

**THE MINUTES OF THE 152ND SESSION OF THE KENTUCKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE
ST. PAUL AME Church – Lexington, Kentucky
September 12-15, 2019
Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath, Presiding**

THURSDAY – September 12, 2019

Thursday Business Session

At 3:03 pm, Bishop called the Literary and Action Reports session to order. Devotion was led by the Reverend Jermaine Wilson.

Bishop called for the reports:

- State of the Church – The Reverend Linda Jackson
- Social Action/State of the Country – The Reverend Babydoll Kennedy
- Stewardship/Tithing – The Reverend Sherry Green

After comments, Bishop Leath called for the Report on the State of the Church. The Report was read by Reverend Linda Jackson (See Report).

The Social Action/State of the Country Report was read by Rev. Babydoll Kennedy (See Report). Bishop Leath accepted the report and requested that recommendations be included when the Resolution is finally submitted. Presiding Elder Easley moved that the Reports on The State of the Country and Social Action/State of the Church be accepted. The motion was seconded by Reverend Carter.

Motion carried.

Report from the Stewardship and Tithing Committee was read by Rev. Sherry Green. Key take away from Report is tithing is down in the AME Church (See Report). Bishop Leath asked Rev. Green to speak from the heart to the congregation about what the Discipline says about tithing and what she thinks about the topic. Reverend Green stated that the Discipline calls for preachers to preach once a month about tithing. A brief discussion followed the reading of the Report. Questions were raised by Presiding Elder Golphin about how demographics affect tithing. Rev. Troy Thomas suggested that AME churches should look into new modalities of giving, especially online giving. Bishop Leath recommended that the Report be received by common consent.

Session adjourned at 4:54 pm.

Evening Worship began at 7:30. Presiding Elder Easley led the Opening Worship and the Order of Worship, as laid out in the Bulletin, was followed. Reverend LaVeeshia S. Pryor preached the Opening Sermon, titled, "I Survived It." from Genesis 50:15-20 at the 152nd Kentucky Annual Conference.

- Following the Worship Service, Bishop acknowledged guests to the Annual Conference: Bishop Raymond Ross, Temple of Deliverance Richmond, Senior Pastor Brenda Douglas, Tabernacle of Refuge and Transformation, Richmond, KY. Presiding Elder Terence Mayes East Tennessee District. Presiding Elder Eva Settles East Tennessee District. Presiding Elder Alexander Gaston TN, Rev. W. Antoni Sinkfield, Rev. Linda Brown-Saffore, Rev. Lee Russel Brown, Rev. Leonard Curry. Sisters Faye Walker, Wanda Grandberry, Charlotte Davis; PE Linda Faye Thomas-Martin of West Tennessee, Reverend Dr. Houston, Reverend Davis, Reverend Randall Webster; Out of District Guests - Dr. Gregory Eason 6th District Candidate for Bishop, Rev. David Richards and Dr. Robert Richardson.

- Benediction given by Rev. Veda Stewart
- Service ended at 9:12 PM.

FRIDAY – September 13, 2019

Opening Business Session

At 9:05 am, the Rt. Reverend Jeffrey N. Leath, the Presiding Bishop of the 13th Episcopal District, called the 152nd Session of the Kentucky Annual Conference, hosted by St. Paul AME Lexington, KY to order. Bishop Leath opened with prayer.

Bishop Leath called for the Organization of the Conference.

Presiding Elder Hale moved the election of the following: Bishop Jeffrey Leath, as President of the Annual Conference; the Reverend Kelly Roberts as Recording Secretary, the Reverend Sherry Green as Engrossing Secretary, the Reverend Melanie Samuels Black as Statistician. The Reverend Joshua Hale seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

The Reverend William Hale moved that Reverend Jermaine Wilson, Reverend Troy Thomas, Reverend William Jenkins, Sister Erica Taylor, Sister Dianna Golphin and Brother Chris Wilson be elected to the Finance Committee. The Motion was seconded by Reverend Golphin.

The Motion carried.

Reverend Hale moved that Reverends Tony Gooch, Reverend Stephanie Raglin, Reverend Jeff Washington, Reverend Louis Haynes and Brother Maurice Gooch be elected Marshalls for the Conference. The Motion was seconded by Reverend Golphin.

The motion carried.

