Current Text**

There is not a current text.

**Amended Text**

We propose the addition of the following text. Article XVIII

We are warriors united for the cause of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ.

May you walk in God's grace, strong in your faith, as you change the world every step of the way. Go forth, in Jesus' Name. Glory to God! Amen, Amen!

**Approved**

• No

Read Full Amendment

## Proposed Legislation

Title: The General Board

Section XX: Inspector General African Methodist Episcopal Church

Name: Sixth Episcopal District

Email: sbrown@ame6.church

Page Reference: 2021 AMEC AMEC Book of Discipline, Part XX, The General Board, Section X. Inspector General pg. 222

Intent: To provide a connectional office whose responsibility is to investigate and audit programmatic activities, promote efficiency and prevent fraud and abuse throughout the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Rationale: Presently there is little accountability or consequence for ineffectiveness, irresponsibility, fraud, corruption or any other inappropriate, unlawful or violations of AME Discipline 2021. For example there is no one who has the responsibility to review and report on certified audits of the Departments or Episcopal Districts of the AME Church or who has the authority to investigate, examine and report on illegal, inappropriate, fraudulent or corrupt actions in the AME Church.

### Proposed Text

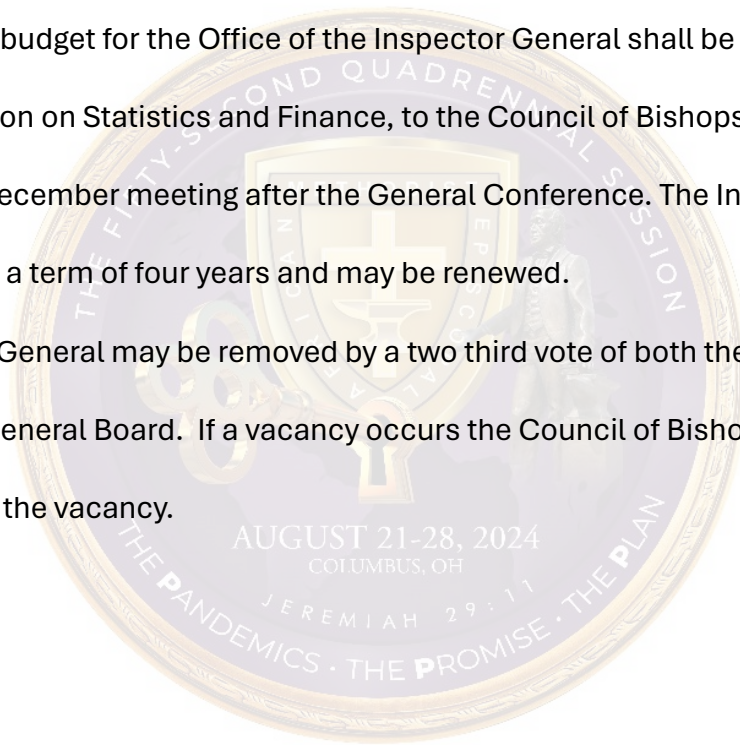
- 1 Inspector General African Methodist Episcopal Church
- 2 The Council of Bishops shall select with the concurrence of the General Board of the
- 3 AME Church a person who will have the title of “Inspector General of the African
- 4 Methodist Episcopal Church. This individual must be a certified auditor and have a legal
- 5 background. It is not required that the official be a member of the African Methodist
- 6 Episcopal Church, but must be aware and understand the structure, mission and the
- 7 Book of Discipline of the AME Church.
- 8 The Inspector General shall have the specific responsibility of reviewing the certified
- 9 audits of the departments, episcopal districts and other agencies of the AME Church.



10 The Inspector General of the AME Church shall also act of matters referred to him/her  
11 by the Council of Bishops, Executive Committee of the General Board, Legal Counsel of  
12 the AME Church, components or entities of the AME Church. The Inspector General  
13 after review and investigation shall provide a written report on whether a matter should  
14 be referred to the Council of Bishops, General Board or other legal entities for further  
15 action.

16 The salary and budget for the Office of the Inspector General shall be recommended by  
17 the Commission on Statistics and Finance, to the Council of Bishops and General  
18 Board at the December meeting after the General Conference. The Inspector General  
19 shall serve for a term of four years and may be renewed.

20 The Inspector General may be removed by a two third vote of both the Council of  
21 Bishops and General Board. If a vacancy occurs the Council of Bishops and General  
22 Board shall fill the vacancy.



AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
CONNECTIONAL  
LAY ORGANIZATION



LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
Proposed Legislation Packet

*-Draft-*

*Approved June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
The 38<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention*

**Final Draft Presentation**

May 18, 2024



SPRING

Executive Board Meeting

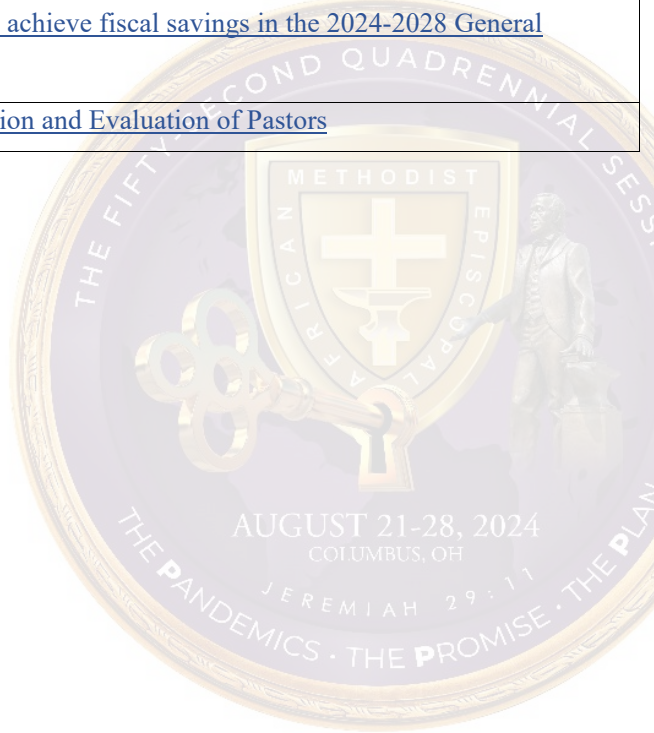
Sheraton Birmingham Hotel  
Birmingham AL

Connectional Lay Organization  
Legislation Standing Committee

Brother Mark Johnson 7th – Chair  
Brother Dante Buckson 11th – Vice Chair  
Sister Cheryl Bollar 000 12th  
Brother Ruben Braziel II 10th  
Sister Stephenie Bruce 3rd  
Sister Penny Oliver 2nd  
Brother Robert Turner 9th

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	<a href="#"><u>CLO 14 - Supervision and Evaluation of Pastors</u></a>



1 PROPOSED LEGISLATION

2 **TITLE**

3 **CLO 2 - Commission on Internal Audit**

4 **REFERENCE**

5 The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2021.

6 Page 113, Section II. Local Church Organization - Optional Commissions

7 **INTENT**

8 Many Stewards, Trustees and Official Board Members feel powerless to verify the  
9 accuracy of the financial reports that are provided to leadership during Official  
10 Board meetings and Quarterly and Annual Conferences. It is vital that church  
11 leadership has the information and tools to verify the financial reports as well as  
12 the accompanying documentation to ensure that the financial status of the church is  
13 being reported correctly and accurately. Frequently, the leadership is reliant on the  
14 Pastor and a few individuals for the financial integrity of reporting and to maintain  
15 internal controls. The Commission on Internal Audit is designed to provide an  
16 independent review of the critical areas of financial management and will be able  
17 to draw from the Discipline the necessary tools to properly conduct this internal  
18 audit review.

19 **RATIONALE**

20 The current Doctrine and Discipline has no requirements for systematic auditing of  
21 the church records. The consistent application of audit procedures is a critical need  
22 in order to ensure that the financial reporting is accurate and reliable. Most  
23 churches cannot afford to expend the monies required for an external audit to be  
24 conducted by a certified public accounting firm. This bill allows a local church to  
25 form an Internal Audit Commission charged with performing internal audit  
26 procedures to verify key financial statement components and assets to ensure  
27 correct financial reporting to the Official Board, Quarterly Conference and Annual  
28 Conference. The lack of specific prescribed steps to verify financial records has  
29 continually led to incorrect and unreliable financial reporting that has resulted in  
30 foreclosures, IRS liens and other negative consequences for our local churches.

**Existing Legislation now reads**

Section II. Local Church Organization - Optional Commissions

A. Guidelines for Establishing Commissions

1. Types There may be constituted in each local church the following commissions, whose respective duties are hereinafter defined: a) The Commission on Membership, Evangelism and Discipleship b) The Commission on Christian Education, c) The Commission on Missions and Welfare, d) The Commission on Stewardship & Finance, e) The Commission on Public Relations. f) The Commission on Christian Social Action, and g) The Commission on Health.

**Proposed NEW wording**

**Section II. Local Church Organization - Optional Commissions**

A. Guidelines for Establishing Commissions

1. Types **There may be constituted in each local church** the following commissions, whose respective duties are hereinafter defined: a) The Commission on Membership, Evangelism and Discipleship b) The Commission on Christian Education, c) The Commission on Missions and Welfare, d) The Commission on Stewardship & Finance, e) The Commission on Public Relations. f) The Commission on Christian Social Action, g) The Commission on Health and, **h)**

**The Commission on Internal Audit.**

D. Duties of Each Commission

8. Commission on Internal Audit

a. Qualifications

(1) Must be a member in good standing in the local church, participating financially.

(2) Must be approved to serve on the internal audit committee by the Official Board or Church Conference.

(3) Must commit to 30-45 days of each year to work consistently on the internal audit for the local church.

(4) Must participate in all internal audit committee meetings held in preparation for an upcoming internal audit



(5) Must participate in all internal audit committee training sessions

(6) Must be willing to sign the final internal audit report as a member of the committee and stand in agreement with the committee.

b. Duties

The duties of this commission are as follows:

(1) Collate, check, and analyze spreadsheet data

(2) Examine the church accounts and financial control systems

(3) Gauge levels of financial risk within the church

(4) Check that financial reports and records are accurate and reliable to ensure assets are protected

(5) Identify if and where processes are not working as they should and advise on changes to be made

(6) Prepare reports, commentaries, and financial statements

(7) Serve as a liaison with Official Board and Pastor to present findings and recommendations

(8) Ensure procedures, policies, legislation, and regulations are correctly followed and complied with

**Financial Implications**

No financial resources needed; training will occur virtually across the Connection.

### INTERNAL AUDIT CHECKLIST

Audit for the period of January 1, \_\_\_\_\_ to December 31, \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name	
City & State	
Federal Tax ID Number	
Senior Pastor	
Steward	
Trustee	
Financial Secretary /Treasurer	

Date/s Audit Conducted	
Audit Committee Members & Titles	
Date Received by Senior Pastor	
Date Received by Official Board	
Date Received by Church Conference	

### AUDIT COMMITTEE CERTIFICATE

To the Senior Pastor, Official Board and Church Conference:

The internal audit committee has inspected the financial position of the church in accordance with audit guidelines adopted by the Church Conference. We have taken steps to see that the financial statements and report of the Financial Secretary/Treasurer's funds present fairly the assets and liabilities of the church; and that the receipts and expenditures and changes in all fund balances for the audit year are in accordance with the principles authorized by the Church Conference.

Our inspection and certificate are NOT to be construed as an audit and opinion rendered by a Certified Public Accountant.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Audit Committee Chair \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION I-UNDERSTANDING THE BOOKKEEPING SYSTEM	YES	NO
1. Does the church have a policies and procedures manual?		
2. Has the audit committee agreed the audit shall cover ALL funds of the church?		
3. Are the books and records that support the work retained in a secure location?		
4. Is there a secure backup of the books and records?		
Does this include original cash receipts and disbursement records?		
Does it include a file of published and accepted Financial Reports?		
Does it contain payroll and general ledger information?		
5. Do checks exceeding a certain level require two (2) signatures? If yes, \$_		
6. Is a chart of accounts in use that includes all church funds?		
7. Is the primary bookkeeper a paid employee of the church?		
8. Does the church's insurance policy include a Fidelity Bond for this position? If yes? How much \$____		

SECTION II-UNDERSTANDING AND VERIFYING THE FINANCIAL REPORTS	YES	NO
1. Working from a full set of the FS/Treasurer's final year-end reports:		
2. Do they include a year-end balance sheet in separate fund form?		
3. Do they include a Revenue and Expense statement for all funds of the church?		
4. Is the Revenue and Expense statement in comparable form? Meaning, does it reflect <b>prior year/budgeted amounts/variance</b> to budget, etc.?		
5. Are discrepancies over 10% in the comparative statement explained when the reports were presented/communicated/reviewed?		
6. Are any bank accounts in excess of FDIC insurance limit of \$250,000?		

