



13TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT  
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
TENNESSEE AND KENTUCKY

## 2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

# The African Methodist Episcopal Church – A Social Justice and Liberating Faith

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you  
But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8*

# ECONOMIC JUSTICE GENDER/SEXUAL JUSTICE

*Living in a World of Neither Male or Female - Addressing Justice Issues without Gender Bias*

152nd Session of the

Kentucky Annual Conference

## Ordination/Communion Service

**September 14, 2019**  
**11:30 am**

**Jeffrey N. Leath**  
Presiding Bishop

**Host Church**  
**St. Paul Chapel AME Church**  
251 N. Upper St.  
Lexington, KY 40507

**Susan J. Leath, MD**  
Supervisor, Women's Missionary Society

**The Reverend William R. T. Hale**  
Host, Presiding Elder, Commonwealth District

**The Reverend Dr. William Easley, Sr.**  
Associate Presiding Elder, Louisville District

**Location**  
**St. Luke United Methodist Church**  
2351 Alumni Drive  
Lexington, KY 40517

**The Reverend Kenneth Golphin**  
Associate Presiding Elder, Bluegrass District

**The Reverend Dr. Robert A. Strode**  
Host Pastor



# ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SECOND SESSION THE KENTUCKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, 14 September 2019

## The Service of Word, Ordination, and Holy Communion The Reverend LaVeeshia Pryor, Worship Leader

### The Procession

The Presentation of the Preacher **Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath**

### The Doxology

### The Call to Worship

Leader: O Give thanks to God for all the goodness we are shown!  
God's steadfast love endures forever!

People: **We present ourselves, our souls and bodies as a reasonable sacrifice.**

Leader: God calls us from our lofty ambitions and our occupation with marvels and matters beyond our scope.

People: **We present ourselves, our souls and bodies as a reasonable sacrifice.**

Leader: We have come to witness that these are servants of Christ entrusted with the secret things of God.

**ALL: Come, Christ Jesus, be our guest. Bless us through the power of your Spirit, and give us the courage to live as Your disciples day by day as a reasonable sacrifice. Amen and Amen!**

### The Hymn of Praise

**The Reverend Ralph T. Johnson**

*My Hope Is Built*

Hymn No. 364

*My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*REFRAIN:*

*On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging  
grace; In every high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within  
the veil.*

*His oath, His covenant, His blood Support me in the whelming  
flood; When all around my soul gives away, He then is all my  
hope and stay.*

*When He shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him  
be found! Dressed in His righteousness alone, Faultless to stand  
before the throne!*

**The General Confession**

**The Reverend Glenn A. Spaulding**

Minister: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God

**People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of  
all things, Judge of all people, we acknowledge and  
bemoan our manifold sins and wickedness which we from  
time to time most grievously have committed by  
thought, word and deed against Your divine Majesty,  
provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against  
us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for  
these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is  
grievous unto us.**

**Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful  
Father for Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive  
us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter  
serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and  
glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The Declaration of Pardon**

**The Reverend Linda Murray**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of Your great Mercy  
has promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty  
repentance and true faith turn unto You, have mercy upon us;  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins; confirm and strengthen



**The Scripture Lesson**  
**Epistle (Elders)**

**The Reverend Sherry Miller**  
*Ephesians 4:7-13*

**The Interlude Hymn** *Take My Life and Let it Be* Hymn No. 292

*Take my love; my God, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be Ever, only all for Thee, Ever only, All for Thee.*

**The Scripture Lesson**  
**Gospel (Elders)**

**The Reverend McArthur Pendleton**  
*John 10:1-16*

**The Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**The Selection**

**The Choir**

**The Hymn of Preparation**

**The Reverend Percy Spencer, Jr.**

*I've a Message from the Lord, Hallelujah!* Hymn No. 215

*I've a message from the Lord, Hallelujah! This message unto you I'll give; 'Tis recorded in His word, Hallelujah! It is only that you "look and live."*

*Refrain*

*"Look and live," my brother, live, Look to Jesus now, and live; 'Tis recorded in His word, Hallelujah! It is only that you "look and live."*

*I've a message full of love, Hallelujah! A message, O my friend, for you; 'Tis a message from above, Hallelujah! Jesus said it, and I know 'tis true.*

*Life is offered unto you, Hallelujah! Eternal life thy soul shall have, If you'll only look to Him, Hallelujah! Look to Jesus, who alone can save.*

*I will tell you how I came, Hallelujah! To Jesus when He made me whole: 'Twas believing on His name, Hallelujah! I trusted, and He saved my soul.*

**The Sermon**

**The Reverend Silvester S. Beaman**  
Pastor, Bethel AME Church, Wilmington, DE

### **The Re-obligation of a Deacon**

#### **Presentation of the Candidate for Deacon Chair, Board of Examiners**

Chair: Dr. Strode  
Reverend Father in God, we present to you this person to be re-obligated as a Deacon.

