

**THE REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS**  
**To The 144<sup>th</sup> Session of the West Tennessee Annual Conference**  
**October 6, 2018**

To Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Thirteenth Episcopal District, Dr. Susan Leath, Supervisor of the Women's Missionary Society and Children's Work; To our Host Presiding Elder, Rev. C. Robert Finch and his partner in life and ministry, Sis Linda Finch and Associate Presiding Elder, Rev. Linda Faye Thomas-Martin; To the energetic, extroverted and eleemosynary Host Pastor, Rev. Walter Henry and the extraordinary people of St. James AME Church; To the General Officers, Connectional Officers, District Officers, Conference Branch Officers, Pastors, Ministers, Delegates and their spouses; and to all of "*God's People Pursuing Environmental Justice!*"

**WHEREAS**, the 144<sup>th</sup> session of the West Tennessee Annual Conference convened this week at St. James AME Church, under the leadership of our brevilouquent, brilliant and truly bodacious Episcopal team, Bishop Jeffrey Nathaniel Leath and Supervisor Dr. Susan Jones Leath, whose shoes were slayin' the house everyday! The theme resonated with a reminder for the assembled pastors, preachers, delegates, missionaries and laypersons to respect God's creation in our role as stewards of the rapidly restricted resources on this place we call Earth. Our response must be *Reduce, Reuse and Recycle*; and,

**WHEREAS** the pastors not only reported on the work of the church, but in the course of two minutes conveyed compelling testimony of community partnerships, community outreach, community cleanups and community impact through backpack giveaways, 25 new jobs, chopping wood, toys for tots, shoe giveaways and drive-up prayers. Sincerely sharing celebrations and struggles, some had been through the fire, while others had a mortgage set on fire! A heart-wrenching, heart-touching first pastoral report that couldn't be spoken because of medical issues had the even most cynical among us searching for a tissue as Bishop relayed an indubitable, indisputable account of a year of service. But the ultimate testimony of each pastor was... through it all, God showed up and God showed out; and,

**WHEREAS**, while the preached Word gave evidence of the interpretive process, presuppositions and a proficiency of the discerning the text. The preachers preached with authority and anointing, as the conference was challenged to acknowledge that our assignment is *Helping to Light the Way in The Spirit of Christian Missions*, because there is *Purpose in Our Pain*. But the resounding reassurance resonates within our spirits with the reply... just put the pedal to the medal, reach for the clutch and get ready for a shift because *I've Got Just What It Takes*; and,

**WHEREAS**, the business of the Conference could be characterized as expeditious, effective and unexpected, culminating in the creation of a new Presiding Elder District; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Conference was enlightened on the opioid epidemic, encouraged to emphasize voter registration *and* voter turnout and challenged to initiate an innovative book clubs for pregnant moms; and

**WHEREAS**, our youth blessed the house with their theme, "It's a God Move!" in their 55-minute celebration, declaration, proclamation, filled with participation, and an exclamation that *God Did it!* and;

**WHEREAS**, the Host Pastor and the Host Church, St. James AME Church hosted this Annual Conference with a spirit of conviviality, congeniality and culinary excellence, all worthy of commendation!

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we leave this Annual Conference acknowledging that the world is changing, our communities are changing and our churches are changing, compelling us creatively commit to respond to the crises in our congregations and in our country, yet confident that as the Conference Choir sang, *“Be not dismayed whatever betide, God will take care of you, beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you!”*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this 144th Annual Conference was about new possibilities and new potentialities; it was about transformational faith leading to a determination to not just to be hearers of The Word, but *doers* of The Word, declaring “It is no secret what God can do. What He’s done for others He’ll do for you!” Cause all my help comes from the Lord! And MY GOD NEVER FAILS!

Triumphantly Submitted,

**Your Committee on Resolutions**

Reverend Marilynn Sasportas Robinson, Chair

Reverend John Dandridge

Reverend Errol Thomas Jr. MD

Reverend Jerry Epperson

Reverend Coleen Gibson

Reverend Denise Richardson

Sister Beverly Terrell Goins

Sister Lavern Brooks

Brother Ardell Maddox