If so, has the church considered an additional bank account for the overage?		
7. Have you verified the authorized signatory names and Federal Tax ID number (on page 1) on all bank accounts of the church?		

The names should be current, and the Federal Tax ID number should be that of the church for ALL accounts.			
<b>SECTION III-AUDIT DOCUMENTS REVIEWED/CONFIRMED BY AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
1. Official Board/Joint Board minutes confirming approval of annual budget and monthly financial reports			
2. Does Annual Report to the Denomination report financial information consistent with the Treasurer's approved year-end financial report?			
3. List of persons authorized for check signing (confirm with bank), fund withdrawal or transfer, and disbursing approval			
4. List of securities, trust and endowments held			
5. Review of last year's internal audit letter. <b>Were recommendations approved and complied with?</b>			
6. Bank statements for the audited year, plus last statement for previous year and first statement for current year. Used to complete attached proof of cash report for all accounts?			
7. Paid checks (if checks or copies are returned) and deposit slips (Sample at least 5% of checks). <b>Are there any unusually large deposits or disbursements/electronic withdrawals?</b>			
8. Payroll records with Form I-9, W-2, W-4 and State and Federal withholding records. <b>Only guest or temporary clergy and lay persons should receive a 1099 Form for their compensation!</b>			
9. Savings Account or Fund Account statements			
10. Other Investment Records. <b>Are there any unusually large deposits or disbursements/electronic withdrawals?</b>			

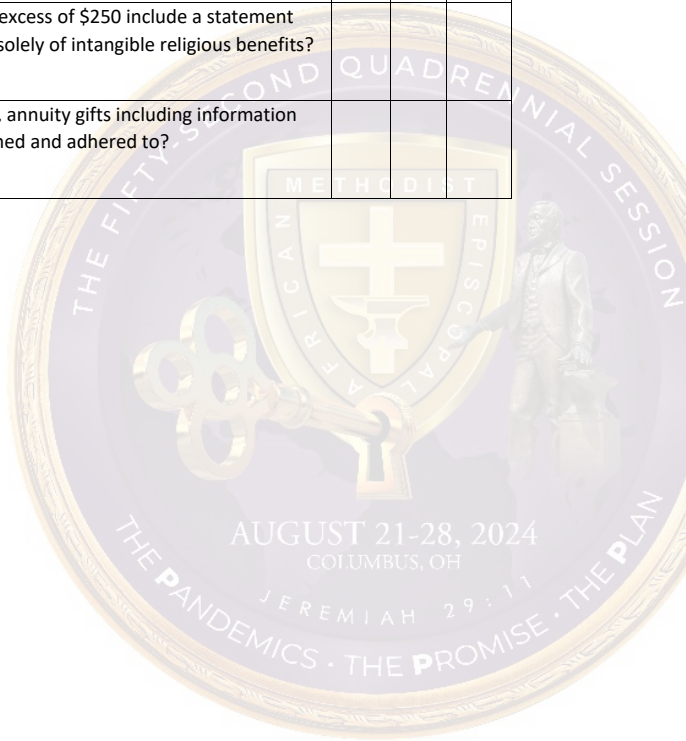
SECTION III A-BANK ACCOUNTS (from bank statements only)

Institution & Branch	Type of Account	1/1 Beginning Balance	12/31 Ending Balance

SECTION III-AUDIT DOCUMENTS REVIEWED/CONFIRMED BY AUDIT COMMITTEE (cont'd)	YES	NO	N/A
1. Is/Are the checking accounts reconciled monthly? Verify reconciliation reports?			
2. In a sample of at least 5% of paid check:			
Do paid check have authorized signatures?			
Do paid check have endorsements?			
Do payees & amounts match the disbursements register?			
3. Have all voided check been accounted for?			
4. Are disbursements supported by vouchers approved by authorized party other than check signer?			
5. Are those persons counting receipts required to be unrelated? Those counting funds should never be those able to authorize disbursements.			
6. Are receipts records compared with bank deposits for the year?			
7. Are all transfers between accounts able to be traced?			
8. Do any bank accounts regularly exceed the FDIC insured limit of \$250,000 per account?			
9. Does a clergy-controlled discretionary fund exist outside of the primary church accounts? <b>It must be audited during this process.</b>			
10.Does documentation support any checks written to "Cash"?			



SECTION IV-REVENUE & CASH RECEIPTS	YES	NO	N/A
1. Do the record of total receipts agree with the amounts recorded in the cash receipts journal?			
2. Are total contribution budgets compared to actual, and are significant differences investigated?			
3. Do acknowledgements of contribution in excess of \$250 include a statement that any goods or services provided consist solely of intangible religious benefits?			
4. Are files kept on life income, endowment, annuity gifts including information on use of proceeds and restrictions maintained and adhered to?			



<b>SECTION V-PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
1. If your church is not incorporated, are your Trustees up to date with the local court? Please complete the list on the following page of your Trustees.			
2. Is there a list of fixed assets, showing date of purchase and cost?			
3. Has an extensive physical examination of property and assets been made to the best extent possible? If so, year? _____			
4. Are the land and buildings carried on the financial statements?			
5. Are any liens outstanding against any property and equipment?			

<b>SECTION VI - LIABILITIES &amp; PAYROLL TAXES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>N/A</b>
1. Have total wages been reconciled with quarterly Federal Form 941, Form W-2, and Form W-3?			
2. Have total withholding taxes been reconciled with Form 941?			
3. Has it been determined that all Federal & State withholding taxes were remitted on a timely basis, to avoid penalties?			
4. Are pension/retirement payments up-to-date for all eligible employees?			
5. Is a current, signed Form W-4 on hand for all employees?			
6. Has all required indebtedness been properly authorized by appropriate church officials? (Pastor, Trustees, Official/Joint Board, Church Conference, etc.)			
7. Do unpaid balances per church records match balances as reported by any/all creditors?			
8. Is a detailed schedule of all loans prepared, including name of creditor, date of origin, original amount of debt, interest rate payment schedule, monthly payment, unpaid balance, loan purpose, and authorizing body?			

SECTION VII-OTHER:	YES	NO	N/A
1. Was a proper housing allowance resolution adopted for all employed clergy and was this resolution recorded in the minutes by the steward/Deacon/Trustee Board?			
2. Has insurance coverage been reviewed? Make sure that any new construction or additional programs – daycare, schools, etc. have not left the church underinsured.			
3. Has there been an inquiry as to whether there are any contingencies or commitments facing the church (e.g., legal action) with prospects of potential loss?			
4. Is there an insurance risk control/risk management plan in effect to help minimize potential loss?			
5. Is there a current space use agreement and/or insurance certificate on file for all organizations regularly using the church property/facility?			
6. If computers are used for financial or congregant data are files backed up at least weekly? Back-up should be in a secure site.			

#### SECTION VII A-LIST OF APPROVED TRUSTEES

The following were formally appointed through the Circuit Court of \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Trustee	Address	Year Appointed

#### Required Attachments:

1. Year-end Treasurer's report. Show total receipts and total disbursements for the year. Please comment on any variances of 10% or more in any report item.
2. Proof of Cash form for all bank accounts of the church. Should reflect reconciliation of cash balances at year-end. Committee should follow-up on unexplained variances.
3. Copy of insurance declarations page (front page of policy, typically). The entire policy is not required to be submitted.
4. Copy of Audit Committee Findings and Recommendations on Policies and Procedures.

1 PROPOSED LEGISLATION

2 TITLE

3 **CLO 5 - Providing IRS Required Documentation for the Pastor's Housing Allowance**

4 **Benefit**

5 REFERENCE

6 The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church - 2021  
7 Part V-Local Church Organization, Section 1.A.2, a.2), b), Page 95 & Part VIII-Ministerial  
8 Classifications, Rules and Support, Section III. Ministers' Bill of Rights  
9 Paragraph 2) a) Parsonage or Housing Allowance, Page 154

10 INTENT

11 The goal of this legislation is to provide guidance to Pastor's and Steward's on how  
12 properly provide and document a housing allowance benefit for the Pastor.

13 RATIONALE

14 The housing allowance exclusion is a benefit that all pastors and Stewards in the AME should  
15 be versed in and understand how to maximize the tax effect of the pastor's compensation  
16 package. The goal of this legislation is to provide clarity within the Doctrine and Discipline  
17 on how this benefit should be incorporated into a pastor's compensation package. As we are  
18 aware, a properly designated housing allowance is excludable from federal and state taxation  
19 although it is subject to self-employment taxes for pastors who have not elected Form 4361  
20 treatment which excludes the housing allowance from self-employment taxes.

21  
22 Per IRS Publication 517, the clergy housing allowance must be calculated as the lower of two  
23 (2) options; a. pastor's actual expenses, or b. fair rental value of a fully furnished and equipped  
24 home in the geographical area of the church. The Doctrine and Discipline has similar  
25 references in the above noted paragraph when it references "negotiated salary and benefit  
26 package shall be commensurate with the cost of living in the given geographical area and the  
27 ability of the local congregation." Therefore, the Pastor's actual expenses should be calculated  
28 based on the attached worksheet, and the benefit should be maximized and reported correctly  
29 on a W-2 so that a pastor's compensation package can follow IRS guidelines and  
30 requirements. The housing allowance should be maximized prior to the pastor receiving other  
31 forms of compensation which are fully taxable.

32

33 All Pastors are eligible to receive a housing allowance if a parsonage is not being provided. Many  
34 receive incorrect compensation documentation and are forced to forego the benefits of the housing  
35 allowance exclusion and do not have correct information to document their entire compensation  
36 package. This legislation will provide the steps to properly implement a housing allowance  
37 benefit.

38  
39 **Existing Legislation now reads:**

40 Part V-Local Church Organization Section 1.A.2a – Stewards Paragraph 2)

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

45  
46 Part VIII-Ministerial Classifications, Rules and Support, Section III. Ministers' Bill of Rights,  
47 Paragraph 2) a) Parsonage or Housing Allowance  
48 In the alternative, the Stewards of the local church may negotiate a reasonable housing  
49 allowance with the pastor.

50  
51 **Proposed NEW wording**

52 **Part V-Local Church Organization**

53 **Page 95, Section 1.A.2a – Stewards Paragraph 2) b)**

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

58 **The Board of Stewards and the Board of Trustees will work to assist the Pastor in**  
59 **implementing the most tax-advantageous compensation package by ensuring that the**  
60 **housing allowance is maximized per the attached housing allowance worksheet. Other**  
61 **benefits would be considered after the housing allowance has been maximized.**

62  
63 **Part VIII - Ministerial Classifications, Rules and Support, Section III. Ministers' Bill of Rights**  
64 **Paragraph 2) a) Parsonage or Housing Allowance, Page 154.**

65 **In the alternative, the Stewards and Trustees of the local church may negotiate a reasonable**  
66 **housing allowance with the pastor.**



## Pastor's Housing Allowance Worksheet

### Request for Housing/Parsonage Allowance

Submitted By:		Calendar Year:	2021
Submitted To:			

Please accept this as my request for a housing/parsonage allowance in the amount of \$           \$0.00           for the calendar year stated above. This request is made pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 107, and I represent that I am qualified, pursuant to said section and the regulations there under, to receive the same.

		Actual Expenses 2021	Est. Expenses 2022
<b>I</b>	<b>Mortgage / Rent Payment</b>		
<b>II</b>	<b>Taxes</b>		
	A. Real Estate Taxes		
	B. Personal Property Taxes		
<b>III</b>	<b>Insurance</b>		
	A. Fire		
	B. Homeowners		
	C. Renters		
	D. Other:		
<b>IV</b>	<b>Home Improvements</b>		
	A. New Roof		
	B. Additions, Garage, Carport		
	C. Fence, Landscaping		
	D. Driveway, Paving, Sealing		
	E. Other:		

<b>V</b>	<b>Maintenance and Repairs</b>		
	A. Appliances		
	B. Plumbing		
	C. Fence, Landscaping		
	D. Driveway, Paving, Sealing		
	E. Other:		
<b>VI</b>	<b>Appliances and Furnishings</b>		
	A. TV, VCR, Stereo, DVD Player, etc.		
	B. Piano, Sewing Machine		
	C. Lawnmower, Vacuum Cleaner		
	D. Dryer, Dishwasher, Refrigerator		
	E. Lawn Equipment		
	F. Lawnmower, Vacuum Cleaner		
	G. Carpet, Tile, Wood Floors		
	H. Other:		
<b>VII</b>	<b>Decorative Items</b>		
	A. Drapes, Curtains, Blinds		
	B. Throw Rugs		
	C. Wallpaper, Paint, Molding, Shelving		
	D. Paintings, Pictures, Knick-Knacks		
	E. Bedspreads		
	F. Sheets, Linens, Towels		
	G. Other:		
<b>VIII</b>	<b>Utilities</b>		
	A. Gas		
	B. Electricity		
	C. Water and Sewer		
	D. Cable TV		
	E. Garbage Removal		
	F. Other:		

<b>IX</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
	A. Home Cleaning Supplies		
	B. Broom, Mops, Sweepers, etc.		
	C. Light Bulbs, Home Supplies		
	D: Other:		

**DO NOT INCLUDE:** Maid, lawn service, groceries, personal toiletries, personal clothing, toys, bicycles, hobby items, cassette tapes, CD's, computer games, DVD's, etc.

