

**SATURDAY, October 7, 2017**

**Morning Business Session**

Devotion led by Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath began at **8:05 am** with singing “I Am So Glad Jesus Lifted Me.” The following persons participated in the early morning devotion:

Reverends: Barbara S. Green, Denise Springfield Richardson, Levirta Hill, and Terri Lynn Strong;

**Brother:** Daniel Lewis.

**Devotion concluded at 8:28 am**

**Church School**

Reverend Patsy T. Bown, opened the Church School at 8:35 am by introducing. Prayer was offered by Sister Brenda Odell. The Scripture: Exodus 19:16-25 & Isaiah 60:3. Title: God’s Covenant With Israel. The review was done by Reverend Stanley T. Richardson, South Memphis District School Superintendent. There was an attendance of 65 persons.

**Church School Concluded at 8:56 am**

Bishop Jeffrey Leath resumed the chair at 9:00 am. Bishop Leath noted that the minutes from yesterday are posted on the website [www.13thame.org](http://www.13thame.org). Reverend Quinten L. Smith made the motion that the minutes posted be approved with the necessary corrections. It was seconded by Reverend Willie M. Williams. The motion carried.

- Camp Primm - Simmons – Bishop Leath noted that we have an incorrect notion of the potential of the property given our limited resources and the location. The building which was placed on the site during Bishop Fredrick H. Talbot’s tenure has been vandalized and

bats have taken home. Bishop Leath stated that the Lord has given him a vision for the Camp Primm - Simmons. A driveway will be paved into the clearing area so that a vehicle can pull a trailer up the hill on a hard surface. Additionally, we need to have water, sewer and electric hook-up so that individuals can spend some time alone. Camp Primm - Simmons is located 25 miles from Louisville, KY. Bishop hopes that we can accomplish what he envisions by the end of the quadrennial with monies he previously set aside.

- BELIEVE INC. – presenter – Reverend Eric J. Knowles. Two new members have been added, **Sisters:** Lisa Halfacre, and Phyllis Ridley. A \$10,000 profit was gained from the General Conference bus trip to Philadelphia, PA. Currently, there is \$1,000 balance in the account.

BELIEVE will begin accepting applications for grants October 30, 2017. The deadline for the grant applications is January 16, 2017. The grants should not be hand-written, nor faxed. The motion to receive the report was made by Sister Phyllis Ridley. It was seconded by Reverend Agnes Henderson. The motion carried.

Bishop Leath asked the following churches: New Greater Bethel, New Lewis Chapel, St. Paul/St. Mary's (Saltillo Circuit), Brown's Chapel, St. Paul - Fulton, Freedman's Chapel, Salter's Chapel, Spring Chapel, Quinn – Paris, Allen Chapel and St. Mark, Parsons if they had discussed the possibility of establishing a new Presiding Elder District. Bishop asked the Pastors and delegates from those churches to take this year to consider the option, it will allow for the churches to create a network of fellowship.

- Health and Wellness – Dr. Pamela Murrary (See report). She took the opportunity to speak about stroke. Dr. Murrary encouraged us to recognize the symptoms of a stroke. The acronym FAST stroke symptoms are: Face droopiness, Arms droopiness, Speech difficulties and Time to call 911. There was a question and answer period by Dr. Murrary. The motion was made by the Reverend John Dandridge to receive the report. It was seconded by the Reverend Colleen P. Gibson. The motion carried.

Bishop asked Presiding Elder C.Robert Finch if any church on the North District was indebted to the Presiding Elder and Presiding Elder C. Robert Finch indicated that all churches are current. The same question was posed to Presiding Elder Linda F. Thomas-Martin, she indicated that all churches are current, even Noah (which had previously owed assessments).

- Budget Committee – presenter - Reverend Agnes Henderson. Recommended that St. Paul/South Fulton be increased \$250 annually. Additionally, Chainbreakers budget will decrease by \$250 annually. These adjustments were corrections to a miscalculation from last year which resulted in an imbalance. Additionally, the West Tennessee Assessment for the General Budget was reduced from \$164,900 to \$163,144, which is a decrease of \$1,756. The decrease divided equally \$878 (North District) and \$878 (South District). The motion was made by the Reverend Kirk W. Ridley, Sr., to approve the budget to make necessary adjustments. It was seconded by the Reverend Stanley T. Richardson. There was an unreadiness as to why the St. Paul budget was substantially different from St. Mary as they are both in the same Circuit. The committee will work on this and present on tomorrow.

