

**THE MINUTES OF THE 117TH SESSION OF THE EAST TENNESSEE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ST. PAUL AME CHURCH – FAYETTEVILLE, TENNESSEE
SEPTEMBER 20-24, 2017**

12THURSDAY – September 21, 2017

At 8:50 pm, the Rt. Reverend Jeffrey N. Leath, the Presiding Bishop of the 13th Episcopal District, called the 117th Session of the East Tennessee Annual Conference, hosted by St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, Tennessee to order.

Bishop Jeffrey Leath recognized the visitors: the Reverend Dr. William W. Easley, Jr., Presiding Elder Louisville District of the West Kentucky Conference and the Reverend Dr. Daryl Ingram, retired General Officer.

Following instruction by Bishop Leath, the Opening Business session concluded at 9:05 pm with the Lay Benediction led by Bro. Gene Settles.

FRIDAY – September 22, 2017

At 8:15 am, devotion began, led by Bishop Leath. At 8:30 am, the Rt. Reverend Jeffrey N. Leath, the Presiding Bishop of the 13th Episcopal District, called the 117th Session of the East Tennessee Annual Conference, hosted by St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, Tennessee to order.

Bishop Leath called for the Conference Secretary of the 116th Session of the East Tennessee Annual Conference, the Reverend Kenneth D. Love, Sr., to call the Roll (see the Roll).

Bishop Leath called for the organization of the conference. Presiding Elder Eva Settles moved the election of the following: the Presiding Bishop of the 13th Episcopal District, the Right Reverend Jeffrey N. Leath, as President Ex-Officio of the Annual Conference, the Reverend Kenneth D. Love, as recording secretary, Dr. Sandra Griffin, as engrossing secretary, and the Reverend Dr. Charles Holsey, as statistician. The motion carried.

Presiding Elder Terence Mayes moved that the following individuals act as Conference Marshalls: the Reverends Fred Harris, Barbara Jackson, Dickey Sebastian, Sisters Millie Reeves, and Emma Terry. The motion carried.

Presiding Elder Settles moved that the following individuals be elected to serve as the Triers of Appeal: the Reverend Fred Harris, Barbara Jackson, Anthony Carter, Colman March, and Lance Shelton. The motion carried.

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Presiding Elder Mayes moved that the following individuals be elected to serve as the finance committee: the Reverends Kenneth Love, Dr. Pedro Basden, Fred Blackwell, Sister Gloria Beverly, Brothers Charles Moore, and Coffey (youth delegate). The motion carried.

Presiding Elder Settles moved that the conference boundaries be the first ten (10) rows across the sanctuary. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath directed that the roll call be conducted for young adult delegates. See report.

Presiding Elder Mayes moved the approval of the approval of the Annual Conference Agenda with any reasonable and appropriate adjustments. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath called for the Marshalls to pass out the Pastor's Annual Conference Report Summary and gave instructions to the conference.

Presiding Elder Settles made her summary report on behalf of the Fayetteville-Pulaski District (see report). Bishop Leath commended Presiding Elder Settles on her first report and acknowledged the presence of the first gentleman of the Fayetteville-Pulaski District, Brother Gene Settles.

Presiding Elder Mayes made his summary report on behalf of the Chattanooga-Knoxville District (see report). Bishop Leath acknowledged the presence of the first lady of the Chattanooga-Knoxville District, Sister Juliana Mayes, and commended her on her spiritual strength.

Bishop Leath called for the Board of Examiners report (see report).

- 3rd Year Studies – The Reverend Kenneth Love moved that the Reverend Vicki Coleman (Local Deacon of Campbell Chapel, Pulaski, the Reverend Randy Brown) be retained in 3rd year studies. The motion carried.
- 4th Year Studies – The Reverend Alan J. Holman moved that the Reverend Tylan Orr (Local Deacon) be recognized for completion of Board of Examiners Studies and upon graduation of college and seminary training according to the Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church be recommended for ordination to Elders orders. The motion carried.

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The Reverend Dr. Pedro Basden moved that the Board of Examiner report be adopted as a whole. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath addressed status of the Reverend Vanessa Holmon and clarified the subject of “Missionary Rule”, page 90, The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012. Bishop Leath made a recommendation to the Board of Examiners chair, the Reverend Alan J. Holman; send the Reverend Vanessa Holman to the Tennessee Conference Board of Examiners for training.

The Annual Conference recessed at 9:50 am.

