QUADRENNIAL REPORT
2012 - 2016
Fiftieth Quadrennial Session
General Conference
African Methodist Episcopal Church

July 6-July 13, 2016
Philadelphia Convention Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Backsmith Shop/Mother Bethel AME Church
USPS Black Heritage "Forever Stamp" "Liberty and Justice For All: Protecting the Right To Vote"

"Ministry Is What We Do; Social Activists Are Who We Are Called To Be"

COMMISSION ON SOCIAL ACTION

BISHOP REGINALD T. JACKSON, CHAIR,
MRS. JACQUELYN DUPONT-WALKER, DIRECTOR

COMPONENTS:
CONN-M-SWAWO + PK'S, Mrs. Lula Shaw Cleckley, President
Clergy Family Information Center, Mrs. Ora Easley, Administrator
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Thank You!!
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL ACTION 2012 - 2016

Chairperson
Bishop Reginald T. Jackson

Director
Mrs. Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker

President, CONN-M-SWAWO+PK’S
Mrs. Lula Shaw Cleckley

Clergy Family Information Center Administrator, Mrs. Ora L. Easley

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Ms. Ntombi Thula-19th
Rev. Noah Nyamaropa – 20th
Mr. Douglas Bynum – Member-At-Large
Bishops, Supervisors, General and Connectional Officers, Delegates, Alternates, Observers:
The Social Action Commission is pleased to make our report to this historic 50th Quadrennial
Session of the General Conference, convening in the City of Philadelphia, the birthplace of
African Methodism. The last four years have been a time of challenge and controversy, triumph
and tragedy, setback and opportunity. It has required the Social Action Commission to constantly
be aware, remain vigilant, effective in organization, to interact with willing partners and to call
upon African Methodism to respond to the call to action.

We thank God for what has been done in His name to promote His kingdom on earth. The
African Methodist Episcopal Church provided leadership across the nation in registering people
for the Affordable Care Act, working with others to seek reform of gun laws and reform of the
criminal justice system. Working with the Lay Organization, we have registered and turned out
voters in the 2012 national elections. We gathered together Black Methodist leadership and
raised the consciousness of the nation regarding racism in the United States. We joined with our
denominational leadership in rallying and organizing following the tragic shooting at Mother
Emanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina and we rejoiced as we were able to secure
approval and the unveiling of the Richard Allen Forever Stamp. It has been a busy, but productive
Quadrennium. It is important to note that our work was done without funding for the work of
social action from the connection. No funding has limited tremendously what we were able to
do, and much of our work had to come from our personal funds.

I want to thank the Connectional Director of Social Action, Mrs. Jackie DuPont Walker who has
done the incredible, making brick without straw. The connection is indebted to her. Great thanks
are also due to Mrs. Ora Easley for her extraordinary leadership of The Clergy Family Information
Center and Mrs. Lula Cleckley for her faithful and outstanding leadership of CONN-MSWAWO
(Connectional Ministers Spouses, Widows and Widowers Organization Plus PK’s).

Let me also thank the members of the Social Action Commission for your participation and
commitment to the work of social action. You have been wonderfully supportive. Also I want to
thank the bishops, ministers and all in our Zion who have responded to our calls and enabled us
to make a difference in promoting our Redeemer’s kingdom on earth.

Yours and His,

Reginald T. Jackson
Chairman
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL ACTION REPORT TO THE African Methodist Episcopal Church

In this last report of the 2012 – 2016 quadrennial, on behalf of the Social Action Commission of the General Board, we are humbled to report that we have engaged with you to carry out the mandate of the African Methodist Episcopal Church systematically and consistent with the legacy of being on the cutting edge of issues and concerns that threaten the lives of the people in the communities where we “do ministry” and to provide refuge and support for those who have stood for human rights and justice. What we predicted has been proven to be true - the African Methodist Episcopal Church has been called upon to speak truth to power more so than in recent decades.

We are deeply appreciative of your confidence in our recommendations and willingness to engage with us to put the “action” in social action. Thanks to the Council of Bishops, our supportive chairperson - Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, the presidents of the General Board - Bishops Jeffrey Leath, Franklin Norris and Julius McAllister, the members of the General Board, the members of the Social Action Commission, our colleagues in service as General and Connectional Officers in African Methodism, the outstanding members of the AME Church - both in ordained and lay ministry, and our partners in interfaith and community work. Any success or movement toward the goals of this commission are directly related to the support, advice, and responsiveness of the Council of Bishops’ presidents, senior bishop – Bishop John R. Bryant, and our SAC commission chairperson – Bishop Reginald T. Jackson.

We are especially grateful for the linkages in the ecumenical and interfaith circles for effective networking, resource sharing, and advocacy partnership. In this report of our stewardship you will find evidence of interfaith partnerships, civic engagement, policy advocacy (legislative & administrative), support for voter education and mobilization, and provocative steps to prevent the further deterioration of the quality of life for all people. “Making bricks without straws” was not our choice, but given the circumstances, it became our calling. You rose to the occasion again and again – and for that witness of “connectionalism” there is gratitude.

Please prepare to go the next mile with the Social Action Commission. Our voices at the tables of critical decision making have made a significant difference, and we need your continued vigilance for the battles are not yet won. In fact, the next 12 months are crucial to stave off the movement to “turn back the clock” of human rights worldwide. More importantly in this nation, we are called to face the issue of race that has painfully come face-to-face with as a terrorist took the lives of 9 members of African Methodism at Mother Emanuel just a few days ago.

While we rejoice in the US Supreme Court decision that protects the gains in healthcare reform, other protections are being eroded and we must do something. Finally, our focus must embrace the global nature of our Zion.

The Social Action Commission is poised to engage with you and on behalf of our Zion. The structure is in place. The mission is clear. It is our calling! Caution and hesitancy when decisions are being made that will impact the basic quality of life will not signal that we understand and/or embrace our legacy of being the voice for the voiceless. Thus it must be our legacy to reverse the negative trends.

Across the globe, the urgency is apparent and the opportunities for a robust witness await us. Failure to be proactive and focused on prevention will leave our membership and people of limited means despondent about improving their circumstances. That is not the message of “hope” that Christ gave us to carry to the world.

We thank you in advance for what you will do. We reflect upon what you have done. And we lock arms as we embrace “A great past, a greater future, and an incredible call to serve”. In this upcoming quadrennial, we move out building upon the strong influence and rich inheritance which can only lead us to act with “integrity” in all things so that “those who oppose (us) may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.” (Paraphrased from Titus 2:7)

Thanks and be well!!

SISTah “Jackie”
Whereas Jesus commands us to “…love one another” (John 13:34) and God has given us responsibility to care for His good creation (Genesis 1:28, Genesis 2:15).

Whereas, the burning of fossil fuels is polluting our air and waters, warming the planet and putting our seasons out of balance with uncertain weather, extreme heat and freezing cold.

Whereas, of the millions of Americans who live close to polluting coal plants, 39 percent are low income communities and communities of color that are most impacted but not fairly represented in the decision-making processes that would lead to a clean, healthy, and prosperous environment; while we all deserve the health and economic benefits of the clean energy economy;

Whereas climate change puts the health of children, elderly, and those with chronic illnesses like asthma at greater risk and disproportionately impacts African Americans, especially Black children who are twice as likely as white children to be hospitalized and four times as likely to die from asthma.¹

Whereas, our faithful in Africa are the most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change including floods, droughts, increased spread of infectious diseases, and changing weather patterns that challenge their ability to provide food and livelihood for millions of Africans.²

Whereas, our faithful in the Caribbean are especially vulnerable to more extreme storms and rising sea levels in a warming world, and these conditions especially impact the rural and urban poor, many of whom live along the coasts or in informal settlements in high risk areas like flood plains and steep slopes (in Haiti 70% of the people live in informal settlements);³

Whereas our rural communities face particular obstacles in responding to climate change including physical isolation, limited economic diversity and higher poverty rates combined with an aging population that increase their vulnerability.⁴

Therefore, we stand together with many other leaders of faith who are calling for urgent action on climate change on behalf of the world’s poor and God’s creation, including Pope Francis (in *Laudato Si* and in historic addresses to the United Nations⁵ and U.S. Congress⁶), Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew⁷, and the Lausanne Movement’s⁸ Cape Town Commitment,⁹ which was affirmed by the World Evangelical Alliance¹⁰).

We can move away from the dirty fuels that make us sick and shift toward safe, clean energy like wind and solar that help make every breath our neighbors and families take a healthy one, create new jobs that can’t be outsourced, help protect the least among us and preserve what God bestowed.

Therefore, we will:

Urge our leaders, ministries, congregations, laity and members of the AME church to engage with their communities and elected officials to support the historic 2015 Paris Climate Agreement wherein 195 nations agreed to reduce global carbon emissions by 80%, limit temperature increases to 4 degrees F, provide $100 billion in support to developing countries¹¹; and support the national, state and local plans and policies that will be needed to make this commitment a reality;
Take action and promote solutions that will help our families and communities save money by making our congregations, homes, buildings, and transportation more energy efficient and that reduce the pollution that is damaging our climate;

Help build stronger communities that protect us from the harmful impacts of damage to our climate that we are already experiencing so that we and our children can live our best lives;

Commit to becoming climate literate as leaders and individuals; build awareness and support for climate solutions by inspiring and empowering our congregations and congregants with actionable information, powerful engagement tools and best practice resources including sermons, worship materials, articles and church discussions; and join and support the Blessed Tomorrow program as a resource and a means of sharing our work and witness with others.12

Endnotes

(Endnotes)

1 National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Asthma Facts, Site last Updated April 11, 2014
5 UN Live Web TV, September 25, 2015 Address By His Holiness Pope Francis - General Assembly: 3rd Plenary Meeting, 70th Session
7 Message by His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew to The Interfaith Summit on Climate Change, Organised by the United Nations, in Association with the World Council of Churches and Religions for Peace, New York September 21-22, 2014
8 https://www.lausanne.org/about-the-movement
9 The Lausanne Movement, October 1, 2010: The Cape Town Commitment, The Third Lausanne Conference on World Evangelization, p. 31. Christianity Today called this gathering the most representative gathering of Christian leaders in the 2,000 year history of the Christian movement. From p. 31 of the Commitment:

“We encourage Christians worldwide to:
a. Adopt lifestyles that renounce habits of consumption that are destructive or polluting;
b. Exert legitimate means to persuade governments to put moral imperatives above political expediency on issues of environmental destruction and potential climate change;
c. Recognize and encourage the missional calling both of (i) Christians who engage in the proper use of the earth’s resources for human need and welfare through agriculture, industry and medicine, and (ii) Christians who engage in the protection and restoration of the earth’s habitats and species through conservation and advocacy. Both share the same goal for both serve the same Creator, Provider and Redeemer.”
10 World Evangelical Alliance, January 28, 2011; The WEA Fully Supports the Cape Town Commitment
11 European Commission, Paris Agreement
12 See blessedtomorrow.org for resources and to join.
RESOLUTION: Support For Racial Impact Legislation

Preamble
The 49th Session of the General Conference, in 2012, adopted a resolution regarding a Connectional response to the wicked institution of mass incarceration. Over the past four years, clergy and laity have worked tirelessly to fight racial disparities and abuse in the criminal justice system. From the streets of Ferguson, Missouri to the uprisings in Baltimore, Maryland, the African Methodist Episcopal Church has been on the frontline of the fight for justice. Our congregations have become welcoming places for citizens returning home from incarceration and bastions of support for young people fighting for their lives. The dark state of affairs is that our work is not ending, but it is only beginning. The national conversation on criminal justice reform reflects the reality that legislation and policing policies disproportionately harm communities of color. We are compelled to urge that the 50th session of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in session in July 2016 prayerfully adopt the following:

Whereas, African Americans were unjustly targeted by the War on Drugs, harsh crack versus powder cocaine laws, drug-free school zones, mandatory minimums, stop and frisk practices; and

Whereas, studies show that whites often have a skewed racial perception of crime which contributes to harsh and biased criminal justice policy and practice; and

Whereas, there is no vetting process mandated to evaluate, discuss and debate the potential racial disparities in proposed legislation before adoption, as it is harder to reverse sentencing policies and police practices once implemented, and

Whereas, we sit at the seat of a 200 plus year legacy of fighting racial injustice through the genius of our Connection and have committed ourselves to reclaim our heritage, speak truth to power, and reconcile Christ to the world, by preaching the gospel and proclaiming liberty to the captives; Therefore

Be it Resolved that we the members of the Social Action Commission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church recommend that in accordance to our legacy the African Methodist Episcopal church be at the forefront of a nationwide campaign to fight for racial impact statement legislation on both the state and federal level to create a litmus test that would reject proposed laws that would unjustly target people of color.

