

Resolutions
118th Session of the East Tennessee Annual Conference
13th Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church
September 9, 2018

To: The Rt. Reverend Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath, Presiding Prelate of the 13th Episcopal District, Dr. Susan Leath, Supervisor of Missions, The Reverend Dr. Eva M. Settles Host Presiding Elder of the Chattanooga-Knoxville District, The Reverend Dr. Terence L. Mayes, Sr., Presiding Elder of the Fayetteville-Pulaski District, The Reverend Kenneth D. Love, Sr., Host Pastor, Pastors, Clergy, delegates and members of the 118th Session of the East Tennessee Annual Conference, visiting guests, our brothers and sisters in Jesus the Christ.

We, the Committee on Resolutions, respectfully submit the following report:

WHEREAS, at 8:34 a.m., on Friday, September 7, 2018, the Rt. Reverend Jeffrey N. Leath, the Presiding Prelate of the 13th Episcopal District, convened the 118th Session of the East Tennessee Annual Conference, at St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, in Chattanooga, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, we have been blessed, delivered, revitalized, and indeed challenged by the powerful preached word during this annual conference. The Reverend Dickey Sebastian, Pastor of Berry Chapel AME Church, Lynchburg, TN, preached a powerful opening worship sermon, entitled, “Prepare to Meet God,” from the text Amos 4:6. The Reverend Beryl Basden, Associate Minister of Warren Chapel AME Church, Chattanooga, preached “The Power to Forgive” from the text Luke 11:1-4, during our Spiritual Renewal Service. The Rev. Lisa Hammonds, Pastor of St. John AME Church, Nashville, TN, challenged us all to “Do the Work” from the text Haggai 2: 2-9; during our ordination and Holy Communion Service ; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday morning, September 8, 2018, the YPD blessed the conference with a program that showcased their talents, gifts, and leadership ability. The Fayetteville-Pulaski District young ladies presented a liturgical dance and the young men acted out a powerful skit showcasing the results and consequences of sin but revealed the solution is found in our relationship with Jesus who has all power and authority. Then the Chattanooga-Knoxville District used their amazing voices to bless us with an energetic, hand-clapping musical selection.

WHEREAS, the committee has summarized the following recommendations made by the various committees for implementation during the 2018-2019 conference year:

- Social Action Committee recommended
 1. Support of local leadership
 2. Preaching and teaching about social justice issues
 3. Becoming an advocate for our people

- Board of Examiners recommended:
 1. Bro. Terence Lenard Mayes, Jr. be admitted to the East Tennessee Annual Conference, on trial and passed to the First Years Studies.
 2. Bro. Paul Sherrell, be elected and ordained a Local Deacon for Trotter Chapel, Pulaski, TN.
 3. Bro. Irvin Hines be elected and ordained a Local Deacon for Clayborn Temple AME Church, Knoxville, TN.
 4. Rev. Vickie Lee Coleman advance to the Fourth Year Studies with Local Relations.

- State of the Church Committee recommended:
 1. As much as needed and necessary, stay current on local and national level events.
 2. Continue to study, meditate, and pray God's word.
 3. Not only be a watchman but be the disciple God has called you to be and lead others to Christ.

- Media and Public Relations Committee recommended that each person ensure when you tweet and post, that you understand that once it's out there, it can't be taken back; consequently, be wise and intelligent in your online communication; using it to edify all of God's children.

- Committee on Health & Wellness recommended the continued teaching and preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ as related to healthy living by providing quarterly educational and training sessions via sermons, seminars, or workshops to our congregations with regards to hypertension management and healthy living.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the East Tennessee Annual Conference approved the above recommendations to be implemented in the 2018-2019 conference year; and

BE IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, we are extremely thankful for the warm, gracious welcome we received from the Reverend Kenneth D. Love and First Lady Sister Donna Love and the entire St. Paul AME Church family. The St. Paul church family hosted this 118th Session of the East Tennessee Annual Conference with wonderful hospitality and excellence. We deeply appreciate every act of kindness and love shown to us during our stay; and

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that we, the members of the East Tennessee Annual Conference, are laborers working in the vineyard endeavoring to carry out the will of God as we joyfully go forth to do as the Lord requires and that is to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God.

Humbly Submitted by the Resolutions Committee,

The Reverend Vanessa Holmon, Chair
The Reverend Ronald Glenn
Sister Mattie Coffey
Sis. Hester Rodgers
Sister Robyn Ingram

The Reverend Lance Shelton
The Reverend Johnnie Watson
Sister Nina Green
Sister Belinda Payton