<b>Column Totals:</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Estimated Fair Market Rental Value:</b>		\$0.00

### Fair Market Rental Value

<b>I</b>	Annual Rental Value including furnishings	
<b>II</b>	Utilities	\$0.00
<b>III</b>	Maintenance & Repairs	\$0.00
	<b>Total Fair Market Rental Value</b>	\$0.00

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided above is both accurate and truthful, and I submit it as the basis for a housing/parsonage allowance, which will be excluded from my taxable salary. I further agree to notify this Board/Committee of any substantial changes in the total amounts reflected.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 Proposed Legislation

2 **TITLE**

3 **CLO 6 - Reduction of the Travel Budget of Retired Bishops and General**  
4 **Officers by 50% to achieve fiscal savings in the 2024-2028 General Church**  
5 **Budget**

6 **REFERENCE**

7 The Connectional Budget of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2020-2024),  
8 Page 17, Retired Bishops Expenses, page 2, Retired General Officers Travel.

9 **INTENT**

10 **Reduce the Travel Budget of Retired Bishops and General Officers by 50%.**

11 **RATIONALE**

12 The next Connectional Budget and its looming anticipated higher costs/demands will  
13 warrant sensitive crafting reflecting the fiscal realities of local churches who are  
14 already struggling to meet their assessment targets. One of the major budget  
15 concerns is six additional Bishops and two additional General Officers will retire in  
16 2024. Considering the unprecedented number of retired Bishops and GOs (29) the  
17 Church will have and its projected impact on the Connectional Budget (*ref the % of*  
18 *increase & the % impact on overall C. Budget*), reducing the travel expenses for  
19 retired Bishops and General Officers is a responsible course of fiscal action.

20 It is noted in their retirement, they contribute their expertise and offer wise counsel,  
21 they vote in their Council Meetings, except on financial matters and reassignments of  
22 Bishops, and meet as a Council at major Connectional meetings. however, regarding  
23 current priorities, the General Church should consider reducing these generous travel  
24 subsidies during these current economically stressful times.

25 A 50% reduction in travel for both groups is fair, equitable and communicates true  
26 leadership. This will result in a savings of \$861,922 for the 2024-2028 Connectional  
27 Budget.

28 **Existing Legislation now reads**

29 There is no existing legislation for this proposed bill.

30

31 **Proposed NEW wording**

32 **There is no new wording for this proposed bill. The financial impact of this bill is a**  
33 **quadrennial savings is an estimated \$861,922 (4/20/2024).**

34





**Title - CLO 14 - Supervision and Evaluation of Pastors**

**Reference**

There is no current text or existing legislation for the proposed bill.

Part VIII, Section V. The Presiding Elder, Supervisory and Advisory Function. 2021 BODD, Page 165. New insert.

**Intent**

To establish a process for evaluating the performance of pastors; to timely identify areas of concern for the local church and implement a system of recourse and documentation used in future assignments.

**Rationale**

The purpose of clergy evaluation is to assist the clergy in being the most effective pastor possible in the particular church being served. Also, it is to help the pastor in her or his growth and development within ministry. Gaining objectivity or clarity in evaluation of pastoral leadership is an important task. We recognize that most of what a pastor does in the performance of ministry is highly subjective, and immediate results are rarely recognizable. Yet we believe that there are unique opportunities for growth that take place because of an evaluation.

An example of the evaluation process assisting the AME church involves the issue of pastor's discontent with their pastoral assignments. Another scenario where an the evaluation process can come into play is in the addressing a congregation's dissatisfaction with the assigned pastor.

Another, if the status of a pastoral charge is significantly diminished (attending membership and financial resources), the root cause can be determined and addressed via the evaluation process. These burdensome situations could be alleviated, if not avoided if common human resource policies regarding employee performance evaluation, followed by supervisory, and perhaps professional counseling referrals, were in place and adhered to.

In secular society, employment policies require that a supervisor meets with an employee at least twice during the year to evaluate the employee's progress against previously agreed upon goals- accomplishments, challenges and failures are specifically discussed and documented, along with amended goals and new timelines, if necessary to achieve goals. Decisions on church leadership assignments should be based on capabilities and work product that serves the needs of the congregation, community, and objectives of the AME Church, not undermined by emotional affiliation and political influence.

Part VIII, Section V. The Presiding Elder, Supervisory and Advisory Function. 2021 BODD, page 165. It may also need to be referenced in the "Minister's Bill of Rights".

Deleted: ¶

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Attachment: Pastor Evaluation Template

**Current Text**

Part VIII, Section V. The Presiding Elder, Supervisory and Advisory Function. 2021 BODD, page 165. No language exists.

**Amended Text**

Part VIII, Section V. The Presiding Elder, Supervisory and Advisory Function. 2021 BODD, page 165. No language exists. New insert.

Prior to Annual Conference, and before the third quarterly Conference, the presiding elder must discuss with the said pastor the status of the local church and his/her performance at that charge, citing preceding Quarterly Conference evaluations, reports, and written communications from members. These meetings shall be documented, showing the date, venue, and signature of both pastor and presiding elder of the discussion and final assessment. Goals and objectives must be clear.

Documentation from these meetings shall be entered into a secure personnel storage file and copied to the presiding bishop. The information may be referenced in making pastoral appointments. The bishop shall be made aware of positive, adverse, or irreconcilable situations between the pastor and congregation as the presiding elder becomes aware, and if necessary, the case referred to the Ministerial Efficiency Committee. The presiding elder is to provide sufficient or adequate supervision of mission and smaller churches and circuits that will lead to a more informed and accurate evaluation.

SEE ATTACHED SUGGESTED EVALUATION FORM FOR USE  
(the form can be modified to accommodate the presiding elder district)

**Pastor Evaluation Form**

72 **SUGGESTED PASTOR'S ANNUAL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION FORM**

73 **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Formatted:** Font color: Red

74 **Clergy Status** \_\_\_\_\_

**Formatted:** Font color: Red

75 *(Itinerant Elder, Local Deacon, etc.)* \_\_\_\_\_

**Formatted:** Font: Italic, Font color: Red

77 Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

78 **Church Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Church Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Formatted:** Font color: Red

79 **Church Membership** \_\_\_\_\_ **Years at present charge** \_\_\_\_\_

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80 **Number of years as Pastor** \_\_\_\_\_ **Your Church Salary** \_\_\_\_\_

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81 **Church Parsonage** Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_ **Do you reside in a Parsonage?** Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_

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82 **Is the parsonage being rented?** Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_

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83 **PE District** \_\_\_\_\_ **Presiding Elder** \_\_\_\_\_

84 **Do you have a WMS, YPD, and/or Lay Organization** Yes or NO?

85 **How well are you collaborating with them to enhance the ministry of the church?** Explain

86 \_\_\_\_\_

87 \_\_\_\_\_

88 \_\_\_\_\_

89 \_\_\_\_\_

90 **What do you need from the PE to enhance your ministry at the church?**

91 \_\_\_\_\_

92 \_\_\_\_\_

93 \_\_\_\_\_

94 **Have you met your financial responsibilities?**

95 **Annual Conference** \_\_\_\_\_

96 **The Connectional Budget** \_\_\_\_\_

97 **District Budget Apportionment** \_\_\_\_\_

98 **Presiding Elder Apportionment** \_\_\_\_\_

99 **General Conference Assessment** \_\_\_\_\_

100 **Indicate your attendance at District Meetings?**

101 **Founder's Day** \_\_\_\_\_

102 **Annual Conference** \_\_\_\_\_

103 **Planning Meeting** \_\_\_\_\_

104 **Presiding Elder District Conference** \_\_\_\_\_

105 **Church School Convention** \_\_\_\_\_

106 Are there any issues at your church (such as declining attendance, low finances, building repairs, etc.)?  
107 What are your plans to resolve them?  
108 \_\_\_\_\_  
109 \_\_\_\_\_  
110 \_\_\_\_\_  
111 \_\_\_\_\_

112 Do you want to return for another conference year? Yes or No \_\_\_\_\_



136 The Annual Review is to help pastors remain energized and effective in their calling by reviewing  
137 previously established goals and desired skills sets needed in successful and effective ministry. The  
138 following is the Presiding Elder’s assessment of the review.

139 The following is the Key to rate performance:  
140 [5] Excellent; [4] Good; [3] Average; [2] Needs improvement; [1] Poor (refer to EAP or MEC).  
141 Circle the appropriate number. (EAP – Employee Assistance Program, MEC – Ministerial Efficiency  
142 Committee)

- 143 A. Administrative management and leadership skills
- 144 1. Demonstrates awareness of job responsibilities.....5 4 3 2 1
- 145 2. Demonstrate creativity in accomplishing tasks.....5 4 3 2 1
- 146 3. Shows consistency in financial reporting on all levels of the church.....5 4 3 2 1
- 147 4. Strives to achieve evangelistic goals and vision set by the Church .....5 4 3 2 1
- 148 5. Pastor attends the majority of all Episcopal and PE District meetings.....5 4 3 2 1
- 149 6. Demonstrates effective Leadership and work ethics.....5 4 3 2 1
- 150 B. HUMAN RELATIONS SKILLS
- 151 1. Demonstrates effective resolution problem-solving skills.....5 4 3 2 1
- 152 2. Has maintained or grown his congregation during the Conference year.....5 4 3 2 1
- 153 3. Demonstrates compassion toward his congregation and others.....5 4 3 2 1
- 154 4. Support spiritual growth through effective preaching and teaching.....5 4 3 2 1
- 155 C. COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION SKILLS
- 156 1. Demonstrates effectiveness in people skills.....5 4 3 2 1
- 157 2. Demonstrate the ability to solve conflictual situations.....5 4 3 2 1
- 158 3. Does he encourage views and ideas from others in decision-making.....5 4 3 2 1
- 159 4. Is the Pastor able to communicate his vision to the congregation.....5 4 3 2 1
- 160 5. Is the Pastor seeking to build effective public relationships with the community...5 4 3 2 1
- 161 D. PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE SKILLS
- 162 1. Demonstrates spiritual wellness.....5 4 3 2 1
- 163 2. Promotes physical wellness.....5 4 3 2 1
- 164 3. Demonstrates growth in theological beliefs.....5 4 3 2 1
- 165 4. Understands the History, Traditions, and Polity of the AME Church.....5 4 3 2 1
- 166 5. Demonstrates and promotes effective teaching and learning practices.....5 4 3 2 1
- 167 SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

168 Comments by the Presiding Elder

169 \_\_\_\_\_

170 \_\_\_\_\_

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173 \_\_\_\_\_00000

174 Pastor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

175 Presiding Elder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

176 **Funding - There is no cost associated with this proposed legislation**





## **The Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church**

## SECTION III. THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION

### The Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

#### A. CONSTITUTION ~~AND BYLAWS~~ OF THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION

##### PREAMBLE

We, the international organized laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in order to foster efficient outcomes in our governing activities, maximize the growth and development of our members and support the mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, do affirm, and adopt, with clarity and conviction, through the power of the Holy Ghost, the Constitution of the Connectional Lay Organization.

##### ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

##### ARTICLE II - MISSION STATEMENT, PURPOSE, AND OBJECTIVES

*Section 1. Mission Statement.* The Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is commissioned to teach, train and empower its members for lay ministry, global leadership and service following the tenets of Jesus Christ.

*Section 2.* The purpose of this organization shall be to organize and train the laity of the African Methodist Episcopal Church so that lay persons may maximally utilize their God given abilities and skills to improve and extend the kingdom, to create happiness, peace, and harmony among its members.