Reverend Hale moved that the Conference Boundaries be the first seven rows across the sanctuary. Reverend Golphin seconded the Motion. **The Motion carried.** The Reverend William Hale moved that the Annual Conference Agenda be adopted with any reasonable and appropriate adjustments. Reverend Joshua Hale seconded.

The Motion carried.

Bishop Leath confirmed the Annual Conference Committees, with necessary adjustments.

Dr. Gregory Eason (Flipper Temple, Atlanta, GA) and Dr. Silvester S. Beaman (Bethel, Wilmington, DE), candidates for the episcopacy, addressed the conference.

Presiding Elder William Easley made his Summary Report on behalf of the Louisville District

Presiding Elder Kenneth Golphin made his Summary Report on behalf of the Bluegrass District.

Presiding Elder William Hale made his Summary Report on behalf of the Commonwealth District.

(See Reports).

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

- Class on Admission – Harold Mason of Wayman Chapel was referred to local Church for further consideration. Motion made by Sherry Miller and seconded by Troy Thomas.
Motion carried.
- First Year Studies – Dr. Strode moved that Sister Kathy Jacobs be elected and ordained a Local Deacon for Embury Chapel and be passed on to third year of studies. Reverend Stephanie Melanie Samuels-Black seconded.
Motion carried.
- First Year Studies – The Reverend Dr. Strode moved that Sisters Melissa George and Doretha Sanders be passed to the Second Year of Itinerant studies. The Reverend Raglin seconded the Motion.
Motion carried.
- Dr. Strode moved that Sister Marie Monica Lamb, having completed class on First Year Study at the South Ohio Conference, be passed to Second Year Studies. Motion seconded by Reverend William Hale. The Motion carried
- The Board recommended that Tracy Thomas' name be removed from the Roll. Reverend Troy Thomas made the motion to remove Tracy Thomas from the Roll. The Motion was seconded by Reverend Strode. At the Saturday Business Session of the Annual Conference Bishop Leath asked that the minutes reflect that Tracy Thomas withdrew from Board of Examiners and that she was not suspended or expelled.
Motion carried.

- The Board recommended that Rachel French be referred back to the Quarterly Conference. Motion was made by Reverend Raglin, seconded by Reverend Troy Thomas. **Motion carried.**
- Third Year Studies – The Board recommended that Reverend Damien Nichols be passed to the fourth year studies. Reverend Strode made the motion seconded by Rev. Troy Thomas. **Motion carried**
- The Board recommended that Reverend Tony Gooch be ordained and elected as Local Elder for Bethel Boneyville Church subject to completion of his studies. Motion was made by Reverend Strode and seconded by Reverend Golphin. **Motion carried.**
- The Board recommended that Reverend Dujuana Wilson be given a Certificate of Completion. Reverend Strode made the motion seconded by Reverend Jermaine Wilson. **The Motion carried.**
- Reverend Troy Thomas moved that Reverend Kelly Roberts be given a Certificate of Completion and that he be elected and ordained a local elder for St. Paul, Lexington. The Motion was seconded by Reverend Golphin. **Motion carried.**

The Reverend Dr. Robert Strode moved that the Board of Examiners Report as a whole be adopted. Reverend Golphin seconded the Motion.

Motion carried.

Bishop Leath called for the Pastor's Reports to begin. The following Pastors reported:

- Pastor Louis Haynes – Wards Chapel, Scottsville
- Reverend Sherry Miller – Wayman Chapel, Georgetown
- Pastor Melanie Samuels-Black (with delegate, James Stanley) – Saint Paul, Woodburn
- Reverend Percy Spencer (with delegate, Pam Nichols) – Craig Chapel, Salvisa
- Reverend Louise Spencer (with delegate) Barbourville
- Reverend Donzella Lee was excused, PE Golphin reported for St. John, Monticello
- Reverend William Robert T. Hale - St. Paul Versailles (With delegate)

Bishop called for the Component Reports:

- Christian Education – Presenters: Sister Amanda Johnson and Sister Susie Bates. The report was received by common consent.
- Church School – Presenter: Brother Melvin Allen and the Reverend Louise Spencer. After discussion, the report was received by common consent.