Bishop: Be sure that the person whom you present is proper and fit, by godly conversation, to carry out ministry duly to the honor of God and the uplifting of the Church.

Chair: We have inquired concerning her, and also examined her, and think her so to be.

*(Name read aloud by the Dean)*

#### ORDINAND

*(The candidate will step forward as each is called.)*

Bishop: Members of the Conference, if there be any of you who know any impediment or crime in this person presented to be re-obligated a deacon for which she ought not be admitted to that office, let them come forth in the name of God and show what the crime or impediment is.

*(If any crime or impediment be offered, the Bishop shall cease from ordaining that person until such time as the party accused shall be found to be innocent.)*

*Then shall the Candidate for diaconate ordination approach the altar.*

*The Bishop shall examine every one that is to be ordained Deacon, in the presence of the people, in the following manner:*

Bishop: Do you trust that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to take upon you the office of the Ministry in the Church of Christ, to serve God for the promotion of His glory and the edifying of His people?

**Candidate: I trust so.**

Bishop: Do you without question believe all the Scriptures contained in the Sacred Canon consisting of thirty-nine books in the Old, and twenty-seven in the New Testaments?

**Candidate: I do believe them.**

Bishop: Will you sincerely read and explain the same to the people whom you shall be appointed to serve?

**Candidate: I will.**

Bishop: The office of a Deacon is to assist the Elder in Divine Service. And especially when the Elder administers the Holy Communion, to help the Elder in the distribution thereof and to read and explain the Holy Scriptures; to instruct the youth, and in the absence of the Elder, to baptize. And furthermore, it is the Deacon's office to search for the sick, poor and powerless that they may be visited and helped. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

**Candidate: I will do so by the help of God.**

Bishop: Will you frame and order your own life and the lives of your family according to the doctrine of Christ and to make both yourself and them as much as in you lies, wholesome examples of the flock of Christ?

**Candidate: I will do so, the Lord being my helper.**

Bishop: Will you be governed by the Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in which you are being re-obligated, and will you reverently obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly judgment?

**Candidate: I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my helper.**

*Then shall the Bishop, laying his hand upon them severally, say:*

Bishop: Having re-obligated yourself to ministry, and declaring obedience to the word of God and Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church,

Execute the office of a Deacon in the Church of God in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Then shall the Bishop deliver them the Holy Bible, saying:*

Bishop: Read the Scriptures and preach the same in the Church of God in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

### **The Closing Collect (All Kneeling)**

Bishop: Almighty God, giver of all good things, who of Your great goodness has vouchsafed to accept and take this Your servant into the office of Deacon of Your Church; make her, we beseech You, O Lord, to be modest, humble, and consistent in their ministration, and to have a ready will to observe all spiritual discipline; that they, having always the testimony of a good conscience, and continuing ever stable and strong in Your Son Jesus Christ, may so well behave themselves in this inferior office, that they may be found worthy to be called to the higher ministries of the church, through the same, Your Son and our Savior Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory, and honor, world without end.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with Your most gracious favor; and further us with Your continual help that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in You we may glorify Your holy Jesus, our Lord.

### **The Ordination of Elders**

#### **The Presentation of Candidates Chair, Board of Examiners**

Chair: **The Reverend Dr. Robert A. Strode**  
Bishop Leath, I present to you these persons to be ordained Elders.

Bishop: Be sure that the persons whom you present are proper and fit, by their godly conversation, to carry out their ministry duly to the honor of God and the uplifting of the Church.

Chair: I have inquired concerning them, and also examined them, and think them so to be.

*(Names read aloud by the Chair)*

#### **ORDINAND**

*(Each candidate will step forward as each is called.)*

Bishop: Members of the Conference, the persons before you, we propose, God willing, this day to ordain an Elder; for after due examination we find not to the contrary, but that these persons are lawfully called to this office and ministry, and that they are persons proper for the same. But if any of you know any reason which will prevent them from being admitted to that office, let them come forth in the name of God and state the reason.

