

151st Session Tennessee Annual Conference

Social Action Committee

Rev. Dr. Harold M. Love, Jr., Rev. Linda Brown Saffore, Rev. Omar'an Lee, Rev. Trent Ogilvie, Rev. Dr. Barbara Crawford, Sis. Stephanie Baxter, Sis. Lisa Taylor, Bro. Arthur Goodrich, Sis. Olivia Vanderburg, Bro. James King, Sis. Debra Eggleton, Bro. Keith Pitts, Bro. William Fuqua, Bro. James Caruthers

Wayman Chapel AME Church

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, Presiding

In consideration of the report outlining the State of the Country, it is our belief that the AME Church has to engage in the process of continual voter education and engagement. At the start of our Annual Conference early voting has begun across the state of Tennessee and our churches can play a critical role in helping voter turnout. According to https://www.fairvote.org/voter_turnout#voter_turnout_101 Tennessee ranked 48th among 50 state in voter turnout at 51.2% of registered voters. Casting a vote is an important step in the process of policy formulation but has to be supported by voters holding elected officials accountable. One way to do that is to engage in processes when public comment is requested for agency or department changes to existing law. One such instance is available in Tennessee around the proposed policy change to work requirements for persons on TennCare. The 2018 General Assembly Session passed legislation authorizing TennCare to submit a waiver to the Federal Centers for Medicaid Services that would require TennCare enrollees to work or volunteer for 20hrs per week. Our engagement doesn't end the day after the election but must continue to ensure that unnecessary and burdensome laws aren't imposed.

Action Steps

1. Each AME Church should coordinate to provide rides to voting locations during early voting periods to maximize effectiveness.
2. Each AME Church should encourage their members to comment on the proposed TennCare waiver Comments may be sent by email to public.notice.tennCare@tn.gov. • Comments may be mailed to Dr. Wendy Long, Director Division of TennCare 310 Great Circle Road Nashville, TN 37243

In order to be considered for the final draft of Amendment 38, feedback must be received no later than October 26, 2018.
3. Each AME Church should organize quarterly voter registration and verification drives in their communities.