- Sons of Allen – Presenter: Brother Michael Gresham. The report was received by common consent.
- MSWAWO +PK's – Presenter: Sister Hartents Johnson. The report was received by common consent.
- WIM – Presenter: The Reverend Linda Jackson. The report was received by common consent.
- Evangelism – Presenter: Evangelist Norma Bean. The report was received by common consent.
- Lay Organization – Presenter: Brother Chris Wilson. The report was received by common consent.
- WMS – Presenter: Sister Dianna Golphin. The report was received by common consent.

Dr. Frederick A. Wright (3rd District), candidate for the episcopacy, addressed the conference. Following the blessing of the meal, Bishop Leath adjourned the Friday Morning Business Session with prayer. The Annual Conference recessed at 12:00 pm.

After singing a hymn Bishop Leath reconvened the Annual Conference at 2:00 pm.

Reverend Karen Carter offered a prayer at the request of the Bishop. The following components reported.

- YPD – Presenter: Sister Mary Raglin. The report was received by common consent.
- CDMC – Presenter: Sister Helen Demaree. The report was received by common consent.

The Pastor's Reports then continued:

- Pastor Erica Taylor (with delegate, Tonya Clay) – Greater Taylor Chapel, Franklin
- Pastor Kent Burley – Shorter Chapel Paris Kentucky (with delegate)
- Pastor Sherry Green (with delegates) – Manchester

- Reverend McArthur Pendleton (with delegate) – Bethel AME, Shelbyville
- Reverend LaVeeshia Prior (with delegate) - St. Paul Richmond
- Reverend Tony Gooch (with delegates) - St. James AME Ashland
- Reverend Linda Jackson -St. Mark AME Louisville

Bishop shared that St. Mark is in a tough spot. The Bishop encouraged the work that Rev. Linda Jackson has done and is doing. Bishop encouraged Rev. Linda Jackson for a job well done and the wisdom displayed as she recognizes that her work at St. Mark is complete, and she seeks to move on.

- Reverend Babydoll Kennedy (with delegates) -Taylor Chapel AME
- Reverend Ralph T. Johnson (with delegates) – Mt. Zion AME Church
- Reverend Laurice Martin (with delegate) – Bethel AME Campbellsville
- Reverend Stephanie Raglin (with delegates) Embry Chapel Elizabethtown
- Reverend Kelly Roberts (with delegate) - Davis Chapel Somerset, KY
- Reverend Reginald Pullums (with delegate) -Bethel Boneyville
- Reverend Ralph Boyd Smith (with delegates) St. James AME Danville.
- Reverend Wallace Gunn (with delegates) – Ashbury Chapel AME Church
- Reverend William C. Jenkins (with delegate) Quinn Chapel, Lexington
- Reverend June Dorsey (with delegates) Ralph Avenue AME Louisville
- Reverend Kenneth Golphin (with delegate) – St. Peter AME Harrodsburg
- Reverend Jermaine Wilson (with delegate) – St. John AME Frankfort
- Reverend Troy Thomas (with delegate) – Quinn Chapel Louisville
- Reverend Dr. Robert A. Strode (with delegate) – St. Paul AME Lexington

Bishop states that he’s concerned about the levels of debt for many of our churches. Bishop says he’s mindful that many pastors who are now responsible for the debt did not, in fact, create the debt. Bishop encourages preachers to pay down the debt as soon as possible. St. Paul, Lexington & St. Matthews, Midway are two churches that were mentioned. Bishop Leath says that if we want our churches to last twenty or more years instead of five years we must do something about the debt that our churches are carrying. If the problem is not taken care of then churches should start thinking about where they want to worship.

- Bishop referred Reverend Donzella Lee to the Ministerial Committee
- Bishop referred Reverend Ken Coffey to the Ministerial Committee

Bishop adjourned meeting at 4:00 PM.

Bishop reconvened the Business Session at 4:18 pm.

- Report by the Conference Trustees
Motion that The 13th District Budget remain unchanged
Subsequently, action was taken to increase the budgets of some Churches in the Bluegrass District to offset contributions from Churches closed in the Conference year.
Motion by William Hale
Seconded by Joshua Hale
Motion carried.
- Motion to ratify the 13th District Audit
moved by Troy Thomas
Seconded by Reverend Pryor
Motion carried.
- Treasurers Report: Troy Thomas
PE Easley moved that Treasurers Report be accepted
Troy Thomas seconded
Motion carried
- Motion by Rev. Pryor that the Organization of Finance Committee be accepted
Seconded by Troy Thomas
Motion carried
- Committee on Missions, Circuits & Stations
Reverend Golphin moved that the Report be accepted
Seconded by Melanie Samuels-Black
Motion carried

Discussion about the placement of membership of Allen Chapel, Moreland followed.