*Section 3. Objectives* – To accomplish this purpose, the following objectives are adopted:

- a. To instill in the membership of the church a love for, and an appreciation of the history, traditions, principles, and development of African Methodism by encouraging, motivating, and educating all lay persons;
- b. To keep forever alive the sacred memory of Richard Allen, the illustrious founder of the AMEC.
- c. To advocate respect and loyalty at all times to constituted authority and leadership;
- d. To encourage the laity to support the total program of the church in the local congregation, in the community, and throughout the Connection;
- e. To foster a systematic and regular study of *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church* and parliamentary procedure, to the end that greater knowledge and information may be disseminated among the laity, and with the further purpose of encouraging lay members to participate more largely in the general functioning and supervision of the African Methodist Episcopal Church;
- f. To foster, influence, and support all constructive and progressive legislation for the church that promotes the teachings of Jesus Christ;
- g. To encourage development, recognition, and utilization of the most appropriate operational practices and modern technology in conducting the activities of the African Methodist Episcopal Church;
- h. To promote the spread of personal evangelism through activities designed to prepare lay members for appropriately conveying God's Word;
- i. To provide training in Christian stewardship, which causes lay members to recognize that the connotation of stewardship addresses more than giving money;
- j. To increase the circulation of church periodicals;
- k. To provide for the orderly and systematic training of lay persons, especially officers, in order that they might more effectively perform their service responsibilities;
- l. To promote activities which will result in harmonious fellowship for lay persons throughout the Connection;
- m. To help in the support of the AME educational institutions; and

- n. To give financial assistance to the Connectional Lay Economic Development Corporation (CLEDC) in support of Connectional programs.

### ARTICLE III - DIVISIONS

*Section 1.* The Connectional Lay Organization shall be comprised of the Episcopal District Lay Organizations, Annual Conference Lay Organizations, Districts of the Annual Conference Lay Organizations, where organized, and Organizations of a Station or Circuit.

*Section 2.* The divisions' constitutions shall mirror the responsibilities that of the Connectional Organization, and the Bylaws of each division shall not conflict with the Constitution of the Connectional Organization.

*Section 3.* The District Lay Organization of the Annual Conference is optional and shall only be organized where the Annual Conference Lay Organization determines it to be necessary for the efficient conduct of its business. If such a determination is made, the Annual Conference Lay President shall, after giving fourteen (14) days written notice, inclusive of the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting, to each charge in the district, convene and organize the District Lay Organization of the Annual Conference. The District Lay Organization of the Annual Conference, where organized, shall bear the same relationship to the Annual Conference Lay Organization as the Annual Conference Lay Organization bears to the Episcopal District Lay Organization.

*Section 4.* Each level of the Connectional Lay Organization shall operate within the framework of the Executive Board and Constitution and Bylaws as approved by the Connectional Lay Organization Biennial Convention and ratified by the General Conference.

### ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

*Section 1.* Membership in this organization is open to all Lay un-ordained members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in good and regular standing, in their local, District of the Annual Conference, Annual Conference, and Episcopal District Lay Organizations. Good and regular standing is defined as means every member being is to be governed by the Constitution of the Lay Organization, pays required dues as set by his/her local lay organization, attends a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of the local lay organization meetings, and participates at in the Annual Conference, Lay, Districts of the Annual Conference Lay, and Episcopal District Lay Organization levels.

*Section 2.* The Connectional Lay Organization membership to the Biennial Session shall be as follows:

- a. All elected officers of the Connectional Lay Organization;
- b. All Episcopal District Lay Organization Presidents, and Directors of Lay Activities and Young Adult Representatives (YAR);
- c. Six (6) elected delegates from each Episcopal District Lay Organization, of whom at least one (1) shall be a young adult, aged 18-35;
- d. All Annual Conference Lay Organization Presidents, Directors of Lay Activities, and Young Adult Representatives (YAR);
- e. Six (6) elected delegates from each Annual Conference Lay Organization, of whom at least one (1) shall be a young adult, aged 18-35;
- f. Each president or an elected representative of each duly organized District Lay Organization of an Annual Conference. A duly organized District Lay Organization of the Annual Conference shall be an organization reporting to the Annual Conference Lay Organization's Annual Meeting or which is recognized by the Annual Conference as an organization;
- g. Each President, Director of Lay Activities, and Young Adult Representative or an elected representative of each organized Station or Circuit Organization; and
- h. Six (6) elected delegates from each organized Station or Circuit, of whom at least one (1) shall be a young adult, aged 18-35.

## ARTICLE V - OFFICERS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

*Section 1.* The elected Officers of the Connectional Lay Organization and its Divisions shall be:

- a. President
- b. First Vice President
- c. Second Vice President\*
- d. Third Vice President\*
- e. Recording Secretary
- f. Assistant Recording Secretary\*
- g. Corresponding Secretary\*
- h. Treasurer
- i. Financial Secretary\*
- j. Chaplain
- k. Historiographer\*
- l. Parliamentarian\*
- m. Director of Lay Activities
- n. Director of Public Relations\*
- o. Young Adult Representative

(\*Elected at discretion of Divisions, see Article III of this Constitution)

### **Section 2. Duties and Responsibilities of Officers**

**A. Duties and Responsibilities.** The President of the Connectional Lay Organization shall:

1. Lead with vision and integrity. This includes serving as a spokesperson for laity in the church, a representative for lay ministry in ecumenical and interfaith gatherings, and an advocate in public policy arenas;
2. Preside over its Biennial Sessions during regular, special, or emergency meetings, the Executive Board, and all other official meetings of this organization;
3. Be the active head of said organization, and shall be responsible for seeing that the Constitution and Bylaws of this organization, as well as the orders and policies of the Executive Board, are fully carried out;
4. Be responsible for expanding and developing lay work throughout the Connection through channels of the Episcopal District Lay Organizations;
5. Be responsible for such other duties as may be usual and customary to the position, and which may be assigned from time to time by the Executive Board, and the directives approved by the Biennial Session;
6. Appoint chairpersons of all Standing, Convention, and Ad Hoc Committees;
7. Serve as a member of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church by virtue of his/her office; and
8. ~~The Connectional President or his/her designee shall~~ Preside over all the election of officers on the Episcopal District level. **If he/she is unable to preside over an election he/she shall designate a person to preside as such.**

**B. Duties and Responsibilities.** The First Vice President shall:

1. Be responsible for Membership Recruitment **and** Retention, **and** coordinate such duties as assigned by the President **and the Executive Board**; and
2. Assume the complete duties of the President during an absence or when it has been determined by the Executive Board that the President can no longer perform the duties.

**C. Duties and Responsibilities.** The Second Vice President shall:

1. Be responsible for Strategic Planning, Organizational Effectiveness and Evaluation **and** coordinate such duties as are assigned by the President and the Executive Board; and
2. Serve in the absence of the President and First Vice President **and shall** preside at all the meetings and assume all the duties of the office of President.

**D. Duties and Responsibilities.** The Third Vice President shall:

1. Coordinate such duties as Personal Evangelism and coordinating those efforts with the appropriate departments, within the church; and
2. In the absence of the President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President., preside at the meetings and assume all the duties of the office of President.

**E. Duties and Responsibilities.** The Recording Secretary shall:

1. Serve as Secretary of the Biennial Session and the Connectional Executive Board;
2. Be responsible for recording attendance, accurate minutes of all business transacted during meetings, including the Biennial ~~secretary~~ Session and for reading and distributing minutes of any previous meetings and ~~insuring~~ ~~ensuring~~ widespread dissemination of pertinent information when called upon to do so by the President;
3. In the absence of the President and Vice Presidents, ~~the Recording Secretary shall~~ preside until a chairperson *pro tempore* is elected;
4. Prepare, for the presiding officer, a statement of unfinished business to come before the meeting and a report of the Executive Board meetings to be presented at the Biennial Session; and
5. Hold the bond of the Treasurer and the Financial Secretary.

**F. Duties and Responsibilities.** The Assistant Recording Secretary shall:

1. Assist the Recording Secretary in all duties as outlined above; and
2. In the absence of the Secretary, perform the duties of the Secretary.

**G. Duties and Responsibilities.** The Corresponding Secretary shall:

1. ~~Insure~~ ~~Ensure~~ lay ministry focus though effective communication. This includes sharing congratulations, well wishes, condolences and other news about laity;
2. Report pertinent information to the Executive Board, and reply to correspondence as directed by the President and/or the Executive Board;
3. Maintain a network of internal communications between the Connectional Lay Organization and its subordinate bodies;
4. Compose communication as needed and/or directed by the President; and
5. Maintain liaison with the Director of Public Relations to ensure publication of pertinent information.

**H. Duties and Responsibilities.** The Treasurer shall:

1. Serve as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, which is responsible for preparation of the organization's budget for the fiscal year;
2. Receive and disburse all funds. Disbursements shall be made, in accordance with the line item budget approved by the biennial. Expenditures not reflected/listed in the budget must be approved by the President and the Executive Board with appropriate justification;
3. Keep accurate records and give an itemized report at each Board meeting and the Biennial Session;
4. Be bonded and said bond shall be held by the Recording Secretary; and
5. Have the accounts audited, annually, by an external Audit/Accounting Firm approved the Executive Board.   
The Annual Audit shall include the records of all officers handling finances of the Connectional Lay Organization and shall be conducted by an external licensed, bonded, and insured Certified Public Accounting firm, which shall report its findings, annually, to the Executive Board for review and approval. This Audit Report shall serve as the basis for the Annual Report of the Connectional Lay Organization as required by the General Board. Upon approval of the Executive Board, the Audit will be presented to the Biennial session, which will include an annual programmatic report from each office with an operational budget.

**I. Duties and Responsibilities.** The Financial Secretary shall:

1. Maintain an independent set of records of all financial transactions and assist with the work in concert with the Treasurer;
2. Serve as member of the Budget and Finance Committee;
3. Receive and record all funds. All funds shall be turned over to the Treasurer within a period not to exceed ten (10) days;



4. Write vouchers countersigned by the President that authorize expenditures, pursuant to the budget passed by the Biennial, which are to be paid by the Treasurer; and
5. Be bonded and said bond shall held by the Recording Secretary.

**J. Duties and Responsibilities.** The Chaplain shall:

1. Make adequate preparation for each Bible Study and Devotional Service, utilizing creative styles that motivates and draws participants into the worship experience;
2. Provide spiritual leadership to this organization; and
3. Maintain effective communication with the Chaplains on the Episcopal District level.

**K. Duties and Responsibilities.** The Historiographer shall:

1. Be responsible for gathering, assembling, and maintaining a written and pictorial record of the activities and achievements of this organization;
2. Act as custodian for all photographs, citations, awards, trophies, and other mementos of the Connectional Lay Organization;
3. Compile a written Biennial history of this organization, submit it as a report to each Biennial Session, and place a copy in the archives to be kept in the headquarters of the AME Church; and
4. Archives, and find place to keep historical records.

**L. Duties and Responsibilities.** The Parliamentarian shall:

1. Advise the President or presiding officer concerning questions of parliamentary procedure;
2. Be seated next to the President at all meetings;
3. Follow The Constitution and Bylaws of this organization, *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, latest edition*, at all meetings; and
4. Serve as Consultant to the Constitution and Bylaws, Rules, and other committees as needed.

**M. Duties and Responsibilities.** The Director of Lay Activities shall:

1. Maintain a close working relationship with the President and the Young Adult Representative in the planning, developing and implementing of the complete programmatic thrust of this organization;
2. Plan, design, and direct all educational/training programs & and other activities of this organization at the Biennial Session, including but not limited to Training Institute, Banquets, Luncheons, Scholarships, Awards and Speakers in consultation with the President and approval of the Executive Board;
3. Maintain a working relationship with Episcopal District Lay Directors;
4. Be responsible for planning and implementing a training program and course of study in accordance with the mission, purposes and objectives of the Lay Organization. The proposed training program and course of study, inclusive of proposed theme and outline for the Study Guide, shall be presented to the Executive Board for approval at the Executive Board Meeting immediately preceding the next Biennial Session;
5. The proposed theme and program will be presented at the Fall Executive Board preceding the Biennial Meeting Session for approval. Upon approval, the theme and Study Guide will be available for distribution at the Biennial Session and shall be forwarded from the Connectional Director of Lay Activities to the Episcopal District Directors of Lay Activities within a period not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days after the closing of the Biennial session. Upon receipt, the Episcopal District Directors will immediately forward the course of study to the Annual Conference Directors of Lay Activities;
6. Annual Conference Directors of Lay Activities shall forward the course of study to the District of the District of the Annual Conference, and Station or Circuit Directors of Lay Activities. The training program and course of study shall reach the Directors of Lay Activities within fourteen (14) days after the Connectional Director of Lay Activities has forwarded same;
7. A full report of progress made in the implementation of the course of study and the work of the Director shall be given at each Biennial Session and Executive Board Meeting as outlined in this Constitution; and
8. Prepare an annual and biennial line item budget to reflect the work of this office for submission to the Budget Committee.

**N. Duties and Responsibilities.** The Director of Public Relations shall:

1. Oversee the production of the **all** official publication magazine of the organization, editing and publishing a monthly periodical containing news of general interest to the laity and news regarding the organization;
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, and advertising solicitation;
5. Prepare an annual **and &/or** biennial line item budget for the magazine's publication for submission to the Budget Committee;
6. Seek to bring about harmony of understanding between the church and public through the channeling of information to various media;
7. Be responsible for all press releases and public relations for and during any Lay Organization meeting;
8. Disseminate news items of interest received from the Episcopal Districts through Newsletter and/or multi-media processes; **and**
9. Oversee the CLO website and any internal or external documents, including all social media networking.