- The Presiding Elder's Support – report was read with recommendation to make any changes this year but to monitor the financial trend and determine what future change should take place. (See report) The motion was made by the Reverend Perry Lorenzo Herman to receive the report. It was seconded by the Reverend Kenneth S. Robinson.  
The motion carried.

Bishop asked that we should revisit the salary package for both the North and South District Presiding Elders to make sure it is equitable in 2018 and 2019 for both the churches and Presiding Elder.

Bishop Leath asked if the current BELIEVE board is willing to serve for another conference year? Bishop Leath said that the process will be changed next year. Additionally, Bishop Leath stated that the West Tennessee Annual Conference is not what it was in previous years.

- Ministerial Efficiency Committee – met to examine four (4) ministers:

Reverend Joe Louis Travis, an Itinerant Elder in the A.M.E. church, former member of the East Tennessee Annual Conference, requested the 143<sup>rd</sup> Session of the West Tennessee Conference grant him Superannuation status. Rev. Travis has given faithful service to the West Tennessee Annual Conference and the 13<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District.

**Recommendation:** The committee recommends that Reverend Joe Louis Travis be granted his request for Superannuation. The motion was made by the Reverend Quinten L. Smith, and it was seconded by the Reverend Patsy T. Brown. The motion carried.

Reverend **Anthony T. Branch**, Itinerant Elder, Pastor, Greenwood A.M.E. Church, has served faithfully and diligently in the West Tennessee Annual Conference. Reverend **Branch** requested the 143<sup>rd</sup> Session of the West Tennessee Conference grant him Supernumerary status. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends that Reverend **Anthony T. Branch** be granted his request for Supernumerary status in the West Tennessee Annual Conference. The motion was made by the Reverend **Kenneth S. Robinson, MD**, and it was seconded by the Reverend **Patsy T. Brown**. The motion carried.

Reverend **Ivy Hudson Courtez**, Itinerant Elder, Pastor, St. John A.M.E. Church, has served faithfully and diligently in the West Tennessee Annual Conference. Reverend **Courtez** requested the 143<sup>rd</sup> Session of the West Tennessee Conference grant her Supernumerary status. **Recommendation:** The committee recommends that Reverend **Ivy Hudson Courtez** be granted her request for Supernumerary status in the West Tennessee Annual Conference. The motion was made by the Reverend **Perry Lorenzo Herman**, and it was seconded by the Reverend **Walter Henry**. The motion carried.

Reverend **Yolande Ajamu** was referred to Committee by Bishop **Jeffrey N. Leath** for Consideration of his request to be reinstated to the West Tennessee Annual Conference. After examination of Reverend Ajamu's original departure from the AME Church during 2001-2002 Conference year while pastoring Campbell Chapel in East Tennessee Annual Conference, as well as the subsequent requests for reinstatement to the West

Tennessee Conference under the prior Episcopal administration, the committee recommends the follows: **Recommendation: (1)** Reverend Ajamu first begin to affiliate with a local church and submit to the leadership of the local pastor of that charge. **(2)** That Reverend Ajamu be present at the Quarterly Conferences, reporting to the respective Presiding Elder without fail. **(3)** That Reverend Ajamu, if meeting those first two requirements, then apply for reinstatement at the 144<sup>th</sup> Session of the West Tennessee Annual Conference, which would first require a transfer from the East Tennessee Annual Conference, as this administrative approval has never been provided. The motion was made by the Reverend John Dandridge, and it was seconded by the Reverend Perry Lorenzo Herman. The motion carried.

The motion was made by the Reverend Kenneth S. Robinson, MD., to approve the entire report and it was seconded by the Reverend Perry Lorenzo Herman. The motion carried.