- Rev Bright moved that the records of members of Allen Chapel Mooreland be transferred to the St. James Danville and the membership roll of Allen Chapel Mooreland be transferred to the membership roll of St. James until such time that members make another decision for their church.
Rev. Karen Carter seconded.
Motion carried
- Classification of Pastors Committee: No changes to the Report
Moved by Dr. Strobe
William Hale seconded
Motion carried
- Budget Committee

Revised budget allocation for the Bluegrass District
Moved by Jermaine Wilson
Seconded by Reverend Stephanie Raglin
Motion carried

- Presiding Elder Support
Committee recommends no change in budget/support with the exception of one charge which will return to the 2017-2018 assessment and the Annual Conference will make a one-time supplement to the Presiding Elder of one half of the difference.
Moved by Troy Thomas
Seconded Jermaine Wilson
Motion carried

Bishop Leath asked the Rev. James Carter to pray. After the prayer Bishop Leath adjourned the Annual Conference @ 5:13 pm.

Reports continued:

- Treasurer's Report – Presenter: The Reverend Troy I. Thomas. The Reverend William Hale moved to receive the Treasurer's Preliminary Report. The Reverend William Easley seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Afternoon Business Session adjourned at 5:19 pm with prayer by the Reverend Karen Carter.

The Memorial Service

The Memorial Service began at 7:00 pm, the Reverend Melanie Samuels-Black was the worship leader. The following were memorialized:

- Supervisor Geraldine Stiles Murphy
- Supervisor Martha C. Cummings
- Bishop McKinley Young
- Bishop Fredrick Hilborn Talbot
- Dr. Julia Wade
- Dr. Leah Gaskin Fitchue
- Dr. Albert D. Tyson
- Dr. McDonald Williams

- The Reverend Wanda Ryan
- Sis. Eva Morton of Davis Chapel Somerset

The Renewal Service

The Renewal Service began at 7:30 pm with the Reverend Kent Burley as the Worship Leader. The preacher was the Reverend Sherry Green (Pastor of St. Paul AME, Manchester, KY). Her text was taken from Matthew 6:13a entitled, "Yield Not."

The Renewal Service ended at 8:35 pm.

Saturday Business Session

At 9:00 am the YPD presented the morning worship. Bishop Leath opened the Saturday Business Session at 10:00 am.

Sister Chenault inspired the conference to pursue healthy lifestyles in the face of aging.

Bishop Leath began the organization of the delegate election with various instructions. It was moved by Reverend Troy Thomas that the Conference agrees that the Clergy Election Ballot will open at the close of the Business of the present session and close at the beginning of the next business session.

The Motion carried.

Afternoon Business Session, Part 1

The One Hundred and Fifty-Second Session of The Kentucky Annual Conference Service of Ordination/Communion began at 11:30am.

The Candidates for ordination were;

- Sister Cathy Jacobs a candidate for Local Deacon at Embry Chapel
- Reverend Kelly Roberts for Local Elder at St. Paul Lexington

- The preacher for the Ordination Service was Dr. Silvester Beaman 1st District.

Business Session

- Reverend William Hale read the Believe, Incorporated Report
- Reverend Melanie-Samuels Black read the Statistician Report
- Ministerial Efficiency Committee recommended that Reverend Wallace Gunn be Superannuated. Motion was made by Reverend Joshua Hale to accept the recommendation. The Motion was seconded by Reverend Karen Carter
Motion carried
- The Ministerial Efficiency Committee recommended that Reverend Kenneth Coffey be relieved from ministerial function for this coming annual conference year. Motion made by Reverend Robert Strode and seconded by Reverend Golphin.
Motion carried
- The Ministerial Efficiency Committee will be meeting with Reverend Donzella Lee in the future. Reverend Donzella Lee will receive a temporary appointment.
- The Report of the Ministerial Efficiency Committee was received as a whole. It was moved by Rev. Troy Thomas. The Motion was seconded by Reverend Stephanie Raglin. Motion carried.
- Clerks and Tellers nominated; Reverend Linda Jackson, Reverend Ralph Boyd Smith, Reverend Erica Taylor and Reverend Melanie Samuels-Black

