

The African Methodist Episcopal Church
144th Session of the West Tennessee Annual Conference
Christian Education Report 2018

To Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath and the 144th session of the West Tennessee Annual Conference: We have endeavored to shape the spirits, souls, and minds of our congregations according to the precepts of God. Our work has gone forth as follows:

Under the direction of Rev. Agnes Henderson, the South Memphis District held its Annual Retreat, Health Fair, and Forum. Hosted by Rev. Willie Williams and Wright's Chapel A. M. E. Church, this event was attended by 125 children, youth, and adults, who spent two days immersed in the pursuit of spiritual and physical health. Vacation Bible Schools, church picnics, and other events were also held to engage, educate and entertain the youth. In addition, the SMD celebrated MLK 50 with presentations from eight legendary, Social and Economic Justice Activists, who encouraged, educated, empowered, and challenged those in attendance to seek justice at all levels. This impressive body of presenters included men and women of both the North and South Memphis Districts. More than 30 healthcare professionals and vendors were present to minister holistically to all in attendance.

Across the North Memphis District, churches held Vacation Bible Schools, picnics, and various events aimed at growing individuals in their faith. Congregations tutored students in their communities, journeyed on educational trips with their children, and embraced new programming to enrich their memberships. We were blessed to have Rev. Patsy T. Brown serve as acting Christian Education Director for the North Memphis District.

On February 3rd, Rev. Colleen P. Gibson and Greer Chapel A.M.E. Church hosted the District Founder's Day Celebration. This year's theme, "The Spirit of African Methodism," provided the platform for congregants to hear the words of Bishops across our connection, sharing their perspectives on African Methodism. This celebratory event honored our founding with song, dance, and poetry, as well as local reflections from the youth, lay, and clergy of West Tennessee. In July, we continued our work, traveling to Bowling Green, Kentucky, supporting the 13th District Learning Academy with planning, participants, and teachers from our local churches.

Of special note, we are grateful to God that this year marks the occasion of the Joint Church School Convention, wherein the North and South Memphis Districts collaborated for a spectacular time of community and learning. On June 8-9, Rev. Byron Moore and Saint Andrew A. M. E. Church hosted the members of West TN, as we gathered, in concert, to examine our beliefs. As we came together around the theme, "The Apostle's Creed: What We Believe," over thirty teachers shared their gifts, teaching with passion and purpose and power. We are grateful for the dedicated individuals who gave their time and talents to plan and execute this district wide event. To God be the glory, for this wonderful showing of faith and service.

The following goals are offered to support the work of Christian Education: 1.) Provide training for teachers and encourage local church participation in Christian Education. 2.) Increase district wide collaboration for strategies, programming, and support. 3.) Assemble resources to promote and support the work of Christian Education.

Humbly Submitted: The Reverends Patsy T. Brown, Agnes M. Henderson, and Hilda D. Taylor