Submitted this fifth day of May in the year two thousand and sixteen in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania by the Commission on Social Action of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Chair
Mrs. Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Director
Rev. Charles F. Boyer, Coordinator of the Covenant Project to Eradicate Mass Incarceration

INITIATIVE TO ERADICATE MASS INCARCERATION

The 2012 General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church provided the Commission on Social Action with a Mandate to collaborate with Payne and Turner Theological Seminaries to address the ills of Mass Incarceration. Rev. Charles Boyer of Payne Seminary served as an Advocate to engage with, stimulate action, and testify with other faith and community partners on a similar mission. SAC Director Dupont-Walker continued as collaborator with Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition1 and opened the agenda to highlight the ministry opportunities in addressing Re-entry.

This mass imprisonment of human beings is both a moral failure and an economic one – especially at a time when more and more Americans are struggling to make ends meet and when state governments confront enormous fiscal crises. AME scholars from two of the Church’s seminaries wrote and presented their concept paper which is now being shaped for implementation.

Much of the work of translating best practices into implementation strategies included:

- Offered Testimony at Sen. Dick Durbin’s Hearing on Solitary Confinement
- Offered Testimony regarding Sen. Lesniak’s bill on Solitary Confinement in New Jersey and have also been part of the crafting of the legislation
- Worked with Faith in Action on multiple issues recently connecting members of the New York Annual Conference with issues around mandatory minimums and meeting with Senator Schumer for his support
- Working with Sen Corey Booker on Town Hall meetings across NJ to gain support for the REDEEM Act and Smarter Sentencing Act

**GUN VIOLENCE**

SAC worked in partnership with “Faiths United Against Gun Violence” to enact laws that will require background checks, ban/control access to assault weapons, and change the culture of this nation with regard to guns. This group has been instrumental in its work with the Brady Foundation and moving several legislators to consider gun control. The massacre of the Emanuel 9 gave the SAC new incentive to push harder.

The commitment of A &E TV to Shine A light on Racism tied directly to the issue of gun violence.

As a follow-up to its Resolution, dated February 2013, the AME Episcopal Supervisors Council invited the Commission on Social Action to partner as they launched a campaign with the Women’s Missionary Society in January, 2016. The kick-off widely covered by Fox committed focus, resources, and energy into the passage of gun safety laws and measure. Each local group is charted to identify weapons and help parents and guardians to teach and model problem solving without weapons (guns). **CALL TO ACTION – Wear Orange Day – June 2nd.**

**RACISM**

June 17, 2015 brought worldwide attention to the festering sore of “racism” in the USA. 9 innocent lives were taken while nine AMEs studies the bible at Mother Emanuel in Charleston, South Carolina. A&E Networks in partnership with renowned artists John Legend and Pharrell Williams were joined by other artists of good will to produce: **Shining A Light - Conversations on Race In America**. Out that that effort funds were raised to be administered by United Way. A proposal was submitted on behalf of Mother Emanuel to erect a memorial to the Emanuel 9 and funding in the amount of $50,000 was received toward that effort.

The massacre of the Emanuel 9 opened the door for candid discussions about race and action planning with Black Methodists taking the lead. The AME, AMEZ and CME Churches also combined their efforts, inviting other faith groups to explore the contemporary message to the church given the Emanuel 9 killings. On September 1, 2015, over 1,500 people gathered from across the nation for worship at John Wesley AMEZ Church, Washington, DC and 120 of them gathered the next day for a Press Conference and Leader Conversation and Covenant to End Racism. Dialogue is continuing about next steps.

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2 Conversations were convened in separate cities and culminated with a concert at The Shrine in Los Angeles. Conversations were led by Alicia Keys in Baltimore, John Legend in Ferguson, and Pharrell Williams in Charleston.
The AME Church – Social Action Commission was able to work collaboratively with Enroll America to initiate teleconferences, webinars, generate eblasts and touch thousands of leaders in our church. The more than 1,000 leaders who joined in the outreach and education as well as enrollment sponsored more than 5,000 events from remote rural areas to large urban centers. E-blasts encouraged and escalated action as the deadline approached. Local organizations, businesses and other faith bodies/groups created a network of advocates that surpassed that of any other historic Black denomination leading to Director of Social Action being invited to join on the finale call with President Obama to tell the AME Story.

Sequestration
Concentration in 4 target states: Alabama (9th ED), Alaska (5th ED), Arkansas (12th ED), California (5th ED)

Statement on Government Shut-Down
October 8, 2013

The African Methodist Episcopal Church joins with the overwhelming majority of American citizens all across this country, in expressing both our disappointment and frustration with the shutdown of the United States government due to the failure of the Congress to pass a continuing budget bill funding government operations. More than our frustration and disappointment with the shutdown, is the attempt by a minority of members of the House of Representatives, to hold the President and the people of the United States, hostage to their demand that the president agree to withhold funding for the Affordable Healthcare Act for a year. The Affordable Healthcare Act was passed by both Houses of Congress, signed by the President and upheld by the United States Supreme Court, it is the law of the land. More than forty times Republican members of Congress have tried to defund the Healthcare Act. Enough Already! This attempt to blackmail and hold hostage the United States for their ideological obsession, is irresponsible and a violation of their oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States.

Fortunately, not all Republicans are supportive of this charade and manipulation of government. There are enough votes of Democrats and Republicans, to pass a “clean budget bill” if House Speaker John Boehner will allow the bill to be put up for a vote in the House of Representatives. Speaker Boehner insist that the President call and negotiate with him and other Congressional leaders on a continuing budget bill. President Obama has refused and we support his position. Funding for the Affordable Healthcare Act should not be subject to negotiations or “blackmail”, it is law and has nothing to do with the continuing budget bill. After the budget bill is approved, then the President has said he will and rightly so, negotiate regarding spending cuts to reduce the national debt. The Affordable Healthcare Act is the signature achievement of this President, and the effort of Tea Party Republicans not to fund it is nothing more than a cynical attempt to undo this historic achievement, and also to deny healthcare access to more than 50 million Americans, a large number of whom are African Americans. The United States, the wealthiest nation in the world, is the only industrialized nation in the world not to provide its citizens with healthcare. For more than seventy years Presidents have tried to achieve it, but only this President was able to get it done. We congratulate him and urge him to stand tall and strong against this effort to blackmail him and hold the country hostage.

We call upon House Speaker John Boehner to exercise courage and leadership and not allow “Tea Party” Republicans to hold him hostage. He should demonstrate leadership and post the budget bill for a vote. His failure to lead is causing hardship for hundreds of thousands of federal employees, threatening the
slow recovery of our economy, putting our national security at risk, impacting millions of Americans who rely on government for services, closing parks and monuments and embarrassing the image and stature of the United States around the world. We call upon Speaker Boehner to post the continuing budget bill for a vote so that negotiations can begin immediately to increase the nation’s debt ceiling so that the United States does not go into default for the first time in the nation’s history. This must be done by October 17th.

This is a moment that requires those elected to leadership positions to lead. President Obama is willing to negotiate, but he needs a partner. We call on Speaker Boehner to rise to the moment and join him. The nation is watching and waiting.

2014
Freedom Sunday (Mid-Term Elections)
The General Board in session June, 2014 with concurrence by the Council of Bishops declared that the African Methodist Episcopal Church would kick off the Mid-term voter mobilization season with a “Let’s Get Out the Vote” Initiative. Within days, the Social Action Commission was invited to join a coalition of national denominations about the Mid-term elections and projected low voter turnout in the communities where many of our churches provide ministry and service. Working together is always our preference, so we offer to you the opportunity to join the combined efforts of churches across the US who will remember Freedom Summer 50 years ago and the AME Church’s kick off, both on Sunday September 21, 2014. We have contributed to the Freedom Sunday Toolkit and updated the AME 2014 V-Alert Guide for your use. The Freedom Sunday Toolkit represents the combined support and engagement of the following individuals and organizations:

**Individual &Organizational Contributors**
- Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, President, Skinner Leadership Institute and Co-Chair, National African-American Clergy Network
- Reverend Joshua DuBois, CEO, Values Partnerships
- Dr. Otis Moss, Jr, Chair, Faith Partnerships and Pastor Emeritus, Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, and Ms. Diana Jones-Wilson, Founder and President, Faith Partnerships
- Ms. Etoy Ridgnal, CEO, Community Advocacy Partners
- Sister “Jackie” Dupont-Walker, National Director, AME Social Action Commission
  - Bishop Vashti McKenzie, Presiding Bishop, AME, 10th District, TX

**Independent Faith Leaders**
- Dr. Otis Moss, III, Pastor, Trinity United Church of Christ, Chicago, Ill
- Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III, Pastor, Friendship-West Baptist Church, Dallas, TX; Chair, The Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference
- Dr. Cynthia Hale, Pastor, Ray of Hope Christian Church, Decatur, GA
- Dr. Amos Brown, Pastor, Third Baptist Church, San Francisco, CA

**Denominational Leaders**
- **African Methodist Episcopal Church** (Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Chair, Social Action Commission.
  - **African Methodist Episcopal Church Zion** (Bishop Seth Larney, President; Bishop George Battle, Presiding Bishop)
  - **Christian Methodist Episcopal Church** (Bishop Lawrence L. Reddick, III, Sr Bishop)
  - **Church of God In Christ** (Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., Presiding Bishop)
  - **Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International**, (Bishop Joseph W. Walker, III, Presiding Bishop-Elect)
  - **National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.** (Dr. Julius R. Scruggs, President)
  - **Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.** (Dr. Carroll Baltimore,
CALL TO ACTION Statement: Stand Your Ground

Last Saturday a jury in Jacksonville, Florida handed down a verdict in the case brought by the State of Florida against Michael Dunn who was accused in a five count indictment of murder in the first degree, three accounts of attempted second degree murder and one count of shooting at an occupied van. After almost 32 hours of deliberations the jury reached a verdict on four of the five charges, finding Dunn guilty on the three charges of attempted second degree murder and one count of shooting at an occupied vehicle. The jury said it could not reach a verdict on the first count, murder in the first degree. Jordon Davis, a seventeen year old black male died as a result of the shots fired by Michael Dunn. Jordon Davis would have turned nineteen on February 16th. Michael Dunn could serve at least sixty years in prison, a result of his conviction on the four counts, meaning he will spend the rest of his life in prison.