- Delegates elected for General Conference 1st Ballot
 - Reverend William Hale
 - Reverend Jermaine Wilson
 - Reverend LaVeeshia Prior
 - Reverend Troy Thomas
 - Reverend Stephanie Raglin
 - Reverend Robert Strode
 - Reverend Kenneth Golphin

- 2nd Ballot
 - Reverend June Dorsey

- General Conference Elected Alternate Delegates
 - Reverend Joshua Hale

- Reverend William Jenkins
- Reverend Maxine Thomas
- Reverend Karen Carter
- Reverend Sherry Miller
- Reverend Melanie Samuels-Black

- General Conference Elected Lay Delegation:
 - Mary Raglin
 - Robin Harris
 - Priscilla Sullivan
 - Latanya T. Germany
 - Myrna Herron
 - Carrol Barbour
 - Dynasty Dawson (Young Adult)
 - Michael D. Gresham

- General Conference Lay Alternate Election
 - Annette Hayden
 - Cecelia Tinsley
 - Lisa Stuckey
 - Tanya Clay

- Reverend Joshua Hale moved that the current Annual Conference Trustees remain the same. The Motion was seconded by Reverend Robert Strode.
Motion carried.
- Reverend Kenneth Golphin moved that Reverend Kelly Roberts be elected an Annual Conference Trustee. The Motion was seconded by Reverend Troy Thomas
Motion carried.
- Women In Ministry President is Reverend LaVeeshia Pryor
- Amariah Kent is the YPD President
- Legislative Task Force List
 - Reverend Kenneth Golphin
 - Reverend William Hale
 - Reverend Anna Johnson
- Reverend Maxine Thomas moved that Reverend Troy Thomas be elected Treasurer. The Motion was seconded by Reverend Kenneth Golphin.
The Motion carried

- The Disciplinary Questions: Recording Secretary Reverend Kelly Roberts

- The Bishop took a vote on the disposition of the Camp Simmons property.
 - The Annual Conference voted 39 to 22 to support the sale of the Camp Simmons property.

- The Annual Conference Financial Report was read by Reverend Troy Thomas.
 Revenue of \$154,877, Expenses of \$151,677 Balance of \$2209.00.

The Motion to accept the Report was made by Reverend Jermaine Wilson
Seconded by Reverend Joshua Hale

The Motion carried

- Reverend LaVeeshia Pryor Report on Instructors for Board of Examiners: Class for Admissions, Reverend Linda Jackson, Chair. Reverend Linda Potter, Linda Samuels-Black. First year Instructors, Reverend Percy Spencer, Reverend Wallace Gunn Reverend Joshua Hale. Reverend Troy Thomas, Chair, Reverend Erica Taylor, Reverend William Hale. Second Year Instructors, Reverend Troy Thomas Chair. Third Year Instructors, Reverend Sherry Green, Chair, Reverend Maxine Thomas, Reverend William Jenkins, Reverend Louise Spencer. Fourth Year Instructors: Reverend June Dorsey Chair, Reverend Kenneth Golphin, Reverend Babydoll Kennedy, Reverend Jermaine Wilson. Anna Johnson Chris Wilson were named Instructors-at-large. Bishop stated the nominees need to be elected. Motion was made by Reverend Kenneth Golphin seconded by Reverend June Dorsey.

Motion carried

- Bishop Leath moved that the Annual Conference offering be divided between the Kentucky Conference of Churches and the Hurricane Dorian Relief through the Florida Annual Conference. Bishop proposed that 1/3 be given to Kentucky Conference of Churches and 2/3 be given to Dorian Relief. The Motion passed by common consent.
 - The delegate from Quinn Chapel, Louisville invited the 152nd Session of the Kentucky Annual Conference to convene at Quinn Chapel. Reverend Troy Thomas made the Motion that Quinn Chapel host the 2020 Annual Conference seconded by Reverend Maxine Thomas.
- Motion carried.**
- Reverend Troy Thomas moved that the 152nd Annual Conference be closed Sine die at the end of the Saturday Business Session. The Motion was seconded by Reverend Golphin.
- Motion carried.**
- Reverend A. J. Holman offered the Benediction
 - The afternoon session adjourned at 4:45pm.