Opening Worship Service

The Opening Worship Service of the 117th Session of the East Tennessee Annual Conference began at 10:05 am with Presiding Elder Eva M. Settles (Fayetteville-Pulaski District) as the Worship Leader. The preacher was the Reverend Lee Russell Brown, Jr. (Pastor of Bethel, Knoxville). The text was Joel 2:1, 12 for the sermon entitled, “Sound the Alarm.”

Bishop Leath welcomed the following visitors: General Officer Roderick Belin, the visiting clergy of the Kentucky Conference: the Reverend Dr. Sheila Harris; the visiting clergy of the Tennessee Conference: Presiding Elder Troy Merritt, Presiding Elder Emeritus Robert (and Mrs. Keese), the Reverends W. A. Sinkfield, Dr. Kenneth Hill, Dr. Daryl Ingram, Alexander Gatson, Crawford, Brownspar, Brook; the visiting clergy of the West Tennessee Conference: Presiding Elder C. R. Finch (and Linda Finch), the Reverends Walter Henry, and Drs. Janie and John Dandridge (WTN). Bishop Leath recognized the minister’s spouses and East Tennessee Conference Presidents.

Opening Worship Service concluded at 11:42 am.

Evening Business Session

At 1:30 pm, Bishop Leath called the Annual Conference to order with prayer led by Presiding Elder Emeritus Paul Adkins. Following prayer the Evening Business Session began.

Bishop Leath called for the following reports:

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- State of the Church. Presenter: the Reverend Fred Blackwell (see report).
The Reverend A. C. Griffin moved to adopt the report. The motion carried.

Pastoral Reports:

- The Reverend Fred Blackwell (with delegate) – Shorter Chapel.
- The Reverend Benjamin Sanderfur (with delegate) – Aspen Hill/Liberty Circuit.
- The Reverend Archie C. Griffin (with spouse and delegate) – St. Paul, Alcoa.
- The Reverend Anthony Carter (with delegate) – Quinn Chapel.
- The Reverend Alma Herbert – Suggs Chapel.
- The Reverend Alma Herbert (with delegate) – St. John.
- The Reverend Ronald Glenn – Joseph Chapel.
- The Reverend Lance Shelton (with delegate) – Browns Temple.
- The Reverend Fred Harris (with delegate) – Allen Temple.
- The Reverend Ruby Mason-Crum (with delegate) – Friendship.
- The Reverend Alan J. Holman (with spouse and delegate) – Bethel, Chattanooga.
- The Reverend Vickie Coleman (with delegate) – Powell Chapel.
- The Reverend Kenneth Love (with spouse and delegate) – St. Paul, Chattanooga.
- The Reverend Coleman March (with spouse and delegate) – Mt. View.
- The Reverend Lee Russell Brown (with delegate) – Bethel, Knoxville.
- The Reverend Ernest Latham (with spouse and delegate) – Mary's Chapel
- The Reverend Tylan Orr (with spouse and delegate) – Phoenix Chapel
- Presiding Elder Eva Settles (with spouse and delegate) – St. James.
- The Reverend Dr. Pedro Basden (with delegate) – Warren Chapel.
- Presiding Elder Terence Mayes (with spouse and delegate) – St. Paul, Agnew.

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- The Reverend Randy Brown (with spouse and delegate) – Campbell Chapel.
- The Reverend Dickey Sebastian (with spouse and delegate) – Berry Chapel.
- The Reverend Dr. Charles Holsey (with spouse and delegate) – St. Paul, Fayetteville.

Bishop Leath commended the Reverend Charles Holsey and the St. Paul, Fayetteville congregation on the excellent hosting of the 117th Session of the East Tennessee Annual Conference.

The Reverend Ernest Latham requested to make a report on behalf of the Fayetteville Ministerial Alliance, Bishop Leath allowed.

Bishop Leath informed the conference that over \$18,000 had been collected on behalf of the Harvey victims in Texas. This had been done with a “Spirit of Compassion”.

Bishop Leath requested that the Reverend Fred Harris lead the congregation in a congregational song. The Reverend Harris lead with the song, “Good Has Been Good To Me”.

Bishop Leath called for the Chaplain Report: None reported.