As much as we are pleased that Michael Dunn will spend the rest of his life in prison, the jury’s failure to reach a verdict on the first count, murder in the first degree should cause all of us concern and disappointment. Dunn says he shot Davis because he felt threatened. At a Jacksonville gas station, he asked the young men in the van to turn down their music and Davis threatened him verbally, and then he saw Davis with a gun, causing him to fire at Davis and the other young men in the vehicle. Police at the scene of the shooting found no gun, and Dunn’s girlfriend who was with him but in the store when the incident occurred says her boyfriend never mentioned Davis or any of the other males having a gun. Following the incident Dunn drove back to his hotel, ate pizza, walked his dog and drank rum and coke. He never called 911 to report what happened.

During the trial Dunn used Florida’s “stand your ground law” to justify him killing Davis and shooting at the other young men. What should alarm and disappoint us is that the jury’s failure to convict Dunn of first degree murder says that some of the juror’s felt Dunn was justified in killing Davis, despite the fact that no evidence was entered during the trial to corroborate his testimony. How can you convict him of wrongly shooting at the other three passengers, and find nothing wrong with him killing Jordon Davis? Failing to convict Dunn of killing Davis, says that Davis life didn’t matter and has less value than other lives. Jordon Davis lived and justice demands that someone has to be accountable for taking his life.

This lack of a verdict also requires that action be taken to change “stand your ground laws.” These laws are causing some people to act irresponsibly and feel they can shoot people without having to show or explain why. It is particularly alarming and cries out for action because of its impact regarding shooting of black males. The shooting of Trayvon Martin’s and Jordon Davis’s are becoming too familiar and these shootings are not coincidental. “Stand your ground laws” require us to do more than be disappointed, angry, grieve and pass resolutions. It requires us to act.

But what can we do. The Social Action Commission recommends the following action:

1. There are twenty four (24) states that have some kind of “stand your ground law.” The Episcopal Districts or Annual Conferences that have these laws should seek to schedule a meeting with governors and state legislators to discuss changes or repealing these laws. Meetings should be held with lawyers, legislators, law enforcement and others to prepare recommended changes so that when meetings are held we have something substantive to put on the table.

We must be insistent on meeting with the governors and state legislators, they are the decision makers and we are their constituents. It would be wise to expand the group to include other denominations to join us. Additionally, it would be wise to inform the press of our efforts to meet with political leaders
2. Of the twenty four (24) states with “stand your ground laws”, fourteen (14) have gubernatorial elections this November. We must make the “stand your ground law” an issue in these elections. The candidates will not make it an issue, we must make it an issue. At campaign events we must raise it with the candidates, at debates we must ask reporters and moderators to raise questions about “stand your ground”, in our churches and community meetings we must talk about “stand your ground.” If “stand your ground” is not an issue in these elections, it will be because we didn’t make it an issue.

The Social Action Commission stands ready to assist any Episcopal District or Annual Conference to act on this issue. Again, we have lost another unarmed young black male to “stand your ground” and again the person who shot them has not been found guilty for taking their lives. It is time for us to act!

Newly Elected NAACP President – Cornell Brooks

We congratulate, The Rev. Cornell Brooks, Esquire, an Itinerant Elder in the AME Church, upon his election as the National President of the NAACP and ask all of us to lift him in prayer as he assumes leadership of the nation’s oldest civil rights organization.

Support for “My Brother’s Keeper” Initiative

ALERT! SURVEY OF AME MENTORING STORIES

“My Brother’s Keeper” is a new initiative begun by President Barack Obama to bring together the best resources and information about mentoring programs to address the needs of boys of color in this country. Many of you have been doing this over the years, without being linked or having funding to move the programs to the next level of operation. Too many of your stories have not been shared with the larger community of those who care and want to assist.

“My Brother’s Keeper” is looking for good examples of “What is being done”. You are urged to participate in any Listening Sessions that may come to your area that are being organized by the White House and foundations.

In the meantime, the Social Action Commission is a part of the National Conversation with other faith groups seeking the gather information about the work in our local churches, organizations, components, etc. This is a good opportunity to tell your story.

Please take the time to share information about the mentoring programs that you are operating or just happen to be aware of in AME Churches. Include those that pair mentor and mentee directly—one-on-one, group, or peer mentoring services for at-risk and underserved youth populations (up to age 17). Tell how the program has helped to provide wholesome activities and environments for young men who had no choices or few options, encouraged young men to remain in school and achieve in extra-curricula endeavors, supported young men returning from juvenile detention or surviving without family support, engaged in addressing any problem/behavior that underserved young men often face without resources to resolve the issues. Share what you have achieved. Tell us what you need.

It is our goal to compile this information and submit it to help find ways to support your work with resources, funding opportunities, and connections to networks. Please provide the following information by May 19, 2014. If you have any questions, please contact our Director at jdupontw@aol.com or 213-494-9493. We look forward to hearing from you.

Name of the Program/Project: Address, Phone #, Email: Sponsor/Founder:

3 States with “stand your ground laws” with gubernatorial elections this November: Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas
The African Methodist Episcopal Church joins with citizens across the United States and around the world in condemning the unjust and merciless shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed 18 year old African-American teenager in Ferguson, Missouri on August 9th by a local police officer. We extend our sympathy, prayers and support to the Brown Family and the residents of Ferguson, Missouri as they bear this tragedy and bid farewell to a son, family member, friend and loved one. But we can and must do more.

As pained, hurt and outraged as we are over the shooting of Michael Brown, the national outrage about what happened in Ferguson, Missouri is about more than Michael Brown; it is about what is happening to Black males all across the United States. This young Black man joins a long list of unarmed Black males shot by police - our law officers sworn to protect us. News outlets report the killing of three other Black men by police within the last month. Eric Garner (age 43) was strangled in Staten Island, NY on July 17th. John Crawford (age 22) was gunned down in Beavercreek, Ohio on August 5th. Ezell Ford (age 25) was shot and killed in Los Angeles, CA on August 11th. There may be others now known only to local communities and/or those who acted under the guise of “standing their ground” which has resulted in taking the lives of young Black males.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church speaks out because this list of fatalities must end. We cannot and will not allow it to continue to grow. Law enforcement and those who claim to act within the bounds of the law, must be brought to justice for unjustly taking the lives of our sons, brothers, husbands, and fathers. Over at least the last decade, it has happened far too often. Black males of all ages have been shot and killed, while unarmed. There have been too many Mothers burying their young, spouses left alone, children left without a father, and too many communities left with too few men. The African Methodist Episcopal Church, the first protestant denomination formed on American soil, speaks out because the issue at hand is about a system of modern day injustice, mass incarceration, and ultimately disenfranchisement of a group that has born the brunt of systematic discrimination in the 227 year history of this country.

The pattern of justifying “the shoot” after the fact played out again on yesterday as the Ferguson Police chief was not satisfied that a life had been taken, but sought the ultimate “kill” with an effort to destroy the character and reputation of the deceased. In other words make the victim, the villain. Ferguson Police yesterday said that Michael Brown robbed a store in town of some cigarettes before being stopped by police and killed. The attempt is to make people see Michael Brown as the villain, and the police officer as protecting the people when in fact this is only an allegation, and the police chief himself later said, what happened to Michael Brown had nothing to do with the robbery. The suspicious “six day later claim” made by the police does not change the fact that police for no reason at all, stopped Michael Brown and killed him.
The African Methodist Episcopal Church demands justice in the Ferguson, Missouri matter. We refuse to let this be “another whitewash”, another cover-up, another instance where those in law enforcement do not face justice. This will not be another time when after a few weeks, we go back to business as usual. We also demand justice on behalf of our other brothers who also were unarmed and unjustly killed, including Treyvon Martin, Eric Garner, John Crawford, and Ezell Ford. We call upon the Department of Justice and the FBI to insist that justice prevails by supplementing the investigations of state and local officials in Missouri, New York, Ohio, and California. If necessary, we urge separate investigations to protect the civil rights of these American citizens whose human rights are being violated.

In the next twelve months, it is also appropriate and necessary that law enforcement at every level - local, state and federal have training in key areas – community relations, military equipment deployment, crisis management, etc. More importantly, the role of law enforcement in understanding the American values that are a valuable part our multi-cultural base calls for cultural sensitivity training, diverse police forces (racial, gender, age, language, ability, etc.). Accountability can also be insured if we install cameras on police vehicles, in jails/prisons, and work to insure just sentencing in our courts.

While we demand and end to the killing of unarmed Black men and boys by police force, we also recognize our own responsibility to end the senseless and tragic killing of blacks by blacks. One does not excuse the other. Parents, churches, schools and communities must do our part and share responsibility to end these unnecessary deaths. The African Methodist Episcopal Church commits to do our part to be our brothers’ keeper.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church will continue to work in partnership with the other faith, civil rights, and human rights groups who are consistently and valiantly attacking these issues in the legislative, judicial, and administrative arenas. Together, we call upon the United States to practice the social justice and human rights principles that we demand of other nations – here at home. Today, we not only ask, but we challenge our democracy to require justice for Michael Brown and his many other brothers, who died unarmed, needlessly and tragically at the hands of law enforcement.

National March against Police Violence

NAN convened this in Washington, DC Dec 2014. Rev. Christopher asked us to send out information and we did.

Voting Rights Act

Reaffirm the right to vote is the order of the day. Maximizing voter turnout is the new civil rights imperative. Restoration of the Voting Rights Act with enforcement protections is an emergency.

We applaud courts in Wisconsin and Ohio, which have ruled unconstitutional, legislation which seeks to suppress votes of minorities, and urge courts in other states which have passed voter suppression measures to likewise rule them unconstitutional. We also call upon Congress to pass the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014. Networking with AAMLC and NAACP Legal Defence Fund in advocating with Congress. We joined in solidarity outside the US Supreme Court and AME Sherolyn Ifill defended our position.
2015
Liberty and Justice for All
We are called for such a time as this, to stand talk and speak about and confront the evils of racism that are played out in every area of American life - in the criminal justice system, economy, education, and government.

If the United States is going to live up to the words of its Pledge of Allegiance, “one nation under God with liberty and justice for all”, it is imperative and mandatory that the nation’s political leadership and its citizens act to correct anything that prohibits or restricts us from being “one nation under God with liberty and justice” for all Americans. The faith community is determined and committed to motivate and move our political leadership and citizens to take corrective action to destroy the evil of racism and the negative consequences of race that deny liberty, justice and opportunity for all of our citizens.

Enclosed is not an exhaustive, but an important list of actions that we call upon the Obama Administration, the Congress, governors and state legislatures to act upon. We not only call upon them to take action, but we will meet with them to persuade, influence and if necessary pressure them to act.

(List areas for action focus)

Colored Convention Project

A member of Bryant Temple AME Church in Los Angeles made an appeal to her church. It follows:

The Colored Conventions Project - University of Delaware
Come help us transcribe the minutes of the Colored Conventions!
During the 19th century, African Americans sent thousands of delegates to conventions they held across the U.S. and Canada. They organized to fight for political, labor, social and educational equality. Yet records of these gatherings have been all but forgotten. The Colored Conventions Project presents them online together for the first time.

Records from the more than 65 conventions are hard to search and share. We are asking people to help us correct transcriptions to create a full and searchable edition of colored convention minutes. When completed, students and researchers can learn about this rich chapter in our history as never before.

