

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THIRTEENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT**

151ST SESSION OF THE TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**Wayman Chapel AME Church, Host Church
Columbia, Tennessee**

**Report of the Tennessee Conference Trustees
Friday, October 19, 2018**

**Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath, Presiding Bishop
Dr. Susan J. Leath, Episcopal Supervisor**

Board Members

The Rt. Reverend Jeffrey N. Leath, Chair
Presiding Elder Sidney Bryant, Vice Chairman
Reverend Lisa Hammonds, Secretary
Sister Faye Walker, Asst Treasurer
Sister Barbara Ivery, Chaplain
Reverend James Bolen
Reverend Reginald Brock
Reverend Harold Love, Jr.
Reverend Trent Ogilvie
Reverend Jimmy Plummer
Reverend Walter W. Reid, Jr.
Reverend W. Antoni Sinkfield
Reverend Anthony Thomas
Sister Linda Bell
Sister Gladys Brock
Brother James Darden
Brother Darwin Eldridge
Sister Cheryl Fletcher
Brother Ron Mitchell
Brother Willie Nelson

Presiding Elder Sidney Bryant, Ex-Officio
Presiding Elder Alexander Gatson, Ex-Officio
Presiding Elder Troy Merritt, Jr., Ex-Officio

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, Supervisor Susan J. Leath, general officers, presiding elders, pastors, delegates, friends and visitors of the 151st Session of the Tennessee Annual Conference of the Thirteenth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. We, the members of the Tennessee Conference trustees, wish to make the following report:

The Conference Trustees met four times this conference year: March 12, April 18, June 6, and August 27. The following were the items discussed with their dispositions:

1. St. Paul, Columbia, and the demolition of the house located at 406 Church Street that is in disrepair. The city has declared the property uninhabitable. The trustees voted to pursue having the building torn down or sold to the city for \$28,000.
2. St. Phillip, Nashville, and the sale of the house next to the church for \$122,000, the proceeds of which will be used to make structural repairs for the church, subject to the consultation of a structural engineer. The trustees voted to allow the property to be listed for sale.
3. St. James, Mayfield, and needed repair on a foundational wall in the estimated amount of \$3,500. The trustees voted to provide the funds for the repairs as the church does not have any financial means to do so.
4. St. Luke, Gallatin, and the commencement of building their addition. The trustees voted to allow the work to begin with expenses not to exceed their financial resources and a construction consultant be retained to assist in the project. The trustees subsequently voted to advance \$24,000 to church by way of a payment to Garver Builders to cover a shortfall in payments to the builder/contractor. Additionally, the trustees voted to authorize the church to secure a 15-year mortgage for \$80,000 from Regions Bank at 6% fixed interest rate to complete the building expansion project.
5. St. Matthew, Rossvie, and the pending sale of the property for \$700,000. The trustees voted to sale (with the refund of \$13,000 being made to the TAC for previous funds advanced to pay off a mortgage). This sale transaction was executed on September 28, 2018 and the sales proceeds were wired into the TAC account.
6. Winter's Chapel, Lebanon, who was again in arrears for their monthly mortgage payment and facing foreclosure for an \$80k+ outstanding mortgage loan. The trustees voted to provide the \$2,600 for outstanding mortgage payments (including late fees) to bring the loan into current status and that payments continue to be made to keep the mortgage current until we are able to sell the property or the congregation can sustain it themselves.
7. New Bethel, Murfreesboro, and the approval for sale to Cell Source in the amount of \$26,000. The trustees voted to allow the sale. The transaction is pending.
8. Allen, Wingo, and the pending sale of the property to Greater St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church for \$1. The trustees voted to allow the sale.
9. St. Matthew, Nashville, and the request to sale a vacant lot (1726 Pecan Street) at the rear of the church, of which a part of the proceeds will be used to renovate the church's annex which houses administrative offices and a rental unit. The trustees voted to allow the property to be listed for sale.
10. St. John, Paducah, and their need to replace an HVAC and do structural repairs that will cost approximately \$12,000. The trustees voted to provide \$10,000 toward the repairs with the church raising and paying \$2,000. The church is having difficulty securing a contractor and bids and the trustees will subsequently provide additional guidance.
11. Greater Bethel, Nashville, and their approval to sale the lot across the street from the church given to the AMEC Sunday School Union. The trustees voted to allow the sale given that a) three-fourths of the proceeds (or about \$3 million) be set aside in an irrevocable trust with a major financial institution (e.g., PNC Bank or some other firm with a reputable trust department); b) the Tennessee Annual Conference, or its successor, and then the AME Church Board of Trustees, be listed as beneficiaries should Greater Bethel cease to exist as an active congregation; c) the sale transaction not be sanctioned unless: 1. the trust is established at the time of closing and the funds will be immediately deposited; 2. the funds are placed in a joint escrow account (Greater Bethel and Tennessee Annual Conference) at closing until Greater Bethel chooses the fiduciary institution, and 3. Greater Bethel will submit the fiduciary agreement which establishes

the fund for review by the Tennessee Annual Conference Trustees prior to the establishment of the trust to verify the interests of the church.

12. Burks Chapel, Paducah, and needed repairs to the floor in the fellowship hall/finance room extension and a tree removal from the bell tower in the amount of \$8,391.21. The trustees voted to provide the church with \$10,000 to be disbursed in two \$5,000 increments at the discretion of the presiding elder and executive board of trustees with part of the \$31,000 proceeds from the sale of Hill Chapel being given to Burks Chapel.

Recommendations for the Annual Conference:

1. That the annual conference affirms the sale of the property beside St. Philip, Nashville, according to specifications set forth by the trustees.
2. That the annual conference affirms the sale of the property for Winter's Chapel, Lebanon.
3. That the annual conference affirms the sale of the property behind St. Matthew, Nashville.
4. That the annual conference affirms the sale of the property across the street from Greater Bethel, Nashville, according to the specifications set forth by the trustees.
5. That the annual conference affirms the pending sale of the New Bethel, Murfreesboro, on Monday, October 22, 2018, according to the specifications set forth by the trustees.
6. That the report be accepted as a whole and the trustees empowered to continue to the work of the conference as needed.