**O. Duties and Responsibilities.** The Young Adult Representative shall:

1. Be responsible for implementing teaching and training opportunities for Young Adults in conjunction with the Director of Lay Activities, and establishing working relationships with other relevant Young Adult Auxiliaries and Ministries within and outside the AME Church;
2. Prepare an annual and biennial line item budget to reflect the work of this office for submission to the Budget Committee;
3. Advocate for Young Adults' concerns to the Connectional Executive Board and beyond;
4. Facilitate Lay Organization Young Adults events with approval of the Executive Board; and
5. Voice the concerns and visions of a new generation of laity and serve as a Christian mentor to a younger generation of African Methodists.

~~Section 2 The Annual Audit shall include the records of all officers handling finances of the Connectional Lay Organization and shall be conducted by an external licensed, bonded, and insured Certified Public Accounting firm, which shall report its findings, annually, to the Executive Board for review and approval. This Audit Report shall serve as the basis for the Annual Report of the Connectional Lay Organization as required by the General Board. Upon approval of the Executive Board, the Audit will be presented to the Biennial session, which will include an annual programmatic report from each office with an operational budget.~~

## ARTICLE VI - NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

*Section 1.* All officers and members of the Connectional Lay Organization and its Divisions shall be members in good and regular standing in their Station or Circuit Organization to participate in elections and voting.

*Section 2.* Any person seeking an elected office in the Connectional Lay Organization must be a member in "good and regular standing" in the organization and must possess the qualifications required for the position being sought. Any candidate for elected office, must have registered and attended at least three (3) Biennial Sessions as a delegate, alternate, or observer within the ten (10) year period immediately preceding the election year. Registration shall be confirmed from the official registration records to be provided to the Nominating Committee upon its appointment.

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

*Section 4.* All candidates seeking an elected office must have demonstrated active participation on the Episcopal District, Annual Conference, Districts of the Annual Conference (where they exist), and local church levels within the ten (10) year period preceding the election year.

*Section 5.* No elected officer shall hold more than two (2) elected offices beyond the local organization.

*Section 6.* Members of the Nominating Committee shall be ineligible for nomination by the committee for any elected position to be filled (where applicable on the local level).

*Section 7.* The Nominating Committee shall consist of seven (7) persons appointed by the President with nominees to be confirmed by the Executive Board. The President in selecting committee members shall follow these guidelines:

- a. There shall be no more than one person appointed from an Episcopal District; and
- b. Appointments shall be globally inclusive and sensitive to age diversity, at least one (1) person between the ages of 18 - 35, one (1) person from Districts 14 - 20, and all persons must have demonstrated experience with the nominating process as outlined in Article VI, ~~section~~. Selection of committee members must respect the guidelines that govern the Committee's duties and reporting timelines.

*Section 8.* Duties of the Committee:

- a. At least nine (9) months prior to the Biennial Session the Committee shall call for nominations through a notice submitted for publication in every official periodical of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, inclusive of but not limited to, the Christian Recorder, (printed and online versions); the Connectional Lay Organization's "We Speak", the Connectional Lay Organization website, and any other appropriate printed or online communication. Such Notice shall inform members when, how and where nomination forms can be obtained. Nomination forms shall also be sent to Executive Board members and Episcopal District Presidents for distribution to interested persons. The nomination form shall request biographical data and other pertinent information which will aid in the qualifying of candidates. Such forms shall be returned to the Chair of the Nominating Committee by prospective nominees, bearing the signature of the Episcopal District Lay President, no later than January 15<sup>th</sup> prior to the convening of the Biennial Session.
- b. The Committee shall thoroughly examine any and all necessary information regarding nominees for elected offices being sought. Each nominee must be notified of his/her eligibility which signals authorization to campaign for the designated office. From those persons found qualified for the offices being sought, the committee shall prepare a slate of nominees, listing the qualifications of the nominees for offices to be elected at the Biennial Session. On or before January 15<sup>th</sup> or six (6) months prior to the convening of the Biennial Session, (or whichever comes first), the slate will be distributed to the Executive Board of the Connectional Lay Organization for approval prior to being provided to each Episcopal District.
- c. No political campaigning, for office shall take place before candidates are qualified as nominees by the Nominating Committee. Campaigning is defined as placing ads in Souvenir Journals or any AME Church Publication at any level as a candidate, distributing campaign literature/paraphernalia or visits to formal functions of the Connectional Lay Organization or its subordinate bodies with the expressed purpose of campaigning. Participation in unapproved campaign activities will result in valid disqualification for that candidate if confirmed by the Nominating Committee and the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE VII - ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

*Section 1.* Officers shall be elected at the Biennial Session, unless otherwise provided for herein, ~~such as provisions made for meetings held electronically (Article X, Section 5)~~. All elections shall be by secret ballot, (electronic or paper), except in the case where the office is not contested. When there is only one candidate for office the Chair can take a voice vote or declare that the nominee is elected, effecting the election by unanimous consent or acclamation. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect. Elected officers shall assume office immediately upon installation. The Installation of Officers shall be the final order of business at the closing Business Session of the Biennial Convention. Any method of election in any division other than by secret ballot, except in the case of uncontested offices, shall be declared null and void by the Connectional Lay Organization.

**Section 2.** Whenever there is an unfilled office, due to a person not submitting a letter of intent, the President shall, with the confirmation of the Executive Board, appoint an active member, possessing qualifications for the office, to fill the vacancy if the remainder of the term is less than two (2) years. A majority vote by the Executive Board shall determine the result. 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 of the vacancy date, to fill this position. The Letter of Intent shall be sent to the person who last served as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee by each person who wishes to be a candidate for the vacant office. Nominating procedures, approved for the last Biennial election, will be used for the election. All voting shall be by secret ballot (electronic or paper).

**Section 3.** Connectional Lay Organization Officers shall be elected to a four (4) year term at the Biennial meeting following the regular session of the General Conference.

**Section 4. Term limitation.** The elected officers of the Connectional Lay Organization and its Divisions shall serve no more than eight (8) consecutive years in the same office.

**Section 5.** If an officer completes a term of office which was vacated by the incumbent due to death, illness, resignation, ~~&~~and/or other conditions approved by the Executive Board, the unexpired portion of the term, will not count as a full term for the purposes of term limitation.

**Section 6. Transition Period.** A transitional period of sixty (60) days or 8 weeks, beginning at the close of a Biennial Session, is provided for outgoing officers to reconcile files, records, and make inventories before transferring them to incoming officers. Outgoing officers shall complete the transfer of all files, records, books, papers and property belonging to the organization to the incoming officers on or before the end of the sixty-day period.

**Section 7. Vacancy in Office of President and/or Vice Presidents.** If a vacancy occurs 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, for the unexpired term of office; the Second Vice President shall ascend to the office of First Vice President, and the Third Vice President becomes Second Vice President, leaving the vacancy to be filled in the office of the lowest ranking vice-president. The President shall, with the confirmation of the Executive Board appoint an active member, possessing qualifications for the office of the Third Vice President, to fill the vacancy if the remainder of the term is less than two (2) years. A majority vote by the Executive Board shall determine the result. 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, of the vacancy date, to fill this position. The Letter of Intent shall be sent to the person who last served as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee by each person who wishes to be a candidate for the office of Third Vice President. All voting shall be by secret ballot (electronic or paper). Any person appointed ~~&~~and/or 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 8. Vacancy of Elected Officer other than President and/or Vice Presidents.** If a vacancy occurs in an elected officer's position, other than President and/or Vice Presidents, due to death, resignation, disability or inability to serve, the President shall, with the confirmation of the Executive Board, appoint an active member, possessing qualifications for the office, to fill the vacancy if the remainder of the term is less than two (2) years. A majority vote by the Executive Board shall determine the result. 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, of the vacancy date, to fill this position. The Letter of Intent shall be sent to the person who last served as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee by each person who wishes to be a candidate for the vacant office. All voting shall be by secret ballot (electronic or paper). Any person appointed and/or elected to fill an unexpired term of office shall subsequently be eligible to be elected to two full four (4) year terms in accordance with this Constitution.

**Section 9. Removal of Elected Officer.** The Organizational and Officers Effectiveness Committee shall give its findings annually. Any elected officer, not performing his/her duties, as outlined in this Constitution and the Bylaws, shall be notified in writing by the President, of his/her failure to perform designated duties, with a copy forwarded to the Chairman of the General Board Commission on Lay Organization, and the Executive Board. If failure to perform his/her duties continue for a period of ninety (90) days after notification, the matter will be referred to the Executive Board for action. If the President is not performing his/her

duties as outlined in this Constitution and the **Bylaws**, he/she shall be notified in writing by the Executive Board through the Corresponding Secretary of his/her failure to perform designated duties. The Executive Board, may, in the interim of the Biennial Session remove the elected officer from office for failure to execute his/her duties and responsibilities. The final decision to suspend, expel, or remove from office shall rest exclusively with the Connectional Lay Organization in its Biennial Session. The Organizational and Officers Effectiveness Committee will give guidelines, implementation and corrective actions when deemed necessary.

*Section 10.* Episcopal District Lay Organization Officers shall be elected quadrennially.

*Section 11.* Annual Conference Lay Organization Officers shall be elected biennially.

*Section 12.* Districts of the Annual Conference Lay Organization Officers shall be elected biennially.

*Section 13.* Station or Circuit Lay Organization Officers shall be elected annually.

## ARTICLE VIII - QUALIFICATIONS

Each officer shall be responsible for understanding and fulfilling his/her duties and those officers with a budget shall prepare and submit an annual line item budget for approval by the Executive Board.

*Section 1.* The President.

Qualifications. The President of the Connectional Lay Organization shall have a commitment to lay ministry as demonstrated by:

1. Prior management experience, preferably in a non-profit organization;
2. Prior service as either an elected officer of the Annual Conference or local church Organization; and
3. Five (5) years of administrative, supervisory, or fiscal management experience.

*Section 2.* First Vice President.

Qualifications. Any candidate seeking the position of First Vice President must possess the same qualifications as provided for the President.

*Section 3.* Second Vice President.

Qualifications. Any candidate seeking the position of Second Vice President must possess the same qualifications as provided for the President.

*Section 4.* Third Vice President.

Qualifications. Any candidate seeking the position of Third Vice President must possess the same qualifications as provided for the President.

*Section 5.* Recording Secretary

Qualifications. All candidates seeking the office of Recording Secretary must possess:

1. Proficiency in writing and composition of the English language, basic reading competency, editing and record keeping skills;
2. Experience in word processing or other technology (electronic media) available for recording, storing, and retrieving information;
3. Prior secretarial experience or training; and
4. Ability to prepare and present minutes and reports.

*Section 6.* Assistant Recording Secretary.



Qualifications. Any candidate seeking the position of Assistant Recording Secretary must possess the same qualifications as required for the Recording Secretary.

#### *Section 7. Corresponding Secretary*

Qualifications. Any candidate seeking the position of Corresponding Secretary must possess the same qualifications as required for the Recording Secretary and have experience in database management.

#### *Section 8. Treasurer*

Qualifications. Any candidate seeking the office of Treasurer must demonstrate:

1. Experience in financial management, including but not limited to, the areas of accounting, bookkeeping, and finance, preferably in non-profit organizations;
2. Five (5) years' experience working with non-profit accounting, finance, and budgeting.
3. Ability to be bonded; and
4. Experience and knowledge with computerized financial or accounting software and financial accounting/reporting.

#### *Section 9. Financial Secretary*

Qualifications. Any candidate seeking the office of Financial Secretary must possess the same qualifications as those of the Treasurer.

#### *Section 10. Chaplain*

Qualifications. Any candidate seeking the position of Chaplain must demonstrate:

1. A Christian commitment, possess a high level of spiritual maturity, and effective interpersonal and communication skills;
2. Training and experience in Christian Education;
3. Knowledge of the Bible and the AMEC Hymnal; and
4. Experience in preparing and conducting Bible study and worship.

#### *Section 11. Historiographer*

Qualifications. Any candidate seeking the office of Historiographer must demonstrate:

1. Prior experience with emphasis in research, writing, and publishing historical information;
2. Proficiency in English;
3. Ability to use technology (electronic media, including video, photos, and other graphics) for data gathering, organizing, record keeping and writing; and
4. Knowledge of record and artifact preservation specific to an organization's founding, operations, projects, and other activities.

