

**Resolution**  
**151<sup>st</sup> Session of the Tennessee Annual Conference**  
**13<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District**  
**African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
**October 21, 2018**

To: The Right Reverend Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath, Presiding Prelate of the 13<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, Dr. Susan Leath, Supervisor of Women’s Missionary Society, The Reverend Sidney Bryant, Host Presiding Elder of the South District, The Reverend Alexander Gatson, Associate Presiding Elder of the North District, The Reverend Troy Merritt, Associate Presiding Elder of the Nashville District, The Reverend Sharon Ogilvie, Host Pastor, Pastors, Clergy, delegates and members of the 151<sup>st</sup> Session of the Tennessee Annual Conference, visiting guests, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

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

**WHEREAS**, at 8:58 a.m., on Friday, October 19, 2018, the Right Reverend Jeffrey N. Leath, the Presiding Prelate of the 13<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District, convened the 151<sup>st</sup> Session of the Tennessee Annual Conference, hosted by Wayman Chapel AME Church, at Columbia State Community College in Columbia, Tennessee, and

**WHEREAS**, we have been blessed, revived, restored and challenged by the powerfully preached word during this annual conference. The Reverend Walter W. Reid, Jr., Pastor of Greater Bethel AME Church, Nashville, TN delivered a commanding opening worship sermon entitled “A Serious Preacher” from the text Jeremiah 20:7. The Reverend Anica Howard, Pastor of New Salem AME Church, Nashville, TN preached an equally weighty message, “Forgive Me Lord” from the text Matthew 6:12 during our Spiritual Renewal Service. The Reverend Roderick Dwayne Belin, President/Publisher of the AME Church Publishing House challenged us by asking, “Are You Willing to be Prophetic?” from the text, Isaiah 58:1-12 during our Ordination and Holy Communion Service; and

**WHEREAS**, on Saturday morning, October 20, 2018, the Young People’s Division (YPD), led by the more than capable TN Conference YPD President, Sister LaQuandrea Sweat, blessed us with a worship service centered on the theme: “Born to Lead; Called to Serve”. We were further inspired by the preached word of Brother Boyce Wilkins, Jr of Greater Bethel AME Church, Nashville. Using the text 1 Timothy 4:12, he pronounced to all, “Your Life Matters”.

**WHEREAS**, the following recommendations were made by various committees for implementation during the 2018-2019 conference year:

State of the Country recommended:

1. Develop a robust justice reinvestment program to reduce the number of people behind bars and address factors that drive incarceration.
2. Strengthen the enforcement of existing fair employment laws and clarify certain discrimination and harassment are illegal.
3. Establish education equity.
4. Expand health insurance coverage and access to health care for all state residents.
5. Modernize voter registration.

State of the Church recommended:

1. Assess the community needs where church is located.
2. Meeting needs of the people renews, revives and restores.
3. Continue to seek our brethren and love neighbors as ourselves.

Christian Stewardship recommended:

1. Know that Jesus is watching how we give alms to the poor and takes notice of what we contribute, whether we give liberally, sparingly, cheerfully, reluctantly or with ill will.
2. Give cheerfully, knowing that Jesus is watching and aware.

Social Action recommended:

1. Each AME Church coordinate to provide rides to voting locations during early voting.
2. Each AME Church encourage members to comment on the proposed TennCare waiver no later than October 26, 2018.
3. Each AME Church organize quarterly voter registration and verification drives in their communities.

Board of Examiners recommended:

1. Sister Margarette Ann Dashiell be admitted to the Tennessee Annual Conference, on trial and passed to First Year Studies.
2. Sister Tanya Mason be advanced to Second Year Studies.
3. Brother Corwin Malcolm Davis, Lee Chapel AME Church, be elected and ordained an Itinerant Deacon and advanced to Third Year Studies.
4. Brother John R. Cummings, Jr., Payne Chapel AME Church, be elected and ordained a Local Deacon and advanced to Third Year Studies.
5. Brother Jimmie L. Handley, Jr., Payne Chapel AME Church, be elected and ordained a Local Deacon and advanced to Third Year Studies.
6. Reverend Candace Charlene Perkins, Greater Bethel AME Church, Nashville, be elected and ordained an Itinerant Elder.

Committee on Health and Wellness recommended:

1. We continue to advocate for justice in the health care system.
2. We become active participants in our own health.
3. We educate ourselves regarding diet, exercise and understanding the health care system.

Media and Public Relations Committee recommended:

1. Designate at least one person to oversee the Media and Public Relations team for your local church.
2. Make sure you have a clear, concise message crafted to reach the intended audience, using the appropriate media source.
3. Keep messages short and simple.
4. Use the most skilled resources to get your message out.
5. Designate someone to read and proof messages.

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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we acknowledge and pay deepest respects to our fellow clergy of the TN Annual Conference that have joined the Church Triumphant – our brothers, The Reverend Victor

Goodman, The Reverend John W. DeLoatch, Jr., and The Reverend Dr. Donald Williams. Annual Conference was a little different this year, a little more somber without the ready, genuine, caring smiles of each of you and without the astute knowledge you each brought to the table. However, we are all blessed to have traveled just a small portion of the journey with you and are better persons because God allowed our paths to cross. Well done, God's good and faithful servants; take your rest; and

**BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED**, we applaud the work of the heart and hands of Wayman Chapel AME Church as they served with excellence throughout the course of the Annual Conference. No stone was left unturned and no request was left unfulfilled. Attention to minute detail was evident from beginning to end. The spirit of our dearly departed friend, brother, colleague and pastor, The Reverend Victor Goodman, was intertwined in every aspect as The Reverend Sharon Ogilvie, the members of Wayman Chapel and the community of Columbia area churches worked together to bring his vision to fruition.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that we, the members of the Tennessee Annual Conference are diligently working, striving and serving to continue the social justice and liberating faith tradition in which our African Methodist Episcopal denomination was established by Bishop Richard Allen and so many others as we seek to fulfill God's Will to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.

Humbly submitted by the Resolutions Committee,

The Reverend Sherri Cowley Scott, Chair  
The Reverend Paulette Woodard  
Sister Darlene Page  
Sister Cynthia Herron

The Reverend Ashley Cox  
Sister Erica Hughes  
Sister Audrey Rhodes  
Brother James Taylor