The Colored Conventions Project at the University of Delaware is delighted to announce today's launch of a crowdsourcing project, Transcribe Minutes. This project invites people to visit ColoredConventions.org to transcribe records of the nineteenth-century African American convention movement. Transcribe Minutes is now featuring a special section dedicated to the conventions hosted at African Methodist Episcopal churches.

The movement began in 1830 in response to the violence and expulsion faced by Blacks in the “free” states. First held at Philadelphia’s Bethel A.M.E. Church, conventions soon spread across North America. “African American leaders and lay people organized for decades to fight against educational inequities, voting and political disenfranchisement as well as job and labor discrimination,” says P. Gabrielle Foreman, faculty director of the Colored Conventions Project and Ned B. Allen Professor of English and Black Studies. “As critical as the anti-slavery movement was, their broader vision continues to speak to this country’s ongoing racial challenges.”

The Colored Conventions Project is an interdisciplinary digital humanities project that aims to bring the history of the convention movement—and the many leaders and places involved in it—to digital life. “Transcribe Minutes uses crowd-sourcing technologies to promote online access to these historical records,” says Jim Casey, project co-coordinator and a Ph.D. candidate in UD’s English department.
“These technologies open up new possibilities for our research and teaching beyond college classrooms.”

ColoredConventions.org houses the first digital collection of these minutes, many of which were previously out of print and hard to find. It features more than 65 national and state minutes from 1830 to well beyond the Civil War—with more being uncovered and added regularly. “Attention to African American experience in the nineteenth century is usually focused on the efforts of Northern white abolitionists to end the ‘peculiar institution’ of slavery,” says Carol A. Rudisell, UD Reference and Instructional Services librarian. “Having accurate, searchable texts should significantly change our understanding of this important period.” Transcribing and making these records more usable requires collective efforts. Volunteers will help give new life to a vital chapter of American history.

“The more people involved, the more we can preserve and call attention to one of the major ignored chapters of American history,” says Curtis Smalls, a Special Collections librarian and member of CCP. The project is an exciting collaboration between faculty, students and librarians,” he continues. “The Colored Convention Project is important for its method as well as its results,” says John Ernest, Chair of the English Department at UD. “It’s an inspiring and instructive model of collaborative research,” Ernest adds. “This is a historical recovery project that will teach us volumes about African American communities of the past while strengthening numerous and diverse communities in the present.”

Loretta Lynch Hearings and Confirmation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE & ACTION March 18, 2015

In November 2014, we rejoiced when President Obama announced the nomination of Loretta Lynch as the next Attorney General of the United States of America, as head of the Justice Department. She would be the first African-American woman and only the second African American to serve that post in a nation where African Americans are yet struggling to protect basic rights and racial justice. “Today, we are ‘on hold’ in the year after – in fact, more than four months after Loretta Lynch was nominated to serve as the next Attorney General of the United States of America, because the confirmation system is broken and leadership has failed the American people. This unjustifiable act represents the longest stalemate in the last 30 years,” stated Senior Bishop John R. Bryant.

Once confirmed, Ms. Lynch becomes the top litigator in this nation. This is an honor for any person, but especially so for this accomplished lawyer whose track record of interpreting the laws of this country in the spirit and letter of the law.”Her impeccable academic and professional credentials, as well as her track record in enforcing federal laws – civil and criminal, has led to widespread praise and, more importantly, attests to the familiarity with the department she would lead as Attorney General,” said Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, President of the Council of Bishops.

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, chair of the Social Action Commission continues, “Loretta Lynch, when confirmed would represent the best our nation can offer. She is a symbol of achievement and a testimony for those who struggle to achieve inspite of circumstances that would define their opportunities as extremely limited. Ms. Lynch can inspire our young people by sharing her mother’s declaration that she picked cotton so that her daughter would have to do the same.”

How ironic it is, that the confirmation process, is being used at this moment in history to deny the basic rights of the residents of this country. It does so by delaying and abusing the procedure designed to review credentials and instead is brazenly using it for political leveraging on unrelated matters. It does so by failing to acknowledge the credentials of this candidate in relationship to the job. It does so by crippling the very essential work of the Justice Dept. leaving significant work in limbo. It does so by failing to govern in the best traditions of democracy.
“The African Methodist Episcopal Church has a long and rich history of speaking for the people. We must not be silent now,” added Bishop Richard Norris, General Board Chair. Individually, we must express our outrage to the US Senate. Contacting the members via email, tweeting, texting, and USPS is important. Personal visits to their offices will convey the message that this matter is important. Let them know that further delay of the confirmation of Loretta Lynch is unacceptable.

“Collectively, we must urge and demand the highest moral standards of our leadership. On every Monday, let’s commit to contacting a US Senator to express the urgency to confirm Loretta Lynch. As we begin our voter education work, let’s groom our advocates and volunteers to link this legislative stalemate with the power of voters to decide who will be elected as Senators in 2016,” concludes Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, director of the Social Action Commission.

Other Major Actions

Women of Faith Call with First Lady Michelle Obama

• Black Voter Turnout in the 2014 Midterm Elections
• Freedom Sunday
• The AME Church Responds to the shooting Death of Michael Brown (Ferguson, Mo)
• The AME Church Responds to the death of Sandra Bland while in police custody
• ACA Enrollment

**Black Friday Campaign – March 25, 2015**
*(Wear black, Buy Black, Shop Black)*

The AME Church joined in the “Black Lives Matter” campaign and now moves to initiate the “Good Friday Campaign”. Other denominations joined in the BLM effort and people joined in this proclamation; it was interracial and international, with supporters in France, China and other countries joining us. “Black Lives Matter” made a major statement and got the attention of the nation. The “Black Friday Campaign” can do likewise. Just as AME’s added momentum to “Black Lives Matter”, we seek partners in observing “Black Friday Campaign”. This week at the Pan Methodist Commission meeting in Atlanta, all of the Methodist communions gave their support to this effort. Likewise, we urge those who supported “Black Lives Matter” will join the “Black Friday Campaign.”

As a follow up to our “Black Lives Matter” effort, we call upon all of our churches and communities to join us on “Good Friday” in our “Black Friday Campaign.” **Beginning “Good Friday”, April 3rd to Memorial Day, Friday, May 25th each of us is called to wear black and buy black on Fridays.** What will be the outcome of this campaign?

1) We can demonstrate the **economic power of Blacks** in this country. If Blacks in the United States were a nation we would rank twelfth in the world in gross national product, with revenues over one trillion dollars. We would acquire financial discipline to be savers and not just consumers.

2) We would help to **recirculate our dollars**, supporting black businesses and causing money to stay in our community. Currently black dollars stay in our community two hours and is gone. In other communities money stays days before it leaves, creating jobs and strengthening those communities.
This Black Friday Campaign will also demonstrate that “Black Dollars” matter.

“Good Friday” will kick off this eight-week campaign. On Fridays, from 6AM to 6PM from Good Friday until Memorial Day, everyone is asked to “Fast”. This will help us spiritually to be stronger as we begin this initiative. On Fridays, everyone is also asked to wear black and also to buy from Black owned businesses.

For information regarding Black businesses in your communities, tell your congregants to go to the USBC (United States Black Chamber) App and they can see the black businesses in their communities. The local Black Chambers of Commerce and Merchant Association also provide directories and access information. Inform shoppers to tell the business owners that they are supporting the “Black Friday Campaign.”

This Sunday, Palm Sunday, as we begin “Holy Week”, every pastor is asked to announce the “Black Friday Campaign.” As reminders weekly, ask shoppers to spread the word and set calendar alarms. THEME: For next 8 weeks, Wear black, buy Black, shop Black!

We will make history and get the attention of the nation. More importantly, we will be empowered, spiritually and economically. For assistance and information, contact Bishop Reginald T. Jackson at reginaldtjackson@verizon.net. For additional information, contact jdupontw@aol.com.

ECO-America

This partnership describes a relationship between the African Methodist Episcopal Social Action Commission (AMESAC) and ecoAmerica, coordinator of the MomentUs initiative and the Blessed Tomorrow program for faith communities. The goal of the partnership is to build leadership for climate and sustainability solutions within AME congregations, leaders, members, and America overall. Vignettes and personal stories have been taped and will be aired over the next year. It tells a powerful story about our poor stewardship of the Planet Earth, and ways that we might help to restore its vibrancy and preserve life.

The Expectations Project

Since its formal incorporation in 1816, the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) has “lived the gospel outside its sanctuaries.” Its mission of ministering “to the social, spiritual, and physical development of all people,” is particularly realized in the education sector. Its commitment to prioritize social justice issues was clearly stated in the Episcopal Salutation, “That the AME Church must fully identify with the poor and the oppressed in their struggle for human dignity. That this participation in human development is not optional, nor is it an addendum to an already crowded agenda. It must be the very heart of the life and work of our Church”. It continues, “That African Methodism should cooperate and undergird other forces, institutions, organizations and coalitions of national and international origin for the purpose of bringing about economic and social justice for the oppressed of the earth. The involvement at this level should give visibility to the AME Church legacy which has underlined self-reliance, self-development, and self-identity, as visible instruments in the black struggle for survival and dignity”.

Today, local AME churches, primarily, operate early childhood centers, K through 12 schools, seven colleges and universities, and two theological seminaries. It is estimated that approximately, 7,000 to 10,000 students are served through the AMEC educational system daily. Because the AME affiliated K-12 independent and charter schools are operated by local churches and receive no funding from the Connectional or global church, a more precise number is not available. As a result, one of the purposes of the strategic plan is to document the extent of the involvement of the AMEC in K-12 education.

Building upon its two century plus active and continuous engagement in education at all levels,
the AMEC proposes to develop a strategic plan that utilizes the Church’s existing capital (including the building and other facilities of the denomination’s college and university complexes) and human resources to establish the tools and techniques for developing a pre-school/kindergarten through college or post-secondary education pipeline. This kindergarten through college or post-secondary education pipeline will be designed to accomplish the following:

- Inventory the extent of the AME denomination’s involvement in education with a special emphasis on K-12;
- Document best practices that contribute to the K-12 success rate of AMEC K-12 schools;
- Design a methodology for authenticating and replicating the AMEC schools’ success results;
- Train a cadre of education reform advocates (ERA) and change agents (CA) in selected states and local communities who will collaborate with similarly-focused organizations to reduce the disparities in educational outcomes for students of color and poor students in public schools.
- Equip the ERAs and CAs with the necessary skills and tools for advocacy, policy development, and legislative change in their respective communities and states.

The experience of educators in the AMEC supports The Expectation Project’s “difference makers” of early childhood education; high standards and expectations for students; effective teachers and leadership; and access to quality schools. The AMEC educators, based on their experiences also add parental involvement and community engagement to the list of “difference makers.” These principles will undergird much of the work emanating from the strategic plan.

To address educational equity, the AMEC will focus on states where there is an AMEC affiliated college or university and where the graduation rates of Black, non-Hispanic males falls below 50 percent. This focus does not mean that female students will not be included, but in geographical areas meeting these criteria, there is a critical need for improving graduation rates for male students of color. The four states meeting the specific criteria are Florida (Jacksonville) with Edward Waters College; Georgia (Atlanta) with Morris Brown College; Ohio (Wilberforce) with Wilberforce University; and South Carolina (Columbia) with Allen University. Two of the states, Georgia and Florida, include two counties, Richmond and Pinellas, respectively, with the lowest the performance for graduation rates of Black males, nationally.
Richard Allen Stamp (Black Heritage forever series)

The campaign by the AME Commission On Social Action that was begun in 2004, has culminated in the USPS designating Richard Allen as the subject for the Black Heritage series. After an initial drive to collect over 40,000 signatures, the SAC succeeded in adding other AME allies who were willing to tithe their time, talent and some resources to showcase this giant in history.

