

To: Bishop Jeffery N. Leath, the 128th Elected and Consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Presiding Prelate of the 13th Episcopal District

Dr. Susan J. Leath, MD., Supervisor of Missions

General Officers, Active and Retired

Presiding Elder William Easley Jr, Host Presiding Elder, Louisville District

Presiding Elder William R. T. Hale, Associate Presiding Elder, Commonwealth District.

Presiding Elder Kenneth Jerome Golphin, Associate Presiding Elder, Bluegrass District

Reverend Troy I. Thomas, Host Pastor, Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Members and Friends of the 153rd Session of the Kentucky Annual Conference

The Social Action Committee of The 13th Episcopal District

(Kentucky Conference)

Mission Statement

The Social Action Committee (SAC) of the 13th Episcopal District of the AME Church is dedicated to providing a unified voice of collective action which shall address the social injustices that occur within the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the State of Tennessee.

Vision Statement

To become a noteworthy entity of equality and justice that echoes the voices of the unheard and underserved populations within the geography of the 13th Episcopal District

On February 23, 2020, Ahmaud Arbery was hunted down by white vigilantes and murdered while jogging. On March 13, 2020, Breonna Taylor died in a hail of bullets in her own home, in her own bed by rouge cops during a no-knock raid. On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was murdered when a cop, who was called to investigate an alleged forged \$20 dollar bill, placed his

knee on Floyd's neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds while he echoed those words made famous by Eric Garner on July 17, 2014, "I can't breathe!" In these recent situations, justice was either delayed or denied.

America is a county that was founded on violence and continues to normalize evil each time a police officer is allowed to take a life and still walk free. It is normalized each time a murder victim's past becomes a talking point rather than the actions of the police officers responsible for systematically taking that person's life. It is normalized through the dehumanization of each victim.

It's 2020 and right now, we must take "good" out of the equation and speak truth to power because the truth is, these "good" people have failed to act in ways that would generate the kind of goodness that leads to justice. The fact that there is no national standard for the use of force and that no-knock raids are still legal should terrify us all because there is nothing good about such actions. Therefore we continue to be murdered in the streets while the murderers go home for dinner. Malcolm X said, "You cannot legislate good will." However, I say we can press for states and cities to pass legislation that no longer defends evil actions but rather seeks to discourage certain evil behaviors. Prior to June, fewer than 40 cities across America had banned the use of the choke hold. Now, although it is not a maneuver that is taught, police officers can use this deadly restraint without impunity since it is not banned.

We must all recognize that America is only as good as the laws that it enforces and, conversely, America is also only as depraved as the laws that it fails to put in place. Cornelius H. Evans stated, "A depraved society is evidenced when the eruption of violent actions, immorality, and loss of values disregard the sanctity of life and other things that are in opposition to the greater good of the Creator's plan." In all honesty, this is where we are. This is where we have been for centuries. This is why people are marching. This is why people are protesting. This is why people are burning stuff down. Denouncing evil is not enough! We need real systemic change.

Juvenile Justice Victory

For over 35 years juveniles have been housed in the adult facility in Shelby County Tennessee. This has been opposed by citizens and Criminal Justice professionals and the voices have finally been heard. As of December 31, 2020, no juveniles will be housed in the adult facilities in Shelby County. This is a victory because African American children have been the ones disproportionately suffering being held in adult detention facilities. Our ongoing fight will be to end children being tried as adults.

The SAC of the 13th Episcopal District seek to unify the efforts and energy of the collective Social Action Committees of the four respective Annual Conferences of our District. To this end, we

agree to engage in the following issues, through contact with elected officials, submission of policy proposals, partnerships with other grass root organizations of like interests and values:

- Voting
 - Registration
 - Education
 - Motivation
- Census Engagement
 - Community Canvassing
 - The development of incentive driven engagements
- Joint Report
 - The various Annual Conference Reports will be combined into one report
 - The work of the individual conference committees will be supported by the collect committee
- Breanna Taylor
 - We will submit a letter to the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to express our disdain for a lack of action.
 - We will add our voices of support to those who are peacefully protesting
 - We will also be in contact with our AME brothers and sisters in Louisville to support their efforts and echo their voices throughout the 13th District

We will meet virtually to strategize monthly, target critical issues and formulate plans of addressing issues universally. We will continue these efforts beyond the November election, as we understand that systemic change is a long-term engagement. We believe that by working collectively, we can be more effective in liberating processes, and in doing so, we will set a Christian standard and example for others to follow.

(Not pictured in the video presentation are Rev. Omaran D. Lee & Rev. Vicki Coleman)

Humbly Submitted By,

The Reverends Babydoll Kennedy (chair), Revonda Bright, Leonard Curry, Tony Gooch, Louis Haynes, Sherry Miller, and Erika Taylor; lay delegates Doris Allen, Shirley Bunton, Tonya Clay, Marsha Underwood, William Sam Green, Robin Harris, Darnell Hipsher, Anna Johnson, Doris Shaloam, and Lisa Stuckey.