#### *Section 12. Parliamentarian*

Qualifications. Any candidate seeking the office of Parliamentarian must demonstrate they are a registered Parliamentarian in good and regular standing of the National Association of Parliamentarians or an equivalent certification at the time of nomination. Where there are no qualified candidates, the President, with the approval of the Executive Board and for any fee that will be required may contract for such services to be provided, at a competitive rate to the organization as needed. Preference will be given to members of the AME Church in good and regular standing; and

#### *Section 13. Director of Lay Activities*

Qualifications. Any candidate seeking the office of Director of Lay Activities must demonstrate extensive experience in research, speech, writing and proficiency in the English language, program planning, development, designing, implementation, teaching, training, adult learning, and/or administration, and technology (electronic media, including video, photos, and other graphics) for data gathering, organizing, record keeping and writing.

#### Section 14. Director of Public Relations

Qualifications. Any candidate seeking the office of Director of Public Relations must demonstrate:

1. A working knowledge of media relations, marketing, sales, prior experience in preparing and distributing press releases; and
2. Strong communication skills and extensive experience in English, speech, and journalism.

#### Section 15. Young Adult Representative

Qualifications. Any candidate seeking the office of Young Adult Representative shall:

1. Be between the ages of 18-35 at the time of election. Completion of high school and pursuing a post-secondary degree (at the optimum) is required;
2. Demonstrate visionary leadership skills through work experience or volunteer opportunities, especially with Youth and Young Adults within the church or other organizations and;
3. Possess strong abilities to provide training and demonstrate effective communication skills.

### ARTICLE IX - EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

Section 2. The Executive Board shall meet ~~at least once but no more than twice, annually,~~ in person the alternate year of the Biennial convention. Additional Executive Board meetings, no more than twice, annually, will be conducted via a video conferencing platform that can be used through a computer desktop, mobile app or telephone, and allows users to connect online for video conference meetings (i.e., Zoom). The meetings shall be at the time and place designated by the President and members of the Executive Board.

Section 3. Teleconference/video conference meetings may be held to address specific matters of concern. Notice of the call with a proposed agenda must be issued by the Corresponding Secretary to members of the Executive Board no later than three (3) days prior to the call. Vacancies of officers may not be filled via teleconference/video conference call. (Article VII, section 1)

Section 4. The President of the Connectional Lay Organization shall preside over the meetings of the Executive Board, and the Recording Secretary shall serve as secretary of the Executive Board.

Section 5. The Executive Board shall have the authority to carry on the work of the Connectional Lay Organization during the interim of the Biennial Sessions.

Section 6. The Executive Board shall establish the rules and regulations by which it shall be governed. The Board shall have power over the supervision and direction of all affairs of the Organization during the interim of the Biennial Sessions of the Connectional Lay Organization, except that it shall not infringe upon any of the expressed constitutional provisions herein set forth and provided. Further, the Connectional Lay Organization, in its Biennial Session, may nullify, abrogate, or rescind any action of the Executive Board.

Section 7. The Executive Board shall have such other authority as may be necessary to carry out the general purposes and intent of this Constitution.

Section 8. The Executive Board may establish an Advisory Council to act in a purely advisory capacity to the Executive Board. The Advisory Council will not to serve in any supervisory role, or act as a liaison to any elected officer, or committee of the Connectional Lay Organization. The Advisory Council may consist of past presidents of the Connectional or Episcopal Lay Organization and such other distinguished lay members as designated by the President and confirmed by the Executive Board.

The members are nominated by the President and confirmed by the Executive Board. The Advisory Council shall not exceed five (5) persons.

## ARTICLE X - MEETINGS

*Section 1.* The Connectional Lay Organization shall meet biennially in its regular session.

*Section 2.* The Biennial Session of the Connectional Lay Organization shall be held during the period July 7<sup>th</sup> to August 8<sup>th</sup>, with the Opening Worship Service being held on Sunday, except that no Opening Worship Service shall be held on a First Sunday. The first business session will begin on Monday. The site of the next Biennial Sessions shall be determined six (6) years in advance.

*Section 3.* The Connectional President and/or a majority of the voting members of the Executive Board may call an emergency meeting of the Connectional Lay Organization when such a meeting is deemed necessary. The time, place, and object of such Special or Emergency Meeting shall be clearly set forth in the official call or notice. Only those matters expressly set out in the notice or call shall be deliberated upon, provided however, that no election of officers shall take place at a special or emergency meeting.

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

*Section 5.* Meetings Held Electronically: Except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws or authorized by the Executive Board, meetings of the Lay Organization, or any of its subordinate bodies, may be conducted through use of internet meeting and/or teleconference services, that support the use of voting tools, showing the results of votes, supporting visible displays identifying those participating, and identifying those seeking recognition to speak. These electronic meetings shall be subject to the Lay Organization's Constitution, its Bylaws, and/or rules adopted during such meetings. Any electronic voting tool, approved by the Executive Board, shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the Constitution that a vote be conducted by ballot.

## ARTICLE XI - VOTING PRIVILEGES

*Section 1.* Voting privileges in the Connectional Lay Organization shall be confined and restricted to persons set out under Article IV of this Constitution.

*Section 2.* No person shall be entitled to more than one (1) vote on an issue or matter in the Connectional Lay Organization, and must be personally present to exercise such privilege. No proxy or absentee voting shall be permitted.

*Section 3.* Unless otherwise indicated, the majority vote shall prevail in determining all matters.

## ARTICLE XII - POWERS AND JURISDICTIONS

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

## ARTICLE XIII - RESERVED AND IMPLIED POWERS

*Section 1.* Each Episcopal District, Annual Conference, District of the Annual Conference, and Station or Circuit Lay Organization shall be vested with the full authority to make its own Constitution and Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, as may be deemed

necessary for proper and orderly conduct of its affairs and for the governing of its officers and members. Each Division's Constitution shall conform to and harmonize with the Connectional Constitution and Bylaws. Each of these organizations shall have the authority to establish its own Executive Board, raise funds, and in general perform all duties incident to its existence as an autonomous body except, however, said organization shall not make constitutions and bylaws, or rules and regulations which are in conflict with, or abridge any part of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Connectional Lay Organization. ~~Or, or~~ the template for subordinate divisions.

*Section 2.* A copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of each Episcopal District organization must be filed with the Constitution and Bylaw Committee of the Connectional Lay Organization for examination and response.

*Section 3.* Each Episcopal District, Annual Conference, District of the Annual Conference, and each Station or Circuit Lay Organization shall have the following inserted in its Constitution and Bylaws: "This Organization shall be subject to and governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church."

*Section 4.* This organization and each of its Divisions shall at all times be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Connectional Lay Organization, the *Current Book of Discipline, Laws, Doctrines, and Tenets of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, latest edition.*

## ARTICLE XIV – COMMITTEES

*Section 1.* To ~~insure~~ ensure successful and effective implementation of programs and projects of the Connectional Lay Organization, other than specified duties of elected officers per Constitution and Bylaws, all Chairpersons shall be appointed by the President.

*Section 2.* Four (4) types of Committees shall exist in the Connectional Lay Organization; Standing, Special, Convention, and ad hoc.

*Section 3.* Standing Committees are appointed to implement specific goals, objectives, and programs that advance of, and are vital to the functioning of the Connectional Lay Organization. Standing Committees shall be the following: Proposed Legislation, Constitution and Bylaws, AMEV – Alert, Budget and Finance, Social Action and Organizational and Officers Effectiveness. Each standing committee shall have no more than seven (7) members appointed by the president, and approved by the Executive Board. Appointments shall be globally inclusive and age sensitive. The President, in appointing Committee members shall follow these guidelines; at least, one (1) person from Districts 14 - 20; one (1) person between the ages of 18-35, and all persons must have demonstrated diversity of experiences in the work assigned to the committee. Selection of committee members must respect the guidelines that govern the committee's duties and reporting timelines.

*Section 4.* Special Committees shall be the following: The Nominating, Elections, and Audit Committee. Special Committees are appointed to perform a task that does not fall within the assigned function of a Standing Committee.

*Section 5.* Committees of the Biennial Session. The Committees of the Biennial session shall be Rules, Elections Commission, Registration, Credentials, Health, Budget and Finance, Memoriam, Time and Place, Review of the Discipline, Evaluation, Resolution, Review of Job Analysis, CLEDC, Issues facing the Church and Nation, Social Actions, Proposed Legislation, Young Adult, Executive Summary, Kit, Global Ministry, Higher Education Support, Constitution and Bylaws, AME V-Alert, Marshall/Staffers, Nominating and Strategic Planning.

*Section 6.* The Credential Committee prepares and presents to the Biennial Convention a certified list of registered officers and delegates that make up the voting strength of the Convention.

*Section 7.* The Rules Committee provides official guidelines of operating procedures specially prepared for operation of the convening Biennial Session.

*Section 8.* The Budget and Finance Committee of the Connectional Lay Organization shall submit its final report to the regular session of the Organization no later than the evening of the second business day of the Biennial Session.

*Section 9.* The Budget and Finance Committee composed of the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and other members for a total of no more than seven (7) members shall be appointed by the President. It shall be the duty of this committee to prepare a two (2) year budget to be submitted to the President and the Executive Board for approval in the Biennial Session for adoption by a majority vote.

*Section 10.* The Constitution and By-Law Committee defines the primary character of the organization, prescribes how the organization functions including all the rules that the organization considers so important that they cannot be changed without previous notice to the membership and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Biennial Convention.

*Section 11.* The Organizational and Officers Effective Committee shall report annually to the Executive Board. The committee will propose and present for the Executive Board the process and tools for the officers' evaluation and implement the process. The President has thirty (30) days after the close of the Biennial to appoint the committee members who will present their findings.

*Section 12.* An Ad Hoc Committee is appointed as the need arises to carry out a specific task. It automatically ceases to exist on presentation of its final report to the body.

## ARTICLE XV - SUBORDINATE BODIES

*Section 1.* Episcopal District Lay Organizations – The Episcopal District Lay Organization shall be composed of:

- a. all elected officers;
- b. all Presidents and Directors of Lay Activities and Young Adult Representatives of Annual Conference Organizations;
- c. six (6) elected delegates from each Annual Conference Lay Organization, at least one of whom shall be a young adult, aged 18-35;
- d. each President and Directors of Lay Activities and Young Adult Representatives ~~or a duly elected representative~~ of each organized District Lay Organization of the Annual Conference; where there is a duly organized District Lay Organization of an Annual Conference;

e.

each President and six (6) elected delegates, at least one of whom shall be a young adult, ages 18-35 – of each organized Station or Circuit District Lay Organization of the Annual Conference where there is a duly organized District Lay Organization of an Annual Conference;

- f. any elected officers of the Connectional Lay Organization who are members of an organized Station or Circuit Lay Organization in the Episcopal District
- g. each President, Director of Lay Activities and Young Adult Representative (YAR) from each Station or Circuit.
- h. six (6) elected delegates, at least one of whom shall be a young adult, aged 18-35, from each Station or Circuit.

*Section 2.* Annual Conference Lay Organization – The Annual Conference Lay Organization shall be composed of:

- a. all elected officers;
- b. each President and Director of Lay Activities and Young Adult Representative (YAR), of a duly organized District Lay Organization of the Annual Conference;
- c. six (6) elected delegates, at least one of whom shall be a young adult, aged 18-35, from each duly organized District Lay Organization of the Annual Conference;
- d. each President, Director of Lay Activities and Young Adult Representative (YAR) of each organized Station or Circuit;
- e. six (6) elected delegates, at least one of whom one shall be a young adult, aged 18-35, from each Station or Circuit; and
- f. any elected officers of the Connectional Lay Organization or Episcopal District Organization who are members of an organized Station or Circuit Lay Organization in the Annual Conference.



*Section 3. District Lay Organization of the Annual Conference –* This organization is amenable to the Annual Conference Lay Organization and must report to the Annual Conference Lay Organization at least annually. The District Lay Organization of the Annual Conference shall be composed of:

- a. all elected officers;
- b. each President, Director of Lay Activities and Young Adult Representative (YAR) of each organized Station or Circuit;
- c. six (6) elected delegates, at least one of whom shall be a young adult, aged 18- 35, from each Station or Circuit where there is a duly organized Lay Organization;
- d. any elected officers of the Connectional, Episcopal District or Annual Conference Lay Organizations who are members of an organized Station or Circuit Lay Organization in the District of the Annual Conference;
- e. This organization is amenable to the Annual Conference Lay Organization and must report to the Annual Conference Lay Organization at least annually.

*Section 4. Station/Charge or Circuit Lay Organization –* The pastor of each Station or Circuit shall, within thirty (30) days after the close of the Annual Conference, call a meeting of the members of the Station/Charge or Circuit for the purpose of organizing a Lay Organization where none exists. The Station/Charge or Circuit Lay Organization shall be composed of all members of said Station or Circuit who desire to enroll/join. The officers of the organization shall be elected from those enrolled in said organization. The President of the Lay Organization, or a duly elected representative of the local church, becomes a member of the Official Board by virtue of his/her office.

*Section 5.* The officers of a Station or Circuit Lay Organization shall be those specified in Article V, Section 1 of this Constitution. The Station or Circuit Lay Organization shall fix the time for regular meetings, which should not be fewer than eleven (11) times per year.