Thanks to all who signed and circulated the Petitions, to the Council of Bishops and General Board. Special gratitude is due to the Social Action Chairs – Bishops Carolyn Tyler Guidry and Reginald T. Jackson and especially Bishop Vinton R. Anderson whose lamenting about not having a stamp inspired this modern day drive. AMEs Vernon Jordan and Rodney Slater brought their resources to the effort including Dr. Skip Gates to help us complete this journey on time – before the 200th anniversary of the church’s organization.

February 2, 2016 – Unveiling at Mother Bethel, Philadelphia before some 1,500 in the sanctuary and tens of thousands worldwide.
In summary,
We thank God for what the African Methodist Episcopal Church has done, through the stewardship of the Commission On Social Action, including but not limited to:

- Educating and registering people for the Affordable Care Act
- Working with Faiths United Against Gun Violence & partnering with the AME Episcopal Supervisors to establish an initiative
- Collaborating with the Lay Organization, AAMLC & Freedom Sunday to register and turnout voters in 2012, 2014, and the upcoming 2016 national elections
- Gathering Black Methodist leadership to raise consciousness of the nation about racism in USA
- Continuing to help eliminate Mass Incarceration in the USA in partnership with alumni of Payne and Turner Theological Seminaries along with the Interfaith Criminal Justice Coalition
- Rallying with church leadership following the tragic shooting at Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina plus calling this nation to shine a light on race
- Exploring the role of the Black Church in insuring quality public education with The Expectations Project
- Bringing global Climate Change into focus in partnership with EcoAmerica
- Securing approval and the unveiling of the Richard Allen Forever Stamp

Responding with Alerts, Press Advisories, and Calls to Action when issues, and consciousness raising challenged our corporate faith walk.
50th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
July 6-13, 2016

THE CONNECTIONAL MINISTERS’ SPOUSES, WIDOWS AND WIDowers ORANIZATION PLUS P.K.’S OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISOPAL CHURCH

President’s Report

Mrs. Lula Shaw Cleckley, President
Connectional Ministers’ Spouses, Widows and Widowers Organization Plus PK’s
(Conn-M-SAWO Plus PK’s)

President’s Report

Bishop John R. Bryant, Senior Bishop; Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, President of the General Board; Bishop Gregory Gerald McKinley Ingram, Host Bishop, Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Chair of the Commission on Social Action; Bishops of the Church; Episcopal Supervisors; General and Connectional Officers; Mrs. Jackie DuPont Walker, Consultant/Director, Social Action Commission; College Presidents and Deans; Members of the General Board, General Conference Delegates, my Sisters and Brothers in African Methodism: Greetings.

The Connectional Ministers’ Spouses, Widows and Widowers Organization Plus PK’s is a network/support system for those families who serve the church in the preaching/pastoral ministry.

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (2Timothy, 1:7) It is with great honor that I give my very first report as President of this outstanding organization. Our year had been fruitful as we strived to strengthen the clergy family as we walk closer to God.

My tenure as the as President begun December 7, 2014, therefore the first year (2013) of this report occurred under the leadership of the immediate Past President, Fredia Hanley-Johnson. I thank Sister Fredia for making such a smooth transition so I was made to feel comfortable beginning my tenure as the new President of the Connectional Ministers’ Spouses, Widows and Widowers Organization Plus PK’s.

December, 2013 Executive Board Meeting and Leadership Planning Retreat

The Annual Executive Board Meeting and Leadership Planning Retreat was held December 6-8, 2013 in Wilmington, NC at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside. We were grateful to Bishop William P. DeVeaux, Supervisor Dr. Pam DeVeaux, Mrs. Suzette Williams, Episcopal President and the Second Episcopal District for such splendid hospitality.

This meeting produced the largest winter meeting registration (240 registrants) in the history of Conn-M-SAWO Plus PK’s. In attendance, there were 240 registrants, 3 active Bishops, 1 retired Bishop, 8 active Supervisors, 1 Retired Supervisor, 1 Founding President, 1 Retired Connectional SAC Consultant/Director and over 40 Clergy and guest. Before this cloud of witness, the election of officers was held under the directions of the Brunswick County, NC Board of Elections. The results are:

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<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Lula Cleckley (7th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Anita M.E. Brannon (12th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Vice-President</td>
<td>Juanita Duncombe (9th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>C. Ann Thomas (4th)</td>
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The persons above have been elected to serve a four-year term from 2013-2017.

On Saturday, December 7, 2013, “The Clergy Family Awards Ceremony and Empowerment Luncheon” was held. After a wonderful lunch, we were empowered to continue our journey with words of encouragement from Dr. PAM DeVoeux, Supervisor, 2nd Episcopal District. At the conclusion of the luncheon, the Installation of Officers Ceremony was held.

Immediately after the Installation of Officers Ceremony, the following awards were made:

**First Lady Contest**
- First Place: Mrs. Karen Luke (6th)
- Second Place: Mrs. Linda Davis (7th)
- Third Place: Mrs. Mildred Swint (10th)

**Attendance Award (Based on Total 2013 LPR Registrations)**
- First Place: 7th District (101)
- Second Place: 1st District (36)
- Third Place: 12th District (14)
- Trendsetter: 2nd District (14)

**Membership Award (Total Membership as of 6/1/13)**
- First Place: 1st District (120)
- Second Place: 7th District (118)
- Third Place: 11th District (75)

**2013 PK Scholarship Awards** – We are pleased to award the following scholarships this year:
- $2,500 Award: Ms. Breanna D. Williams (12th)
- $500 Book Award: Mr. Joel A. Cousin (5th)
- $500 Book Award: Ms. Ronnise D. Owens (6th)
- $500 Book Award: Ms. Jasmine O. Moore (8th)

On Saturday Evening, December 7, 2013, the Gala Dinner was held. Mrs. Birdie Boyd, 1st Vice President and her committee planned a Roast/Toast to honor the outgoing President, Fredia Hanley-Johnson. A great time was had by all.

On Sunday Morning, December 8, 2013, we worshipped with the Historic St. Stephen AME Church where the Rev. Wayne A Johnson, Sr. is the Pastor. Presiding Elders and Clergy present from across the Connection were invited to participate in the Service. Pastor Johnson delivered an inspiring message and the music ministry was awesome. At the close of Service, everyone was invited to tour this Historic Church, which hosted the 1896 General Conference of the AME Church and to have lunch in the fellowship hall prior to their departure for home.
January, 2014 – December, 2014

This new team of officers came aboard (2014) dedicated to continue to encourage and empower the clergy families globally. Distinctive forums and proficient advice was provided to create an appreciation and understanding of the unique role of the Minister’s spouse. A major thrust was put forth to implement new activities to address the needs and concerns of PK’s.

The goals are:

- **Continue to build clergy family unity across the connection.**
- **Provide a strong support ministry for our children.**
- **Enhance involvement of widows and widowers.**
- **Increase membership through creative activities.**
- **Provide resources and opportunities for clergy life enrichment.**

**Accomplishments**

**General Board and Council of Bishops, Nashville, Tennessee, June 23-24, 2014**

Our first meeting was held June 23, 2014, in Nashville, Tennessee at the 2014 General Board and Bishops Council Meeting. The meeting began with a PK Forum which allowed our young people to share their thoughts on selected topics and to gain significant knowledge to guide them in their daily living.

**The Clergy Family Awards Breakfast** was held June 24, 2015. We were grateful for the large attendance, including many of our Bishops, Supervisors, General Officers, clergy families and visitors. We were favored with a dynamic message by Dr. James Coaxum III, a PK, who grew up in the Seventh Episcopal District. Presently he is the Pastor of Saint James AME Church in the First Episcopal District, New Jersey Conference, Atlantic City District. Dr. Coaxum encouraged the clergy family to go out and make a difference in the world.

Several awards were given:

**First Lady / First Gentleman Contest Awards** – Funds generated from this contest will be used for PK Scholarship Awards, outreach programs and to supplement the administrative operations.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Place</td>
<td>Mrs. Sandra Conyers</td>
<td>7th Episcopal District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Place</td>
<td>Mrs. Tracey T. Lee</td>
<td>6th Episcopal District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Place</td>
<td>Mrs. Mildred Swint</td>
<td>10th Episcopal District</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PK Scholarship Awards**

**Scholarship - $2500**

Miss Mariah Hill 10th Episcopal District
Book Awards - $500
Miss Tiffany Gipson 12th Episcopal District
Mr. Jerry James 8th Episcopal District
Mr. Marvin Zanders 11th Episcopal District
Miss Roberta Benton 6th Episcopal District
Miss Shauna N. Hill 1st Episcopal District
Miss Ka’Bria McCrary 7th Episcopal District

Annual Membership Awards – Conn-M-SWAWO Plus PK’s operates from funds generated from the payment of the $25.00 annual membership dues. Our membership has grown to 754 members. Our goal is to invite and encourage all spouses, widows, widowers and PK’s to become a part of this ministry.

First Place 7th Episcopal District (144 members)
Second Place 1st Episcopal District (107 members)
Third Place 11th Episcopal District (95 members)

Attendance Awards
First Place 7th Episcopal District
Second Place 6th Episcopal District
Second Place 12th Episcopal District
Trendsetter 13th Episcopal District

December 2014, Executive Board Meeting and Leadership Planning Retreat

The annual Executive Board Meeting and Leadership Planning Retreat were held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, December 5-7, 2014. At this time, plans were developed to increase our use of the organization’s website. Each district prepared pertinent webinars to be added monthly to the website. These webinars included such topics related to: health issues, budget and finance, financial support for college students, good decision making, grieving assistance, domestic violence and etc.

The attendance for the retreat was phenomenal; two active Bishops, one Retired Bishop, four active Supervisors, one Retired Supervisor, WMS International President, our immediate past Conn-M-SWAWO Plus PK’s President, Mrs. Fredia Hanley-Johnson, Thirteen Episcopal Presidents, ten Founding and Charter members and 212 registered members. Our Founding President, Dr. Dorothy Owens and Reverend Owens were unable to attend due to illness. They were truly missed.

Our retreat provided much opportunity for learning, sharing and laughter. The Seventh Episcopal District greeted us on December 5, 2014, with a gracious welcome, southern hospitality and all the scrumptious food from the ocean.
Saturday morning, December 6, 2014, began with workshops and a visit with Michele Bowen, the author of *Church Folks* and *Pastor Needs a Boo*. She shared her novels which provided lots of laughter and fun. A panel consisting of Episcopal Supervisors, a widow, a retired spouse and a PK shared relevant information about our unique role as ministers’ spouses.

The Widows and Widowers Luncheon provided a time to show love for each other. A heartfelt ceremony was held and ten newly widows were presented medallions with our promise to never leave them alone.

On Saturday evening, December 6, 2014, Conn-M-SWAWO Plus PK’s held its Twenty Fifth Anniversary Gala and Celebration. The Founders, Charter members, our immediate past president, Fredia Hanley-Johnson, Commission Chair and our Episcopal Supervisors were recognized and presented gifts.

Early Sunday Morning, December 7, 2014, we attended our Closing Worship and Communion Service. Our preacher, Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Presiding Prelate of the Twentieth Episcopal District and Social Action Commission Chair, delivered a spirit filled message. Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District was Presiding Officer and Chief Celebrant. Music was provided by the Saint Paul AME Church, Little River, SC. We were well fed spiritually and ready for our trip home.

