

**THE 150<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE KENTUCKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church - Lexington, Kentucky  
September 16, 2017

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The Rt. Reverend Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath, *Presiding Prelate of the 13th Episcopal District*  
The Reverend James E. Smith, *Presiding Elder of the Lexington District*  
The Reverend William W. Easley, *Presiding Elder of the Louisville District*  
The Reverend Kenneth J. Golphin, *Host Pastor*

**THE KENTUCKY CONFERENCE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**- OCCASION -**

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Charles Wesley penned the hymn... *"And are we yet alive, and see each other's face? Glory and praise to Jesus give for his redeeming grace!"*

It is the question we ask ourselves each year, and Methodists have been singing this since John Wesley himself instituted the practice, and it behooves us now, especially so on this occasion, to take the question seriously... "Are we yet alive?" For today we come to celebrate... What? 150 years of... *something*? 150 years of a geographical designation? 150 times we've gathered to meet, to do business, and to pay our monies? What does it mean to be an "Annual Conference"? And what does it mean to be one for *150 years*? And so... what does it mean to be the KENTUCKY Annual Conference for a 150 years? ...

*"Preserved by power divine, to full salvation here, again in Jesus' praise we join, and in his sight appear."*

On THIS Occasion, as we celebrate 150 Sessions of the Kentucky Annual Conference, and look back from whence we have come, we must face the reality of where we are and where we are headed... ask ourselves the important questions such as... What's important to us? But more importantly, what's important to God? What do we need to let go of? What do we want to pass on? What *should* we leave behind? What *should* we pass on? ... Is God through with us? Do we have another 150 years in us? ...

*"What troubles have we seen, what conflicts have we passed, fightings without, and fears within, since we assembled last!"*

We meet Annually because we're Methodist, it's a part of who we are, but to understand the purpose of the Annual Conference is to know that it's more than just tradition... We meet because we are serious about the work of God's Kingdom... We meet *TOGETHER* because we know we cannot do it by ourselves... We offer our gifts, not to numbers in a book, but to the Glory of God! And because Kingdom Work requires Kingdom Resources! And, *where our treasure is, there our heart will be also*... And we make an accounting of our work so that wherever we find ourselves... Climbing up the rough side of the mountain, *or* down deep in the valley, *or* in the eye of the storm... we meet to *examine* the work, we meet to *encourage* the work, and we meet to *equip* the work ...

***"But out of all the Lord, hath brought us by his love; and still He doth His help afford, and hides our life above."***

Our geographical roots stem back to the ministry of the one who would become *Bishop* William Paul Quinn, whose mission to "plant the A. M. E. Church in the far West" led to the Missouri Annual Conference's organization at Louisville, Kentucky in 1855, whose composition included Kentucky and Tennessee. And due to overwhelming growth, in 1868 the Missouri Conference was divided, and out of that the Kentucky Annual Conference was born... and "*upon this Rock*" we continue to build God's Church ...

***"Then let us make our boast, of his redeeming power, which saves us to the uttermost, till we can sin no more."***

We celebrate today, as we do at every Annual Conference, to "*recover the Story, renew the Faith, deepen the Commitment, and preserve our Holy Heritage generation upon generation!*" Even in this season when we're shrinking, we must remember that we haven't always looked like we do now, and we will not always look like we do now... BUT we still believe: God is not through with us yet! Saints of the Kentucky Conference... as my Daddy loved to always love to say... "*It does not yet appear what we shall be!*" ...

***"Let us take up the cross, till we the crown obtain, and gladly reckon all things loss, so we may Jesus gain."***

***-Pastor William Hale  
Saturday, September 16, 2017  
Lexington, Kentucky***