## ARTICLE XVI - AMENDMENTS

Amendment of Constitution and Bylaws. Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Connectional Lay Organization may be made by filing a copy of the proposed amendment with the Connectional President and Secretary. The Secretary shall send an official copy of the proposed amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee at least six months or (180) days prior to the meeting of the Connectional Lay Organization's Biennial Session. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall send copies of proposed amendments, by certified mail and/or electronic communication to each of the Episcopal District Presidents. Two-thirds vote of the members present and eligible to vote at the Biennial Session shall be required to effect an amendment. Amendments will take effect at the close of the General Conference ratifying the Amendments.

### B. BYLAWS OF THE CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION

The following shall constitute the Bylaws of this organization.

*Section 1.* The Order of Business shall be:

- a. Devotion
- b. Bible Study
- c. Roll Call of Officers
- d. Report of Credentials Committee
- e. Registration of Delegates
- f. Reading of Minutes of the Executive Board
- g. Reading of Communications
- h. Reading of Committees Report
- i. President's Message
- j. Reports of Officers
- k. Reports of Episcopal District Presidents
- l. Unfinished Business

- m. New Business
- n.. Report of Committees
- o. Memorial Service
- p. Installation of Officers
- q. Adjournment

*Section 2.* A majority of delegates present from the Episcopal Districts of the AME Church with voting delegations at the Biennial Convention shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business.

*Section 3.* The members shall conform to all the rules and regulations of this organization; any member(s) guilty of an infraction or violation of the rules, or for conduct or decorum unbecoming a member, may be removed from membership herein.

*Section 4.* The order of business herein before outlined may be changed by a two-third (2/3) majority vote of the delegates present at the Biennial Convention.

*Section 5.* All reports of Presidents and other officers shall be in writing and submitted in triplicate copies, one to be left with the President of the organization, one to be left with the Secretary of the organization, and one to be retained by the officer making the report.

*Section 6.* Any officer failing to perform his or her official duties shall be accountable to the Executive Board.

*Section 7.* No officer, nor standing or special committee, shall incur any obligation, which shall be binding, unless such action was authorized in its inception, or subsequently ratified and approved by the organization.

*Section 8.* The President shall be authorized to appoint and deputize, with sufficient power and authority, as many Marshals as may be deemed necessary to maintain order and decorum in the meeting. It shall be the duty of the Marshals to maintain strict order, see that only members are seated within established bounds of the meeting, and perform such other duties as may be assigned to them by the President in keeping with the duties of their office.

*Section 9.* Any provision or condition not expressly covered in the Constitution and **Bylaws** of this Organization shall be interpreted and construed in keeping with the long-established policy, customs, tenets, and traditions of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, *The Book of Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*, and *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised edition*.

*Section 10.* Upon being identified and honored as an Emeritus President, all persons holding the designation shall be a perpetual member of the Lay Organization he/she has served honorably.

## COLORS

The official colors of the Connectional Lay Organization are: Royal Blue and White or Navy Blue and White.

## THE LAY HYMN

Laymen now have thus assembled,  
In Thy blessed name O God.  
Guide us in our true endeavor,  
Light the pathway that we trod;  
Give us strength to ever labor for Thy cause  
Give us strength to ever labor for Thy cause.

We are banded one in union,  
 To fulfill Thy just command.  
 May we be Thy true disciples,  
 Holding to Thy mighty hand;  
 Give us blessings from the fountain of Thy love  
 Give us blessings from the fountain of Thy love.

As we walk this Christian journey,  
 Let us keep our ~~armour~~ armor bright.  
 Let our works be pure and holy  
 That we stand within Thy sight;  
 Laymen soldiers, strong in unity and love  
 Laymen soldiers, strong in unity and love.

May we stand before Thine altar,  
 Pledging Lord to work for Thee.  
 In the vineyard, in the pastures  
 Let us Lord Thy pilgrims be;  
 Let us lift the cross forever to the skies,  
 Let us lift the cross forever to the skies.

**Tune (Zion):** “Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah “written by Frances A. Walston

#### **THE LAY BENEDICTION**

“May God bless us with the true spirit of Christianity. That we may live together, not as man over man, but as lay persons working with God. Amen”

#### **CONNECTIONAL LAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (CLEDC)**

The purpose of the CLEDC is to provide financial assistance to the Connectional institutions and projects; a financial base for lay ministries, outreach missions, and long-term financial programs for the denomination.

The CLEDC is a not-for-profit corporation under the auspices of the Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The CLEDC is a continuation of the legacy of Richard Allen, the founding father, who preached a message of religious freedom, political empowerment, and economic self-determination.

#### **C. SAMPLE CONSTITUTION: INSTRUCTIONS FOR OTHER DIVISIONS**

**SAMPLE CONSTITUTION FOR CONSTITUTION FOR OTHER DIVISIONS TO BE COMPLETED BY DIVISION  
 FOLLOWING THE CONNECTIONAL CONSTITUTION AS EXAMPLE.**

*If revising/amending Episcopal District Constitution  
 the term District replaces Connectional.*

*If Annual Conference Constitution the term Annual Conference replaces Connectional.*

#### **D. SAMPLE CONSTITUTION: DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION**

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
( ) DISTRICT LAY ORGANIZATION  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the ( ) District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

**ARTICLE II – MISSION STATEMENT, PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

*Section 1. Mission Statement. The Lay Organization of the ( ) District shall teach, train, and empower its members for leadership (refer to article II, Connectional Constitution, to complete this section on mission statement, purpose and objectives).*

*Section 2. The purpose of this organization shall be to organize and train the laity of the ( ) District so that each lay person may maximally utilize their God given abilities and skills (complete).*

*Section 3. Objectives – To accomplish this purpose, the following objectives are adopted.*

- a. To instill in the membership of the church a love for and an appreciation of the history, traditions, principles and development of African Methodism by encouraging, motivating, and educating all lay persons;
- b. To keep forever alive the sacred memory of Richard Allen, our illustrious founder;
- c. To advocate respect and loyalty at all times to constituted authority and leadership;
- d. To encourage the laity to support the total program of the church in the local congregation, in the community, and throughout the District;
- e. To foster a systematic and regular study of *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church* and of parliamentary procedure, to the end that greater knowledge and information may be disseminated among the laity, and with the further purpose of encouraging lay members to participate more largely in the general functioning and supervision of the African Methodist Episcopal Church;
- f. To foster, influence, and support all constructive and progressive legislation for the church that promotes the teachings of Jesus Christ;
- g. To encourage development, recognition, and utilization of the most appropriate operational practices and modern technology in conducting the activities of the African Methodist Episcopal Church;
- h. To promote the spread of personal evangelism through activities designed to prepare lay members for appropriately conveying God's Word;
- i. To provide training in Christian stewardship, which causes lay members to recognize that the connotation of stewardship addresses more than giving money.
- j. To increase the circulation of church periodicals;
- k. To provide for the orderly and systematic training of lay persons, especially officers, in order that they might more effectively perform their service assignments;
- l. To promote activities which will result in harmonious fellowship for lay persons throughout the Connection;
- m. To help in the support of the AME educational institutions; and
- n. To give financial assistance to the Connectional Lay Economic Development Corporation (CLEDC) in support of Connectional programs.

**ARTICLE III – DIVISIONS**

*Section 1. The ( ) District Lay Organization shall be comprised of the Annual Conference Lay Organizations, District Lay Organizations of the Annual Conference and Organizations of a Station or Circuit.*

*Section 2. The District Lay Organization of the Annual Conference is optional and shall only be organized where the Annual Conference Lay Organization determines it to be necessary for the efficient conduct of its business. If such a determination is made, the Annual Conference Lay President shall, after giving fourteen (14) days written notice, which shall include the date,*

time, place and purpose of the meeting, to each charge in the district, convene and organize the District Lay Organization of the Annual Conference. The District Lay Organization of the Annual Conference, where organized, shall bear the same relationship to the Annual Conference Lay Organization as the Conference Lay Organization bears to the Episcopal District Lay Organization.

#### ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP

*Section 1.* Membership in this organization is open to all un-ordained members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in good and regular standing, in their local, and Annual Conference Lay Organizations. **Good and regular standing means every member is governed by the Constitution of the organization and pays required dues as set by his/her local lay organization, attends fifty percent (50%) of the local lay organization meetings, and participates at the District of the Annual Conference, and the Annual Conference Lay Organization levels.**

*Section 2.* The ( ) District Lay Organization membership to the Mid-year and Annual Meeting shall be as follows:

- a. all elected officers of the ( ) Episcopal District Lay Organization;
- b. all Presidents, Directors of Lay Activities and Young Adult Representatives (YAR) from each Annual Conference Organization;
- c. six (6) elected delegates from each Annual Conference Lay Organization, of whom at least one (1) shall be a young adult, aged 18-35;
- d. each President, Director of Lay Activities and Young Adult Representative (YAR) from each duly organized District Lay Organization of an Annual Conference. **A duly organized Lay Organization of the Districts of the Annual Conference shall be an organization reporting to the Annual Conference Lay Organization's Annual Meeting or which is recognized by the Annual Conference as an organization;**
- e. **six (6) elected delegates from each duly organized District Lay Organization of an Annual Conference, of whom at least one (1) shall be a young adult, aged 18-35.**
- e. ~~Each president or duly elected representative, Director of Lay Activities and Young Adult Representative of each organized Station or Circuit Organization. A duly organized Lay Organization of the Districts of the Annual Conference shall be an organization reporting to the Annual Conference Lay Organization's Annual Meeting or which is recognized by the Annual Conference as an organization;~~ **and**
- f. **six (6) elected delegates from each Annual Conference Lay Organization, of whom at least one (1) shall be a young adult, aged 18-35.**

#### ARTICLE V – OFFICERS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

*Section 1.* The elected Officers of the ( ) Episcopal District Lay Organization and its Divisions shall be:

- a. President
- b. First Vice President
- c. Second Vice President\*
- d. Third Vice President\*
- e. Recording Secretary
- f. Assistant Recording Secretary\*
- g. Corresponding Secretary\*
- h. Treasurer
- i. Financial Secretary\*
- j. Chaplain
- k. Historiographer\*
- l. Parliamentarian\*
- m. Director of Lay Activities
- n. Director of Public Relations\*
- o. Young Adult Representative

*(\*Elected at discretion of Divisions)*



*Duties and responsibilities of officers shall be listed here beginning with the office of President (refer to Connectional Constitution Article V, section 2 to complete this section).*

~~Section 2. The records of all officers handling finances of the (\_\_\_\_) Episcopal District Lay Organization shall be audited by an internal audit committee, which shall report its findings to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the District Lay Organization.~~

**ARTICLE VI – NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURES**

*(refer to Connectional Constitution beginning with this Article for completion of District Constitution).*

**ARTICLE VII – ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**ARTICLE VIII – QUALIFICATIONS**

**ARTICLE IX – EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**ARTICLE X – MEETINGS**

**ARTICLE XI – VOTING PRIVILEGES**

**ARTICLE XII – POWERS AND JURISDICTIONS**

**ARTICLE XIII – RESERVED AND IMPLIED POWERS**

**ARTICLE XIV – COMMITTEES**

**ARTICLE XV – SUBORDINATE BODIES**

**ARTICLE XVI – AMENDMENTS**

**D. SAMPLE CONSTITUTION: ANNUAL CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION**

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
(\_\_\_\_\_) CONFERENCE LAY ORGANIZATION  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the (\_\_\_\_) Annual Conference Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**ARTICLE II – MISSION STATEMENT, PURPOSE, AND OBJECTIVES**

*(refer to Connectional Constitution beginning with this Article until completion of Annual Conference Constitution).*

**ARTICLE III – DIVISIONS**

**ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP**

**ARTICLE V – OFFICERS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**ARTICLE VI – NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURES**

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**ARTICLE XIV – COMMITTEES**

**ARTICLE XV – SUBORDINATE BODIES**

**ARTICLE XV – SUBORDINATE BODIES**

**ARTICLE XVI - AMENDMENTS**



**Revised Constitution and Bylaws of the  
Women's Missionary Society of the  
African Methodist Episcopal Church**

## **FOREWORD**

This revised Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was approved at the 2023 Quadrennial Convention and ratified at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Quadrennial Session of the General Conference.

Special thanks to the 2023 Constitution and Bylaws Revision and Compilation Committee for their exceptional work. Committee members, under the Connectional leadership of President Dr. Deborah Taylor King, consisted of: Chair, Harriet Brown Birk, Esquire, Dr. Delores Kennedy Williams (5<sup>th</sup>), Dr. Shirley Hopkins Davis (8<sup>th</sup>), and Dr. Shirley Cason Reed (9<sup>th</sup>). Much appreciation to Supervisor Dr. Dorothy Jackson Young, Ms. Wanda Ringgold and Ms. Wanda Sims.