I was grateful for Reverend & Mrs. Johnathan Greene and the Saint Paul AME Church, Little River, South Carolina, Reverend & Mrs. Lovette and the Mount Olive AME Church, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for their assistance during our entire retreat. These pastors and their congregations made our retreat a smooth affair.

Special thanks were extended to our Host, Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, Supervisor Mary Ann Norris, Episcopal President Anna Keith and the entire Seventh Episcopal District.

Sincere thanks were extended to the Episcopal Supervisors of our church for working closely with the ministers’ spouses programs and activities. We could not have done it without them.

**January 2015 – March 31, 2016**

**General Board and Council of Bishops, New Orleans, Louisiana**  
**June 30 – July 1, 2015**

**Accomplishments**

As time moved forward, the Conn-M-SWAWO Plus PK’s team continued to make a difference in the lives of the Ministers’ Spouses, Widows, Widowers and PK’s. Mrs. Brenda Hurst, PK’s Coordinator, challenged the PK’s to participate in a PK T-Shirt design contest. The challenge brought forth lots of effort and energy. The winning design was submitted by Ambe Comeaux, Sixth Episcopal District. The shirts were printed and sold at the 2015 General Board and Council of Bishops held in New Orleans, Louisiana.
On June 29, 2015, the PK’s held a panel discussion which proved to be very informative and motivational. This activity was well attended, with standing room only. The ministers’ spouses also met with lots of enthusiasm as plans were discussed for the remaining of the year.

**Annual Clergy Family Awards Breakfast, “The Fruit of the Spirits”** were held June 30, 2015, at 7:00 a.m. We were pleased with our attendance and presence of the Holy Spirit. Several awards were presented:

**First Lady / First Gentleman Contest Awards** – Funds generated from this contest were used for PK Scholarship Awards, outreach programs and to supplement the administrative operations.

**First Lady Winners**
- First Place 5th Episcopal District (First Lady - Gail Booker - 2015-2016)
- Second Place 8th Episcopal District
- Third Place 7th Episcopal District

**First Gentleman Winners**
- First Place 11th Episcopal District (First Gentleman - Rev. Gregory V. Gay, Sr. 2015-2016)
- Second Place 6th Episcopal District
- Third Place 2nd Episcopal District

**PK Scholarship Awards**
- Scholarship - $2500
  - Olivia Martin 10th Episcopal District

**Book Awards - $500**
- Rebekah Hill 2nd Episcopal District
- Daylan Greer 1st Episcopal District
- Quanisha Clark 7th Episcopal District
- Deja Jackson 11th Episcopal District
- Sean Lewis 1st Episcopal District

**Annual Membership Awards** – Conn-M-SWAWO Plus PK’s operates from funds generated from the payment of the $25.00 annual membership dues. Our membership has grown to 946 members. *“To God Be the Glory for great things He hath done!”* Our goal is to invite and encourage all spouses, widows, widowers and Pk’s to become a part of this ministry.

- First Place 11th Episcopal District (246 members)
- Second Place 7th Episcopal District (128 members)
- Third Place 10th Episcopal District (71 members)
- Third Place 8th Episcopal District (71 members)

**Attendance Awards**
- First Place 7th Episcopal District
- Second Place 6th Episcopal District
- Second Place 12th Episcopal District
- Trendsetter 8th Episcopal District
December 2015, Executive Board Meeting and Leadership Planning Retreat

The ministers’ spouses, widows and widowers gathered in Jacksonville, Florida for our Leadership Planning Retreat. Our theme: Awakening Mind, Body and Spirit immediately took effect as everyone (169 registrants) began to work. The electrifying Eleventh Episcopal District, led by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, Supervisor Connie Speights Richardson and Episcopal President Dr. Cynthia Griffin greeted us with opening arms and left no stone unturned. After the opening session, we were entertained with the District’s reception. Everyone was well fed and off for a good night.

Our retreat was very much informative and we took care of business. At this meeting the following decisions were made to increase Retreat Registration to $150, and changes were made to the Constitution and By-laws to keep the organization operating efficiently.

A forum was held to address the cares of the spouses, widows, widowers and PK’s. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Delores Kennedy-Williams provided much needed information as she challenged us to take a good look at ourselves as we perform our duties as the preacher’s wife. We should also have other activities in our lives.

Our Empowerment Luncheon was a time of fun and laughter. We were entertained with a fabulous fashion show which provided fuel for the shopping ship...And the shopping begun. Saturday evening ended with a dinner theatre. What a joyous time we had!

We ended Saturday with a dinner theatre. We were well entertained with a play performed by Rare Diamonds Performing Arts Studio, Inc. It was well done and everyone had a wonderful evening.

Sunday Morning began early with 8:00 a.m. Worship and Communion Service. Reverend Mark Griffin, Pastor of Wayman Temple AME Church, presided. Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Presiding Prelate of the 20th Episcopal District and Chair of Social Action Commission, delivered the word. He fed us well with a message from the Lord. Music was provided by the Wayman Temple AME Church Choir, Jacksonville, FL, Rev. Mark Griffin, Pastor.
We were truly grateful to Bishop and Supervisor Richardson, Dr. Cynthia Griffin, Episcopal President, Reverend Mark Griffin and the Wayman Temple AME Church and all the people of the Eleventh Episcopal District for their good ole southern hospitality.

I am indeed thankful to Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Social Action Commission Chair, for his directions, patience and kindness. I also appreciate the excellent leadership of Mrs. Jacqueline Dupont-Walker, Social Action Consultant/Director.

In conclusion, as the journey moves forward, we will continue to focus on strengthening our clergy family while walking with God. “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy, 1:7)

His servant,
Lula Shaw Cleckley, President
OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

I. That Conn-M-SWAWO Plus P.K.'s be promoted in Districts 1-20 as a viable Support Ministry for Clergy Families.

II. That the Clergy Family Members be encouraged to join the Organization and that a Membership Chairperson is appointed in each Episcopal District.

III. That the Annual Preacher's Kid (P.K.) Scholarship Award for graduating High School Seniors be promoted and advertised in each Episcopal District.

IV. That the P.K.'s be allowed to have open discussions and fellowship opportunities and that a P.K. Advisor is appointed in each Episcopal District.

V. That a Coordinator for the GAP (Grief Assistance Program) is appointed in each Episcopal District and that the names and addresses of the Widows/Widowers of Pastors are included in Episcopal District Directories for continued communications.

VI. That Conn-M-SWAWO Plus P.K.'s partner with organizations and agencies within our Zion who promote, health, wellness and retirement preparedness for God's servants.
Elected Officers

President
Mrs. Lula Cleckley (7th)
Mrs. Anita M.E. Brannon (12th)
Mrs. Juanita Duncombe (9th)
Mrs. C. Ann Thomas (4th)
Mrs. Nellie Alexander (11th)
Mrs. Shirley Saunders (1st)
Mrs. Charmaine Alexander (6)
Mrs. Irene Montague (2nd)
Mrs. Jennifer Green (11th)
Dr. Roberta Hill (13th)
Mrs. Mildred Swint (10th)
Mrs. Brenda Hurst (8th)

1st Vice President
Mrs. Karen Luke (6)
Mrs. Debra Speed (7)
Mrs. Deborah Washington (1)
Mrs. Carolyn Anderson (12)
Mrs. Gwendolyn Cooper Brown (7)
Rev. Vera V. Worthy (1)
Mrs. Yuolonda Murray (3)
Rev. Margaret Giddings (6)
Mrs. Julia Witherspoon (7)

2nd Vice-President
Mrs. Rhonda McCall
Mrs. Suzette Williams
Mrs. Judy Williams
Mrs. Anita Lemmons
Mrs. Kinette Cager
Mrs. Dorothy Ridley
Mrs. Anna Keith
Mrs. Floria James
Mrs. Johnnita Bryant
Mrs. Cynthia Shuler
Dr. Cynthia Griffin
Mrs. Tina Grissom
Mrs. Dianna Golphin
Mrs. Alfreda M. Parker
Mrs. Linda Mathews
Mrs. Sandra Pyke-Anthony
Mrs. Diana Mapoma
Mrs. Nester Ondirese Moruakgomo
Mrs. Mapatla Grace Setai
Mrs. Doriah Kataka

Recording Secretary
Mrs. Lula Cleckley (7th)
Mrs. Anita M.E. Brannon (12th)
Mrs. Juanita Duncombe (9th)
Mrs. C. Ann Thomas (4th)
Mrs. Nellie Alexander (11th)
Mrs. Shirley Saunders (1st)
Mrs. Charmaine Alexander (6)
Mrs. Irene Montague (2nd)
Mrs. Jennifer Green (11th)
Dr. Roberta Hill (13th)
Mrs. Mildred Swint (10th)
Mrs. Brenda Hurst (8th)

Assistant Recording Secretary
Mrs. Karen Luke (6)
Mrs. Debra Speed (7)
Mrs. Deborah Washington (1)
Mrs. Carolyn Anderson (12)
Mrs. Gwendolyn Cooper Brown (7)
Rev. Vera V. Worthy (1)
Mrs. Yuolonda Murray (3)
Rev. Margaret Giddings (6)
Mrs. Julia Witherspoon (7)

Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Rhonda McCall
Mrs. Suzette Williams
Mrs. Judy Williams
Mrs. Anita Lemmons
Mrs. Kinette Cager
Mrs. Dorothy Ridley
Mrs. Anna Keith
Mrs. Floria James
Mrs. Johnnita Bryant
Mrs. Cynthia Shuler
Dr. Cynthia Griffin
Mrs. Tina Grissom
Mrs. Dianna Golphin
Mrs. Alfreda M. Parker
Mrs. Linda Mathews
Mrs. Sandra Pyke-Anthony
Mrs. Diana Mapoma
Mrs. Nester Ondirese Moruakgomo
Mrs. Mapatla Grace Setai
Mrs. Doriah Kataka

Financial Secretary
Mrs. Lula Cleckley (7th)
Mrs. Anita M.E. Brannon (12th)
Mrs. Juanita Duncombe (9th)
Mrs. C. Ann Thomas (4th)
Mrs. Nellie Alexander (11th)
Mrs. Shirley Saunders (1st)
Mrs. Charmaine Alexander (6)
Mrs. Irene Montague (2nd)
Mrs. Jennifer Green (11th)
Dr. Roberta Hill (13th)
Mrs. Mildred Swint (10th)
Mrs. Brenda Hurst (8th)

Treasurer
Mrs. Karen Luke (6)
Mrs. Debra Speed (7)
Mrs. Deborah Washington (1)
Mrs. Carolyn Anderson (12)
Mrs. Gwendolyn Cooper Brown (7)
Rev. Vera V. Worthy (1)
Mrs. Yuolonda Murray (3)
Rev. Margaret Giddings (6)
Mrs. Julia Witherspoon (7)

Parliamentarian
Mrs. Rhonda McCall
Mrs. Suzette Williams
Mrs. Judy Williams
Mrs. Anita Lemmons
Mrs. Kinette Cager
Mrs. Dorothy Ridley
Mrs. Anna Keith
Mrs. Floria James
Mrs. Johnnita Bryant
Mrs. Cynthia Shuler
Dr. Cynthia Griffin
Mrs. Tina Grissom
Mrs. Dianna Golphin
Mrs. Alfreda M. Parker
Mrs. Linda Mathews
Mrs. Sandra Pyke-Anthony
Mrs. Diana Mapoma
Mrs. Nester Ondirese Moruakgomo
Mrs. Mapatla Grace Setai
Mrs. Doriah Kataka