*(If any reason be offered, the Bishop shall cease from ordaining that person until such time as the party accused shall be found to be innocent.)*

*The Bishop shall then examine every one that is to be ordained Elder, in the presence of the people, in the following manner:*

**The Reverend Dr. Maxine L. Thomas:**

Have always, therefore, printed in your remembrance how great treasure is committed to your charge. For they are the sheep of Christ which he bought with his death, and for whom he shed his blood. The church and congregation, whom you must serve, are His Spouse, and His Body. And if it should happen the same church, or any member of it, do take any hurt or hindrance by reason of your negligence, you know the greatness of the fault, and also the horrible punishment that will follow. Wherefore consider within yourself (yourselves) the end of the ministry towards the Spouse and Body of Christ, and see that you never cease your labor, your care, and diligence until you have done all that lies in you, according to your bounden duty, to bring all committed to your charge to the agreement in the faith, and to the ripeness and perfectness of age in Christ, that there may be no place left among you, either for error in religion or for viciousness in life.

**The Reverend Sherry Green:**

You cannot have a mind and will on your own account to accomplish this, therefore, you need to pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit.

We have good hope that you have weighed and pondered these things with yourself long before this time; and that you have clearly determined by God's grace to give yourself to this of which it has pleased God to call you, so that as much as lies in you, you will apply yourself wholly to this one thing, and draw all your cares and studies this way, and that you will continually pray to God for the heavenly assistance of the Holy Spirit; that by daily reading and weighing of the Scripture you may wax riper and stronger in your ministry, and that you may so endeavor yourself, from time to time, to sanctify the lives of you and yours, and to order them after the rule and doctrine of Christ, that you may be a wholesome and goodly example and pattern for the people to follow.

**Bishop:** You have heard, of what dignity and of how great importance this office is, to which you are now called.

And now again we exhort you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you have in remembrance into how high a dignity and how weighty an office you are called; that is to say to be messengers, watchers, and stewards of the Lord; to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for his children who are in the midst of this evil world, that they may be saved through Christ forever.

That this present congregation of Christ here assembled may also understand your mind and will in these things, and that this your promise may the more move you to do your duties, you shall answer plainly to these things which we, in the name of God and God's church, shall demand of you concerning the same.

Do you think in your heart that you are truly called, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, to the order of Elder?

**Candidate:** I do so believe.

**Bishop:** Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain sufficiently all doctrines required of necessity for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? Are you determined, out of the said Scriptures, to instruct the people committed to your charge, and to teach nothing as required of necessity to salvation, but that which you shall be persuaded may be conducted and proved by Scripture?

**Candidate:** I am so persuaded, and am so determined by God's grace.

**Bishop:** Will you then give your faithful diligence always so to minister the doctrine and sacraments and discipline of Christ as the Lord hath commanded?

**Candidate:** I will do so, by the help of the Lord.

**Bishop:** Will you be ready with all faithful diligence always to banish and drive away all erroneous and strange doctrines contrary to God's word, and to use both public and private monitions and exhortations as well to the sick as to the whole within your charge as need shall require and occasion shall be given?

**Candidate:** I will, the Lord being my helper.

**Bishop:** Will you be diligent in prayer in the reading of the Holy Scriptures, and in such studies as help to the knowledge of the same, laying aside the study of the world and the flesh?

**Candidate:** I will endeavor so to do, the Lord being my helper.

**Bishop:** Will you be diligent to frame and fashion yourselves and your families according to the doctrine of Christ and to make both yourselves and them, as much as in you lies, wholesome examples and patterns to the flock of Christ?

**Candidate:** I shall apply myself, the Lord being my helper.

**Bishop:** Will you maintain and set forth, as much as lies in you, sweetness, peace, and love among all Christian people, and especially among them that are or shall be committed to your charge?

**Candidate:** I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

**Bishop:** Will you reverently obey your chief ministers unto whom is committed the charge and government over you, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions, submitting yourselves to their godly judgments?

**Candidate:** I will do so, the Lord being my helper.

*Then shall the Bishop say:*

**Bishop:** Almighty God, who has given you this will to do all these things, grant also unto you strength and power to

perform the same, that God may accomplish that work which God has begun, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

*After which shall be said by the Bishop  
(The persons to be ordained Elders all kneeling),*

### **THE VENI, CREATOR SPIRITUS (COME, CREATOR SPIRIT)**

Bishop: Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire

**Response: And lighten with celestial fire;**

Bishop: Thou the anointing Spirit art

**Response: Who doth thy sevenfold gifts impart**

Bishop: Thy blessed unction from above

**Response: Is comfort, light, and fire of love.**

Bishop: Enable with perpetual light

**Response: The dullness of our blinded sight;**

Bishop: Anoint and cheer our soiled face

**Response: With the abundance of thy grace.**

Bishop: Keep far our foes; give peace at home;

**Response: Where thou art guide, no ill can come.**

Bishop: Teach us to know the Father, Son,

**Response: And thee of both to be but one!**

Bishop: That through the ages all along

**Response: This may be our endless song:**

Bishop: Praise to thy eternal merit

**Response: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!**

### **Bishop Leath**

Let Us Pray.