- Committee On Instruction. Reverend Walter Henry, Chair, nominated the following Reverend(s): Sarita Guffin-Wilson - Admissions, Hilda D. Taylor – First Year, Darrell K. Scott – Second year Studies, Anthony T. Branch – Third Year Studies and Quinten L. Smith, - Fourth Year Studies. The motion to elect was made by Presiding Elder Linda F. Thomas-Martin. It was seconded by the Reverend Kenneth S. Robinson, MD., The motion carried.

- Election of Treasurer

Bishop Leath spoke to Reverend Anthony T. Branch and stated that it would be in the best interest for the Conference if a new Treasurer is elected since he requested Supernumerary status. The Conference rose to give Reverend Branch a spontaneous standing ovation in appreciation for his service and he expressed his understanding of the circumstances. It was made clear that we would continue through the end of the this session of the Conference on Sunday.

Presiding Elder C. Robert Finch nominated Reverend Walter Henry for the position as Treasurer. Presiding Elder Linda F. Thomas-Martin made the motion and it was seconded by the Reverend Byron Moore, D.Min. The motion carried.

- Statistician's Report – presenter the Reverend Darrell K. Scott. After the report was read (See report), the motion to approve the report was made by the Reverend John Dandridge. It was seconded by Reverend Stanley Richardson. The motion carried.

Reverend Byron Moore told the conference to thank and commend the Reverend Ivy Hudson Courtez for the outstanding work in ministry in the local church and for her years of service on the Ministerial Efficiency Committee. Reverend Courtez received a standing ovation from the Conference.

- Disciplinary Questions - the disciplinary questions were answered. Bishop stated that just because no charges were brought against anyone, it did not mean that we were blameless. The Steward, Tria Jeff, from St. James, AME asked that the 144<sup>th</sup> Session of

the West Tennessee Annual Conference, the date to be set by Bishop Leath, is held at St. James, A.M.E., Memphis, Tennessee. The motion was made by Presiding Elder C. Robert Finch. It was seconded by Reverend Agnes Henderson. The motion carried.

Announcements were made by the Host Pastor, Reverend Darrell K. Scott.

The morning business session recessed at **11:10 am**.

### **Ordination Worship Service**

The Ordination Worship Service began at 11:30 am with Reverend Quinten L. Smith as Worship Leader. The Ordination preacher was Bishop E. Anne Henning Byfield, Presiding Prelate of the 16<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District. The text was "1 Timothy 1:3" for the sermon entitled, "It's A Divine Choke Hold." The sermon was a Rhema Word, which was thought provoking, convicting, liberating and comforting. The following persons were ordained: Clay A. Holliday, Jr., (Local Deacon); **Itinerant Elders** - Annie B. Garvin and Joy Lynn Wilkerson.

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath recognized the following persons: Supervisor Susan Jones Leath, MD. Dr. Susan spoke to the conference and stated her love for the membership. She will not be in attendance for the closing session because of the lack of flights departing Memphis on Sunday. Additionally, Bishop Leath recognized Reverend Moses Sims, D.Min., and Reverend \_\_\_\_\_ Sims and their daughter.

Bishop Leath distributed Ordination Certificates to **Itinerate Elders:** Annie B. Garvin and Joy Lynn Wilkerson. **Local Deacon:** Clay A. Holliday, Jr.

**There will not be an afternoon business session.**

**Ordination Service concluded at 1:35 pm**



**SATURDAY, October 7, 2017**

**RAYAC/YPD Worship Service**

The worship service began at **6:15** pm. Sister Robin Cleveland Claxton gave a challenge to the youth. Text Isaiah 5:1-4, Title: "What More Can Be Done?" The young people were excited about worshipping the Lord.

Sister Holliday thanked everyone for supporting the young people.

Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath recognized the following persons: District YPD Director LaTanya Germany, District RAYAC Director, Angel Wilson, and District YPD President Anjelica Jones. Additionally, Bishop asked the Conference YPD President, Christopher Herbert to make a few comments.

Bishop Leath also wanted the records to indicate that the Reverend Mary T. Hayslett has been transferred from the 13<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District to the 6<sup>th</sup> District, Atlanta North-Georgia Conference.

**The worship service concluded at 8:38 pm**

**This Concludes Day 3 Business Session**