**The Work is ALL DIVINE!**

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**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 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal 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 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*.

Section 2. **Quadrennial and Special Conventions**. The **Connectional WMS and YPD** 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 **WMS** President and approved by the Executive Board **not to exceed seven (7) days for both conventions**. Special Conventions shall be called by the **WMS** President of the organization at the written request of at least two-thirds of the Convention.

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 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 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 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal 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 *Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal 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 **Ordained Clergy**, in good and regular standing in their Local organization. (Refer to the Glossary of *The Doctrine and 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, Episcopal Directors, and Episcopal Presidents 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, Memorial Committee, Program Committee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Nominating Committee, and Election Committee. Members of these committees shall be appointed by the President:

- a. *Rules Committee.* This 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.* This committee shall rule on matters of challenge to any elected delegate or Life Member from any Episcopal District.
- c. *Tanner Turner Memorial Committee.* This committee shall plan a creative Memorial Service for deceased members of the organization.

- d. *Constitution and Bylaws Committee*. The Compilation and Revisions 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. This 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*. This committee shall be governed by the provisions of Article VII, Section 3 herein.
- f. *Program Committee*. This committee shall be responsible for the planning, budgeting and coordinating of the Quadrennial Convention, in conjunction with the president.
- g. *Election Committee*. This committee shall be governed by the provisions of Article VII, Section 2 herein.

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 Observers**. Registered observers 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 WMS Presidents, Episcopal WMS Presidents, the Connectional YPD Director, Connectional YPD President and Episcopal Directors of the Young People's and Children's Division. The Commission Chair of 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 Article VI, 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. Members from Districts 14-20 shall be encouraged to run for all positions.
  - c. No elected officer **or appointed person** shall hold two (2) positions of leadership simultaneously in the Connectional, Episcopal or Conference organizations. An elected officer **or appointed person** 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. There shall be no nominations from the floor of a Quadrennial Convention.
  - f. 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.
  - g. 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.
  - 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 approved by the Conference; 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 member 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 Third 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 dollars (\$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. **Memorial Ceremony.** A ceremony to pay tribute to a Life Member may be conducted at the Wake or prior to the Funeral Service of the deceased member.

Section 6. **Connectional Life Member Stole.** The stole is to be worn with white attire. It may be worn at official occasions and special worship services on all levels.

Section 7. **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 8. **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 9. **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 – Meetings**

Meetings shall be authorized to be conducted through electronic means so long as all members can simultaneously hear each other and participate during the meeting.

## **Article XIII - 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 XIV - 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 XV - 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 XVI - Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended as set forth in the *Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society*.

#### **Article XVII - 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 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*

#### **Article XVIII - 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 XIX - 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, past Connectional WMS Presidents, the Episcopal President, the Episcopal Director of the Young People's and Children's Division, the elected Episcopal officers, the past Episcopal Presidents **and Episcopal YPD Directors**, 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 **with their Conference and Local Societies**.

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 Recording 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 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal 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, any Connectional or Episcopal Officer residing in the Conference, 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. Paying Local, Area and Conference dues, where it applies
2. Registering with the Conference;
3. Presenting Conference credentials certified by the Local Pastor and Local WMS President; and
4. Attending the Conference.

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 year of election of delegates to the Quadrennial Convention. 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, 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 ten (10) persons to serve on the Area Coordinating Council, or shall hold elections for 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 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal 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 **establish** Units according to age groups, local interest, or geographical location, for the efficient conduct of its business. **A Unit of the Local Society may not elect officers or establish appointed positions.**

*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:

- a. 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;

- b. Prepare reports as necessary with other elected officers;
- c. 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;
- d. Represent the Local Society in all meetings;
- e. Ensure the constitution and bylaws of the organization are duly observed and the actions are carried into effect;
- f. Appoint all committees not provided for;
- g. Sign all orders drawn on the treasury for the disbursement of funds;
- h. Serve as liaison and communicate with the Conference organization and Area, if applicable; and
- i. Chair the Commission on Administration, where one exists.

Section 2. **First Vice President.** The First Vice President, working cooperatively with the President shall:

- a. Perform the duties of the President, in her absence or disability;
- b. Become President, upon the resignation or death of the President;
- c. Chair the Program Committee, where there is one;
- d. Plan, evaluate and promote the programs of the organization, in conjunction with the President;
- e. Coordinate the public policy and legislative action of the Local Society;
- f. Perform such other duties as requested by the President; and
- g. 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:

- a. Perform the duties of the President, in the absence of the President and First Vice President; and
- b. 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:

- a. Preside, in the absence of the President, First and Second Vice Presidents;
- b. 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;
- c. Nurture the current membership, and
- d. Serve as Coordinator for the Commission on Membership and Recruitment.

Section 5. **Recording Secretary.** The Secretary shall:

- a. Keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the Local Society and its Executive Board and give notice of the meetings;
- b. Serve as custodian of all records and official papers;
- c. Sign, with the President, all official papers;
- d. Keep an accurate up-to-date roll of the Local Society's membership, along with the names of officers;
- e. Perform such other duties as the President may assign from time to time;
- f. Serve on the Commission on Administration, where one exists;

- g. 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:

- a. Become informed concerning the financial responsibility of the Local Society;
- b. Disburse funds on order signed by the President;
- c. 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;
- d. In consultation with the President, establish a budget for the Local Society;
- e. Make itemized financial reports to the Society at its regularly scheduled meetings; and
- f. Serve on the Commission on Administration, where one exists.

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. **Promotion and Missionary Education Director.** The Promotion and Missionary Education Director shall:

- a. Present and carry out the Connectional programs and study programs as directed by the Conference organization;
- b. Promote mission education opportunities: mission studies, local mission opportunities, and supply material and educational resources for mission programs and projects;
- c. Promote and interpret the work of the Connectional, Episcopal and Conference Commission on Mission Education and Interpretation supports; and
- d. 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, YPD President, three (3) At-Large Members, elected 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 Mission 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 Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal 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, Commission Chair of Global Witness and Ministry, President of the Connectional Women's Missionary Society, and the Connectional, Episcopal and Conference YPD 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 Connectional 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 Observers.** Registered **observers** 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 7 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. **Serve as chairperson of the Self-Denial Program**; and
- c. Serve as Coordinator of the Standing **and Special** 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 **Awareness** 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 **Vice**-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 the YPD Gazette**. The Editor of the YPD Gazette shall:

- a. **Serve as Editor-in-Chief** of the organization's **publication** under the supervision of the Connectional Director; and
- b. **Work with the Episcopal and Conference Associate Editors of the Gazette to gather news and articles from across the Connectional YPD.**

Section 13. **Associate Editor of the YPD Gazette**. The Associate Editor of the YPD Gazette shall **work in cooperation with the Editor in receiving and editing news and articles from Districts 14-20, under the supervision of the Connectional Director.**

## **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 shall:

- a. **Plan and implement** study courses on the Bible, the *Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*, Black Studies, **Constitution and Bylaws**, and current mission study themes;
- b. **Develop** programs and courses which enhance leadership skills to prepare children, youths and young adults for leadership roles;
- c. **Provide** 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. **Sponsor** 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 Recruitment and Outreach.** This committee shall:

- a. Plan strategies to reach out, nurture and **affirm 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 strong witnesses in Christian faith by participating in mission endeavors and other ministries; and
- c. Prepare and circulate model programs of welcome for new members and awards for others.

Section 3. **Budget and Financial Estimates.** This committee shall:

- a. Under the supervision of the Connectional YPD Director and Connectional WMS President, prepare a Quadrennial Budget request for transmittal to the Commission on Administration of the Connectional WMS; and
- b. **Promote financial literacy through various initiatives.**

Section 4. **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, **Episcopal WMS President, and Episcopal YPD Director**; and
- b. Submit recommendations for revisions of the constitution and bylaws to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee of the Connectional WMS, at such times and in such time periods as provided in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Women's Missionary Society.



Section 5. **International Awareness.** This committee shall:

- a. Assist the Third Vice President in working with the Episcopal District YPD Presidents and Directors from Districts 14-20 to coordinate Connectional YPD projects and activities; and
- b. Provide opportunities for members from all Episcopal Districts to exchange ideas, programs, and objectives.

Section 6. **Campus Ministry.** This committee shall:

- a. Develop resources for AME college and university students; and
- b. Emphasize the traditions and spiritual values of the AME Church and provide opportunities for the involvement of AME college and university students; and
- c. Counsel and/or direct students to the appropriate agencies when they are faced with personal challenges.

Section 7. **Nominating.** This 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; and
- 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.
- 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 8. **Evaluation.** This committee shall:

- a. Distribute and utilize evaluation sheets to survey the strengths and weaknesses of each meeting; and
- b. Make recommendations for improvement.

Section 9. **Voter Registration.** This committee shall develop a program that promotes and encourages young people to register to vote and actively participate in the democratic process.

Section 10. **Monique Gonzales Memorial.** This committee shall plan and conduct a memorial service, during each Leadership Training Institute (LTI) and Quadrennial Convention, for deceased members of the organization.

- Section 11. **Technology.** This committee shall assist with the implementation and improvement of technology services. The committee shall provide training to the YPD on all levels. Each level is encouraged to establish a Technology Committee.
- Section 12. **Special Committees.** The Connectional YPD Director may establish special committees to assist and serve the needs of the organization.
- Section 13. **Selection of Committee Members.** Each Episcopal District shall be represented on each standing and special 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 persons as provided in Article VIII, 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 **at the time of election**.

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 **except the 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 Membership Recruitment and Outreach Committee; and
- c. Work with the Conference Third Vice Presidents to facilitate recruitment and retention within the District.

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.

#### **Article VII - Executive Board**

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 of election of delegates to the Quadrennial Convention.

Section 3. **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. Be active on and support the Conference and Area, if applicable;
- c. Be at least 13 years of age but not older than 25 years of age at the time of election; and
- d. Present credentials as required by the Nominating Committee.

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 his or 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**

The elected officers of the Conference shall perform the duties prescribed herein:

Section 1. **President**. The President shall:

- a. Preside over Executive Board Meetings and the Conference meetings;
- b. Prepare the agenda, in consultation and agreement with the Conference YPD Director, for

- the Executive Board Meetings and Conference meetings;
- c. Submit reports to the Conference YPD;
- d. Represent the organization at functions and meetings of Conference;
- e. Serve as an ex-officio member of Conference WMS Executive Board;
- f. With the Conference Director, appoint task forces or committees for necessary duties to carry on the work of the Conference 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 Conference. and

**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. Promote the Self-Denial Program and the yearly activities for Self-Denial Week; and
- c. Serve as Coordinator of the Standing and Special 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 Membership Recruitment and Outreach Committee; and
- c. Work with the Episcopal Third Vice President to facilitate recruitment and retention within the Conference.

**Section 5. Recording Secretary.** The Recording Secretary shall:

- a. Record and keep accurate minutes of all Executive Board Meetings and Conference Meetings;
- b. Be responsible for all official correspondence for the Executive Board Meetings and Conference Meetings; and
- c. Under the direction of the Conference President and Conference 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 Conference;
- b. Serve as Chairperson of the Budget and Financial Estimate Committee and Finance Chair at official meetings of the Conference; and
- c. With the Conference Director, transfer monies received to the Conference treasury and submit vouchers for disbursement to the same.

**Section 8. Communications Secretary.** The Communications Secretary shall:

- a. Correspond with the members of the Conference Executive Board in the interim of Board Meetings; and
- b. Manage the Conference Social Media accounts.

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 Chairperson of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee; and
- c. With the assistance of the Conference Director, 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 Conference;
- b. Keep an accurate enrollment of the members of the Conference; and
- c. Keep account of all members and persons registering and attending each Quarterly and Annual meeting;
- d. Make a list and record of local churches in the Conference and the members of the Local division; and
- e. Be responsible for making a statistical report to the Conference and Episcopal Director.

Section 11. **Worship Director**. The Worship Director shall:

- a. Coordinate the planning of worship services for the Conference YPD;
- b. Serve as a member of the Program Planning Committee; and
- c. Promote special times and events for meditations, devotions, and worship experiences at meetings.

Section 12. **Associate Editor of the YPD Gazette**. The Associate Editor of the YPD Gazette shall:

- a. Assist the Episcopal Associate Editor of the YPD Gazette in soliciting articles for the Gazette; and
- b. Submit articles to the Episcopal Associate Editor, under the supervision of the Conference Director.

## **Article VII - Standing and Special Committees**

These committees of the Conference organization shall be the same as the Standing and Special Committees of the Connectional and Episcopal Levels, with the same duties as provided for such Standing and Special 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 and Special Committees.

## **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 **Director**. 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. **Local Intercongregational.** 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 348 of the 2021 Discipline). The 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 348 of the 2021 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."