Almighty God receive our praise as we worship you through Jesus Christ, who is our Lord, High Priest, Shepherd and Bishop of our soul. We thank you that Christ has poured out gifts abundantly on us, making some apostles, some prophets, some

evangelists, some pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up Christ's body, and to fulfill your purpose in the world. Thank you for these you have called to the same office and ministry.

We praise and worship You, and we ask that all who, either here or elsewhere, exercise ministry in your name, may show thankfulness for all Your benefits.

Give to these your servants the grace and power they need to serve you in this ministry. Make them faithful pastors, patient teachers, and wise counselors.

Enable them to serve without reproach, to proclaim the gospel of salvation, to administer the sacraments of the new covenant, and to offer with all your people spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*(After the prayer, the Bishop with seven Elders present, shall lay their hands severally upon the head of everyone that receives the order of elder, the receivers humbly kneeling upon their knees.)*

**Bishop:** The Lord pour upon you the Holy Spirit for the office and work of an elder in the Church of God, now committed to you by the imposition of our hands, and be a faithful dispenser of the Word of God and of His holy sacraments in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*(The Bishop shall deliver to every one of them, kneeling the Bible into their hands, saying:)*

Take authority to preach the word of God and to administer the holy sacraments in the congregation in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

## The Closing Collect (All Kneeling)

Bishop Leath

Most merciful God, we beseech You to send on these Your servants Your heavenly blessings that they may be clothed with righteousness and that the word spoken by their mouths may never be spoken in vain.

Grant, also, that your people may have grace to hear and receive what they shall deliver out of Your most holy word; or agreeably to the same, as the means of salvation; and that in all our words and deeds may seek the glory and the increase of Your kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## The Celebration of the Holy Communion

### The Passing of the Peace

Minister: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

### The Communion Hymn

*There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood* Hymn No. 255

*There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins; And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains. Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains; And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.*

*The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day; And there may I, though vile as he, wash all my sins away. Wash all my sins away, wash all my sins away; And there may I, though vile as he, wash all my sins away.*

*Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood shall never lose its power Till all the ransomed church of God be saved, to sin no more. Be saved, to sin no more, be saved, to sin no more; Till all the ransomed church of God be saved, to sin no more.*

*E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply, Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die. And shall be till I die, and shall be till I die;*

*Then in a nobler, sweeter song, I'll sing Thy power to save, When this poor lisping, stammering tongue lies silent in the grave. Lies silent in the grave, lies silent in the grave; When this poor lisping, stammering tongue lies silent in the grave.*

### **The Prayer of Consecration**

**Bishop Leath**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of your tender mercy did give your only son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, who made there by his oblation of himself, once offered, a full perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute and in his holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that his precious death until his coming again; hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech you, and grant that we receiving these your creatures of bread and wine, according to your son, our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who in the same night took bread, **(1) Here the Minister is to take a piece of bread into his hand**, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, **(2) the celebrant breaks the bread**, and gave it to his disciples saying, 'Take, eat this **(3) and here lay his hand upon all the bread**, is my body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me.' Likewise after supper he took the cup **(4) and here to lay his hands upon all vessels containing the wine**, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them saying, 'Drink all of it, for this is my blood for the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen'

The **body** of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you to preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

The **blood** of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you to preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful.

## **The Elements Shared**

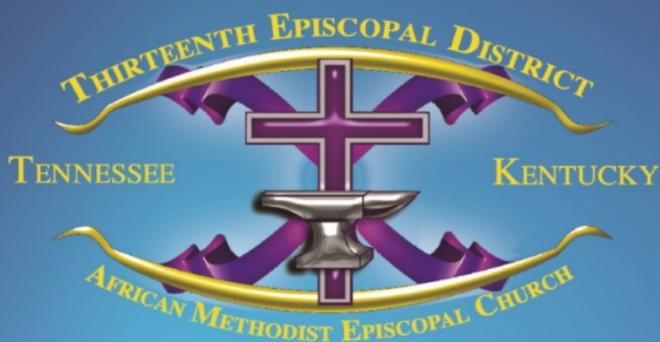
### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **The Benediction**

The peace of God which passes understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love God and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; and the blessings of God almighty the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

### **The Hymn of Fellowship and Celebration**





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