Historiographer
Mrs. Lula Cleckley (7th)
Mrs. Anita M.E. Brannon (12th)
Mrs. Juanita Duncombe (9th)
Mrs. C. Ann Thomas (4th)
Mrs. Nellie Alexander (11th)
Mrs. Shirley Saunders (1st)
Mrs. Charmaine Alexander (6)
Mrs. Irene Montague (2nd)
Mrs. Jennifer Green (11th)
Dr. Roberta Hill (13th)
Mrs. Mildred Swint (10th)
Mrs. Brenda Hurst (8th)

Worship Director
Mrs. Karen Luke (6)
Mrs. Debra Speed (7)
Mrs. Deborah Washington (1)
Mrs. Carolyn Anderson (12)
Mrs. Gwendolyn Cooper Brown (7)
Rev. Vera V. Worthy (1)
Mrs. Yuolonda Murray (3)
Rev. Margaret Giddings (6)
Mrs. Julia Witherspoon (7)

Coordinator of P.K.'s
Mrs. Rhonda McCall
Mrs. Suzette Williams
Mrs. Judy Williams
Mrs. Anita Lemmons
Mrs. Kinette Cager
Mrs. Dorothy Ridley
Mrs. Anna Keith
Mrs. Floria James
Mrs. Johnnita Bryant
Mrs. Cynthia Shuler
Dr. Cynthia Griffin
Mrs. Tina Grissom
Mrs. Dianna Golphin
Mrs. Alfreda M. Parker
Mrs. Linda Mathews
Mrs. Sandra Pyke-Anthony
Mrs. Diana Mapoma
Mrs. Nester Ondirese Moruakgomo
Mrs. Mapatla Grace Setai
Mrs. Doriah Kataka

Appointed Officers

Membership
Mrs. Lula Cleckley (7th)
Mrs. Anita M.E. Brannon (12th)
Mrs. Juanita Duncombe (9th)
Mrs. C. Ann Thomas (4th)
Mrs. Nellie Alexander (11th)
Mrs. Shirley Saunders (1st)
Mrs. Charmaine Alexander (6)
Mrs. Irene Montague (2nd)
Mrs. Jennifer Green (11th)
Dr. Roberta Hill (13th)
Mrs. Mildred Swint (10th)
Mrs. Brenda Hurst (8th)

Budget & Finance
Mrs. Karen Luke (6)
Mrs. Debra Speed (7)
Mrs. Deborah Washington (1)
Mrs. Carolyn Anderson (12)
Mrs. Gwendolyn Cooper Brown (7)
Rev. Vera V. Worthy (1)
Mrs. Yuolonda Murray (3)
Rev. Margaret Giddings (6)
Mrs. Julia Witherspoon (7)

Constitution & By-Laws
Mrs. Lula Cleckley (7th)
Mrs. Anita M.E. Brannon (12th)
Mrs. Juanita Duncombe (9th)
Mrs. C. Ann Thomas (4th)
Mrs. Nellie Alexander (11th)
Mrs. Shirley Saunders (1st)
Mrs. Charmaine Alexander (6)
Mrs. Irene Montague (2nd)
Mrs. Jennifer Green (11th)
Dr. Roberta Hill (13th)
Mrs. Mildred Swint (10th)
Mrs. Brenda Hurst (8th)

Nomination
Mrs. Karen Luke (6)
Mrs. Debra Speed (7)
Mrs. Deborah Washington (1)
Mrs. Carolyn Anderson (12)
Mrs. Gwendolyn Cooper Brown (7)
Rev. Vera V. Worthy (1)
Mrs. Yuolonda Murray (3)
Rev. Margaret Giddings (6)
Mrs. Julia Witherspoon (7)

Evaluation
Mrs. Lula Cleckley (7th)
Mrs. Anita M.E. Brannon (12th)
Mrs. Juanita Duncombe (9th)
Mrs. C. Ann Thomas (4th)
Mrs. Nellie Alexander (11th)
Mrs. Shirley Saunders (1st)
Mrs. Charmaine Alexander (6)
Mrs. Irene Montague (2nd)
Mrs. Jennifer Green (11th)
Dr. Roberta Hill (13th)
Mrs. Mildred Swint (10th)
Mrs. Brenda Hurst (8th)

Memorial
Mrs. Karen Luke (6)
Mrs. Debra Speed (7)
Mrs. Deborah Washington (1)
Mrs. Carolyn Anderson (12)
Mrs. Gwendolyn Cooper Brown (7)
Rev. Vera V. Worthy (1)
Mrs. Yuolonda Murray (3)
Rev. Margaret Giddings (6)
Mrs. Julia Witherspoon (7)

PK Scholarship
Mrs. Lula Cleckley (7th)
Mrs. Anita M.E. Brannon (12th)
Mrs. Juanita Duncombe (9th)
Mrs. C. Ann Thomas (4th)
Mrs. Nellie Alexander (11th)
Mrs. Shirley Saunders (1st)
Mrs. Charmaine Alexander (6)
Mrs. Irene Montague (2nd)
Mrs. Jennifer Green (11th)
Dr. Roberta Hill (13th)
Mrs. Mildred Swint (10th)
Mrs. Brenda Hurst (8th)

GAP Coordinator
Mrs. Lula Cleckley (7th)
Mrs. Anita M.E. Brannon (12th)
Mrs. Juanita Duncombe (9th)
Mrs. C. Ann Thomas (4th)
Mrs. Nellie Alexander (11th)
Mrs. Shirley Saunders (1st)
Mrs. Charmaine Alexander (6)
Mrs. Irene Montague (2nd)
Mrs. Jennifer Green (11th)
Dr. Roberta Hill (13th)
Mrs. Mildred Swint (10th)
Mrs. Brenda Hurst (8th)

Education
Mrs. Lula Cleckley (7th)
Mrs. Anita M.E. Brannon (12th)
Mrs. Juanita Duncombe (9th)
Mrs. C. Ann Thomas (4th)
Mrs. Nellie Alexander (11th)
Mrs. Shirley Saunders (1st)
Mrs. Charmaine Alexander (6)
Mrs. Irene Montague (2nd)
Mrs. Jennifer Green (11th)
Dr. Roberta Hill (13th)
Mrs. Mildred Swint (10th)
Mrs. Brenda Hurst (8th)

Episcopal Presidents

Mrs. Rhonda McCall
1st Episcopal District
Mrs. Suzette Williams
2nd Episcopal District
Mrs. Judy Williams
3rd Episcopal District
Mrs. Anita Lemmons
4th Episcopal District
Mrs. Kinette Cager
5th Episcopal District
Mrs. Dorothy Ridley
6th Episcopal District
Mrs. Anna Keith
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15th Episcopal District
Mrs. Sandra Pyke-Anthony
16th Episcopal District
Mrs. Diana Mapoma
17th Episcopal District
Mrs. Nester Ondirese Moruakgomo
18th Episcopal District
Mrs. Mapatla Grace Setai
19th Episcopal District
Mrs. Doriah Kataka
20th Episcopal District
Conn-M-SWAWO Plus PK's

"Where the Idea Was Born" - St. Louis, Missouri (December 1-2, 1989)
Dr. Dorothy Owens, Founding President - President Emeritus

FOUNDING MEMBERS - (Attendees at 1st Meeting in 1989) - Dr. Dorothy Owens (4th), Mrs. Ida Bailey (4th), Mrs. Vera Boatner (4th), Mrs. Helen Criglar (4th), Mrs. Neva Crymes (4th), Mrs. Mary Daniel (4th), Mrs. Martha Huggins (4th), Mrs. Donna Marie Jackson (4th), Mrs. Jerry Reid (4th), Mrs. Reatha L. Smith (4th), Mrs. Mary Wright (4th), Mrs. Ernestyne Brown (5th), Mrs. Palmer Read (9th), Mrs. Doris Griffin (11th), Dr. Leonia Kelley (11th), Mrs. Nell Booker (13th), Presiding Elder W. C. Davis, Rev. A.C. Wright, Rev. Benjamin Booker, Rev. John Q. Owens, Chair, Social Action Commission (4th), Supervisors: Mrs. Theodora Mayo (4th), Mrs. Barbara J. Chappelle (17th), Mrs. Vivienne Anderson, Host (5th).

CHARTER MEMBERS - (District Representatives at the 1990 Self-Image Seminar) - Mrs. Hilda Member (17th), Nelly Alexander (11th), Cleverten Wilson (7th), Rev. Viola Walker* (10th), Mrs. Clara Wilson (4th), Mrs. Ruby Johnson (10th), Mrs. Johnnie Carswell (6th), Mrs. Lilar Shephard (6th), Dr. Henrietta Attles (1st), Mrs. Rhonda J. McCall (1st), Mrs. Jestina Richardson (1st), Mrs. Mattie Tyler (8th), Supervisors: Dr. Dolly Desselle Adams (6th), Mrs. Lucinda Crawford Belin (12th), Dr. M. Joan Cousin (11th), Yvonne Henning Parks, and Ernestine Henning, Darlene Justice (1st)

Acronym Conn-M-SWAWO Plus P.K.'s is credited to Mrs. Norma Phillips (4th)

Organization's Legislative History - During the General Conference of 2000, passage of the Organization's legislation and its subsequent inclusion into the Book of Discipline was realized. This was accomplished under the leadership of the second President, Mrs. Ora L. Easley.
Quadrennial Report of the Clergy Family Information Center

2012-2016

Mrs. Ora L. Easley, Administrator

“A Global Ministry of Connectedness, Sharing and Compassion”

July 3, 2016 - July 13, 2016
Philadelphia Convention Center
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Chair, Commission On Social Action
Mrs. Jacqueline DuPont-Walker, Social Action, Director/Consultant
GREETINGS:
To: Bishop John Richard Bryant, Senior Bishop; Bishop Julius Harrison McAllister, President of the Council of Bishops; Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram, Host Bishop; Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, President of the General Board; Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., General Conference Commission Chair, Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Chair of the Commission on Social Action; Bishops of the Church; Episcopal Supervisors; General and Connectional Officers; Mrs. Jacqueline DuPont-Walker, Consultant/Director of Social Action; University Presidents and Deans, Delegates; my sisters and brothers, ALL GREETINGS!

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and that whatever you ask in my name, the Father will give you.
John 15:16” (NIV)

A blessed privilege it is to share the Quadrennial stewardship accountability report as Administrator of the Clergy Family Information Center; a global online notification ministry seeking to reach outward to AME Church family members in Districts 1-20, a ministry of connectivity, of sharing and of compassion. The primary function of the ministry is the posting of Bereavement Notifications. These notifications inform e-mail recipients of deaths occurring within the clergy families of our Zion, from the church leadership downward to those who serve in hard and remote places.

Deliberate care is exercised with each notification in order to avoid the posting of erroneous bereavements or service information. The verification process involves the human element of the ministry as telephone contact is made to express sympathy and to gather available service information, unless notifications are received from Episcopal District Offices. However, experience has taught, to make follow-up telephone calls to designated funeral establishments on “all” arrangements, cross-referencing for accuracy. Bereaved families in their hour of grief, for various reasons make service hour changes, necessitating verification prior to posting to the connectional church family. Also, we Google for an online Guest Book links for publication. The process is both tedious and tiring but eliminate errors in reporting.