Bishop Leath called for the committee reports. The following committees reported:

- 13th District Audit Report. Bishop Leath directed that the District report be reviewed on the website by the Annual Conference. The Reverend Kenneth Love moved the Episcopal District Audit Report be accepted by the conference. The motion carried. The Reverend Archie C. Griffin, Jr. moved that the reduction of the General budget, from \$59, 412 to 52,017 be ratified. The motion carried.
- Conference Trustees. Presenter: The Reverend Alan J. Holman (see report). The Reverend Love moved to adopt the report. The motion carried.
- Treasurer’s Report. Presenter: The Reverend Dr. Pedro Basden (see report). The Reverend Kenneth Love moved to accept the report. The motion carried.

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- Mission, Circuits, and Station. Presenter: The Reverend Dickey Sebastian (see report). The Reverend Kenneth Love moved to accept the report. The motion carried.
- Pastor & Charge Classification. Presenter: The Reverend Archie C. Griffin (see report). The Reverend Fred Harris moved to accept the report. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath addressed the lay delegates of the annual conference. First, a Written Expectation report should be generated for the pastor, negotiated between the pastor and Stewards, as it pertains to expectations of the pastor in the new conference year, 2017-2018. Written expectations should be signed by the pastor and turned in to the Presiding Elder by the 1st Quarter, NLT the 2nd Quarter. Pastor will be asked to sign written negotiation once negotiation has been completed. The Written Expectation should be turned over to the Presiding Elder whether or not the pastor signs. Pastors that fail to sign without justification will be referred to the Ministerial Efficiency Committee. Secondly, stewards should be reminded to only negotiate salaries that the church can pay. When salary has been committed to, documentation must include words from the Doctrine and Disciple of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, “if able”. Lastly, the Quarterly Conference reports filled out and in the hands of the Presiding Elder no later than the 15th of October, the 15th of January, the 15th of April, and the 15th of July.

Bishop Leath addressed the need for a resolution, approved by the Annual Conference, that denies the local church from encumbering a debt in the amount of \$10,000 or greater without the approval of the Conference Trustees. The Reverend Randy Brown moved for acceptance of the resolution. Bishop Leath addressed unreadiness. Following resolution of unreadiness, motion carried.

Bishop Leath called for continuation of committee reports. Following committees reported:

- Christian Stewardship. Presenter: The Reverend Coleman March (see report).
The Reverend William Howard Smith moved for acceptance of the report.
The motion carried.

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- Social Actions. Presenter: The Reverend Randy Brown (see report). The Reverend Ruby Mason-Crum moved for acceptance of the report. The motion carried.
- CDMC (see report). The Reverend William Howard Smith moved for acceptance of the report. The motion carried.
- Christian Education (see report). The Reverend Anthony Carter moved for acceptance of the report. The motion carried.
- Church School (see report). Presenter: Sister Fordie Franklin. The Reverend Randy Brown moved for the acceptance of the report. The motion carried.
- Lay Organization. Presenter: Brother Charles Moore (see report). The Reverend Kenneth Love moved for the acceptance of the report. The motion carried. Sister Gaunt reported lay Night offering of \$1,745.00.
- M-SWAMO. Presenter: Sister Rachel March (see report). Report was received on common consent of the annual conference. Bishop Leath made the following recommendations: M-SWAMO should meet in clusters. Also, meetings should involve activities that build relationships rather than add stress.
- Sons of Allen. Presenter: Brother Gene Settles (see report). Report was received on common consent of the annual conference. Bishop Leath made the following recommendations: local church should give the name of one man in congregation for the purpose of information contact.
- WIM. Presenter: The Reverend Ruby Mason-Crum (see report). The Reverend Fred Harris moved that the report be received. The motion carried. Bishop Leath reminded the conference that the WIM Conference, 2018, will be in Birmingham, AL and the conference WIM should plan to attend due to its close proximity.
- WMS. Presenter: Sister Gloria Beverly (see report). The Reverend Ruby Mason-Crum moved that the report be received. The motion carried.

The Annual Conference recessed at 5:10 pm.

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The Memorial Service

The Memorial Service began at 7:15pm, with the Reverend Alma Herbert as worship leader. The following were memorialized:

- The Reverend Silvia Harris

The service concluded at 7:24pm.

The Spiritual Renewal Revival

The Spiritual Renewal Revival began at 7:30pm, with the Reverend Kenneth Love as worship leader. The Reverend Coleman March (Pastor of Mt. View, Winchester) utilized the text Luke 11:1-13 and preached the message, “Wonder Bread”.

The Spiritual Renewal Revival concluded at 8:25pm.