



COUNCIL OF BISHOPS

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, *President*

August 8, 2018

Dear Pastors:

The Black Church historically has been the “conscience of the nation.” In the environment in which the nation finds itself, the Black Church must be faithful to its legacy and again call the nation to its conscience. Therefore, we have issued a “Call to Conscience – Day of Action” for September 5th and 6th in Washington, DC.

On Wednesday, September 5th will be training and strategic planning, as well as meetings with Congressional leaders. It will culminate with a worship service at Reid Temple AME Church, Glenn Dale, MD. On Thursday, September 6th will be the “Call to Conscience Rally” in Lafayette Park, across the street from the White House. It will begin at 9 AM and end at 12 Noon. It will be followed by lunch at Metropolitan AME Church, Washington, DC and a second training session also at Metropolitan. A press conference will be held at 3 PM.

We ask and need as many of our pastors and laity to attend. It is also our hope that connectional leaders, laity, missionaries, millennials and others who can will join us. Other denominations and organizations are invited to join us. Mark the date on your calendar and make plans now to attend, churches who can are asked to please bring buses. Hotel information is included below.

Please note that Sunday, September 2nd has been designated as “Social Justice Sunday.” Every pastor is asked to preach a sermon related to “Social Justice” on this Sunday. Some suggested scripture text is attached. Additionally, a “Social Justice” litany will be provided. Inform your congregants and ask them to invite their family and neighbors to attend worship.

In a word, we are at war. We wrestle “against spiritual wickedness in high places.” We are at war against racism. We are at war against immigration efforts which deliberately seek to prevent immigrants of color from entering the country, in-order to maintain the status quo and maintain white privilege, while separating children from parents, and deporting “Dreamers.” We are at war against gun violence, which is increasing, as the political leadership bows to the demands of the gun lobby. We are at war against economic injustice which benefits the wealthiest 10% and causes the remaining 90% to fall farther behind. We are at war against deliberate efforts to undermine our democracy by under cutting the independence of the Justice Department and falsely charging the press with being the “enemy of the people”, seeking to destroy freedom of the press. We are at war against the policies and actions of this administration and Congress which seek to turn back time and which contradict God’s Word.

This "Call to Conscience" seeks to enlist the "soldiers of the Lord" to active duty:

*"Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus, going on before
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe, forward into battle, see His banners go*

*Like a mighty army, moves the church of God, Soldiers we are treading where the saints have trod, We are
not divided, All one body we; One in hope and doctrine, One in charity*

Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus, Going on before."

Join with the troops in Washington, DC on September 5th and 6th.

Hotels

A block of rooms has been set aside at the following hotels in the name of "AME Church September". To receive the special rate reservations must be made by August 25th.

Marriott College Park Hotel and Conference Center
3501 University Blvd. Hyattsville, MD.
(301)-985-7300
Rate: Kings \$119.00 + tax
Studio Kings \$179.00 + tax

Staybridge Suites
10500 East Gate Dr.
Lanham, MD.
(301)-477-7200
Rate: 2 Bedroom Suites \$139.00 + tax
1 Bedroom King - \$139.00 +tax
1 Bedroom Queen -\$119.00 + tax

Suggested Scriptures for Social Justice Sunday

There are many Scriptures which relate to justice, listed below are just a few examples.

Exodus 3:7-14
Deuteronomy 16:18 -20
Proverbs 14: 34
Isaiah 1: 12 - 18
Isaiah 28: 16- 17
Zechariah 7: 8 - 14
Micah 6:1 -8
Matthew 6: 10
Matthew 25: 35- 40
Luke 4: 14- 21
Luke 18: 1-8

Daily Itinerary

Wednesday, September 5th Reid Temple AME Church, Glenn Dale, MD

- 9 AM Strategic Planning Session for Bishops, Denominational Leaders, Pastors, Attendees
- a. Evangelical Christians and Conscientious Christians
 - b. Mid –Term Election – National and State Implications
Registration, Education, Mobilization, Early Voting, Organization
 - c. Explication of Issues
- 12:30 PM – 2 PM Lunch
- 2 PM – 4 PM Leaders meet with Congressional Leaders (US Capital)
Pastors, laity and attendees visit their Congressional members offices
- 7 PM Worship- Reid Temple AME Church, Glenn Dale, MD

Thursday, September 6th

- 9 AM Assemble Lafayette Park (across from White House)
- 10 AM “Call to Conscience – Day of Action” – Lafayette Park
- 12:30 PM Lunch - Metropolitan AME Church, Washington DC
- 2 PM Press Conference – Metropolitan AME Church

Thank you for your support of this effort.

Your Servant Leaders
The Council of Bishops
AME Church