A concerted effort is made to verify every bereavement notice posted, therefore, follow-up information, updates and addendums are only posted at the request of the Presiding Bishop in the district where the deceased resided or unless the deceased is a part of the Church Leadership requiring a greater disbursement of details.

The majority of the Bereavement Notices posted are followed up with a message of sympathy from the CFIC.
CONGRATULATORY ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Congratulatory announcements are shared on Friday, providing opportunity for commendations, congratulations and well wishes to be extended by the AME Church family to those who are praising God for the Joy of significant milestones reached in their lives.

CONGRATULATORY ANNOUNCEMENT GUIDELINES:
The following are posted by The Clergy Family Information Center: Graduations, baccalaureate degrees and above; academic achievements; birth of PK’s, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; birthday celebrations – 70 years and above, 75, 80, 85; 90, etc.; weddings of ministers, PK’s, grandchildren and great grandchildren; wedding anniversaries-25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th and above and other noteworthy achievements.

OTHER NOTIFICATIONS POSTED:
▶ Prayer requests received from the Bishops, Episcopal Supervisors and the General and Connectional Officers
▶ Bereavements affecting the leadership of the Connectional Lay Organization and Women’s Missionary Society
▶ Bereavements occurring within the staff of Episcopal District Offices and staff of the General Officers
▶ Church Leadership who receive voluminous outpourings of sympathy when experiencing a family loss or enduring health challenges
▶ E-blasts received from the Social Action Commission affecting the lives of the A.M.E. Church constituency
▶ E-blasts and alerts at the request of the Bishops of the Church
▶ E-blasts at the request of the Supervisors Council
▶ E-blasts at the request of the Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer and the General Secretary, Chief Information Officer
▶ Graduation announcements received from the presidents and deans of the AME Church institutions of higher education

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT POSTED BY THE CLERGY FAMILY INFORMATION CENTER:

Advertisement’s that are for profit (patrons, ad requests, event tickets, pamphlets, CD’s, or DVDs, unless requested by the Bishops of the Church), campaign literature, and PDF’s.
OUTREACH TO ENHANCE MINISTRY PRESENCE

- For a greater degree of professionalism, the ministry maintains its dedicated email domain, acronym, AMECFIC.NET.

- The Ministry also hosts its global website @ domain URL www.amecfic.org in cyberspace, which has received over **119,528 visitors**; maintains a business telecommunication account and utilizes Tech 360 Support for 24 hour technical services on the office Desktop Computer, Laptop Computers, and on the Tablet.

CFIC WEBSITE HOME PAGE:

![CFIC Website](image)

WEB MINISTRY RATIONALE:

a. To make available necrology information, especially bereavements occurring within the Episcopacy and General Officer-ship for annual conference statisticians who compile annual necrology reports.

b. To make The Clergy Family Information Center posting guidelines available

c. To spread the ministry message to a global audience via cyberspace.

d. To provide a communication medium ‘Message Board’ for persons who wish to extend public words of thanks to the AME Church family for kindnesses rendered or for posting of prayer request.

APPENDED GOOGLE TRANSLATOR RATIONALE: Providing capability of outreach to more email recipients in District 14-20. Appended to each communication posted is a link to the Google Translator, with the notation that The Clergy Family Information Center notifications can be translated into 50 plus languages.

APPENDED STATEMENT, WHO CAN RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS?

After many inquiries, also appended on each communication is the following statement; The CFIC is a global online notification ministry, it is not fee based, nor is it membership oriented. Any member of the A.M.E. Church can receive email notices. However, information shared has restriction. Notifications shared are about clergy families, other than for those clearly stated beneath "The Other’s Posted For" on the AMEC CFIC website.
MINISTRY STATISTICS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bereavement Notices Posted</th>
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<tr>
<td>Congratulatory Announcements Posted</td>
<td>873</td>
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<td>Informational E-Blast Posted</td>
<td>1033</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facebook:</th>
<th>2,545 Likes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Twitter:</td>
<td>775 Follower's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LinkedIn:</td>
<td>3,064 Connections</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FACEBOOK AND TWITTER WALLS SIMULAR:

[Facebook Wall Image]

LINKEDIN WALL:

[LinkedIn Wall Image]
EMAIL MARKETING HAS BEEN SECURED:
Rationale: To post bulk email more effectively and to alleviate SPAM blocks
Email Marketing allows for posting of graphics; it supports the massive email database and it allows email recipients to adjust their own email preferences. Email marketing also shortened posting time by 85%, negating the need for posting several bulk group emails to disseminate one message.

NECROLOGY AND CONGRATULATORY ANNOUNCEMENTS:
Neurologically data from June 2012 through the present and congratulatory announcements can be found on the ministry website @ www.amecfic.org.

IN GRATITUDE:
Gratitude is extended to Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, Social Action Commission Chair and Episcopal Supervisor Christy Davis Jackson, Esq. for their keen interest, support and ministry affirmation. Likewise, gratitude is extended to Bishop Jeffrey N. Leath, Presiding Prelate of the Thirteenth Episcopal District and Episcopal Supervisor Susan J. Leath, MD, for their prayers, support and encouragement. Profound gratitude is extended, as well, to Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate, Twelfth Episcopal District for my induction into the Inaugural Class of the God First Legacy of Leadership Awards at the 2016 God First Holy Convocation. I am honored to be among the first honorees. A special thank you to SAC Director/Consultant, Mrs. Jacqueline DuPont-Walker for her public validation of the value of the online ministry of the CFIC at the unveiling ceremony of the Bishop Richard Allen “Forever” stamp held in Philadelphia, PA and to Dr. Calvin H. Sydnor, III, 20th Editor of the Christian Recorder, whom I have had the privilege of partnering with, for lifting the 2015 General Board report of the Clergy Family Information Center as a column in the 4/1/16 edition of the Online Christian Recorder. Kudos are also, extended to my clergy spouse, Presiding Elder, Rev. Dr. William W. Easley, Jr., for his caring spirit, keen observation and support.

IN CONCLUSION:
The pleasure is mine, to serve my Church and it is my belief, that the ministry of the CFIC is divinely inspired; that it is a ministry that is connecting us together in oneness as a worldwide church.

RECOMMENDATION:
The Google Translator has been added to each notification posted by the CFIC; therefore, for a greater degree of inclusiveness, that the Presiding Bishops in Episcopal Districts 14-20, prayerfully consider requesting that their Presiding Elders or Episcopal District designee submit via email, bereavement notices and congratulatory announcements to the Administrator of the Clergy Family Information Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ora L. Easley

ADDENDUM: Global Ministry History
GLOBAL MINISTRY HISTORY

[Extracted from the CFIC website: www.amecfic.org]

The Genesis of the Ministry: The Clergy Family Information Center began in 1999 as “A Special Project” of Mrs. Ora L. Easley who served as the president of CONN-M-SWAWO + PK’S from 1997-2005, and grew from a minuscule grouping of email recipients receiving communications containing the service arrangements of deceased family members of the organization’s officers to an outreach of several hundred AME Church email recipients.

Original Rationale: Pastors and other ministry leaders carry some of this world’s heaviest burdens comforting and guiding the spiritual lives of hundreds, if not thousands, as well as providing and caring for their own families; and likewise the families of ministers are called upon to make many sacrifices. Yet, here-to-fore, when those who had given so much made their earthly transitions, many only learned of their transitioning when their presence was missed at an AME Church gathering, or when names were lifted at the next session of the annual conference.

Ministry Structure: In early 2004, during the winter meeting of the Council of Bishops; Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, then serving as Chair of the Commission on Social Action, shared with the president of CONN-M-SWAWO +PK’S, Mrs. Ora L. Easley, that the Bishops of the Church meeting in Council, were anxious to see her continue the ministry, ” The Special Project of the President” past her June 2005 term of office, with the ministry being given a different name and Mrs. Easley, given another title; serving not as an officer of CONN-M-SWAWO + PK’s but as a component part of the Commission on Social Action and reporting to the Commission on Social Action. Humbled and honored by the request, an affirmative answer was given by Mrs. Easley. In July 2004 Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry became the Chair of the Commission on Social Action and in July of 2005 created the ministry name, “The Clergy Family Information Center” and the position title “Administrator.” Bishop Guidry also suggested the addition of the congratulatory component, which involved the posting of congratulatory announcements on Friday of each week. The email database expanded drastically between 2005 through 2007.

Funding of the Ministry: Bishop Guidry worked tirelessly to secure operational funding for the ministry. Dr. Richard A. Lewis, Chief Financial Officer of the African Methodist Episcopal Church was a blessing to the office operation of the ministry.

At the June 2007 Session of the General Board Meeting of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, under the esteemed leadership of Social Action Commission Chair, Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry, funding was approved for The Clergy Family Information Center; funding ramification; an equitable distribution of the allocation for Social Action, among the principals.
Legislation for The Clergy Family Information Center Passed, General Conference 2008: At the 2008 General Conference, under the leadership and guidance of Social Action Commission Chair, Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry, Mrs. Jackie DuPont Walker, Director of Social Action submitted a bill for the ministry of The Clergy Family Information Center. The Bill was referenced as Bill MN-08.

Intent: To add the Clergy Family Information Center and the duties of its Administrator to the Commission on Social Action, to add the Administrator as a Connectional Officer. Reference: PART VII – Section III; The General Board, Connectional Departments and Commissions; Commission on Social Action, page 200 (addendum to the Commission on Social Action) and Connectional Officers; Section III, page 588, Doctrine and Discipline of the AME Church, 2004 edition. Bill MN-08 passed. The Clergy Family Information Center is included in The Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2008 and The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2012.

The Ministry Continued Its Global Outreach: In January of 2010, the administrator of the Clergy Family Information Center constructed a web site, URL, www.amecfic.org:

*To make available necrology information, especially bereavements occurring within the within the Episcopacy and General Officers for annual conference statisticians who compile annual necrology reports.

*To spread the ministry message to a global audience via cyberspace.

*To provide a communication medium ‘Message board’ for persons who wish to extend public words of thanks to the AME Church Family for kindnesses rendered or for posting of prayer request.

Also, in 2010 the ministry became a part of the Social Networking Community, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. In September 2010, the AMEC Clergy Family Information Center secured its own domain acronym, “AMEFIC.NET” to better serve the growing ministry, and also secured a Business Telecommunication account.

At the 49th Quadrennial Session of the General Conference held June 27, 2012 – July 4, 2012 at the Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN, Bishop Carolyn Tyler Guidry (122), who had served as Social Action Commission Chair for two unprecedented terms, retired from active service. At the meeting of the AME Church General Board following the closing session of the General Conference, Bishop Reginald T. Jackson, newly elected Bishop (132) was assigned as the Chair of the Social Action Commission.

The Clergy Family Information Center, with its MISSION as a global online conduit of Connectivity, Sharing and Compassion, gratefully acknowledges continued growth and outreach under the esteemed leadership of Social Action Commission Chair, Bishop Reginald T. Jackson.
In 2015 the ministry secured professional email marketing to handle its continuously growing email database, making the tedious and time consuming chore of posting each notification by groups of 10 or more unnecessary, also giving the notifications a more professional appearance utilizing templates. Email marketing also allows individuals the flexibility of changing their own email preferences; changing email addresses, adding email addresses or removing their email address.

Also in 2015 the ministry added new dimensions to news posted, as the leadership more and more Episcopal District asked that news of their Episcopal District News inclusive of pictorial announcements be posted by the Clergy Family Information Center. Likewise, Institutions of higher learning have requested their anniversary events would be added within the ministry posting guidelines.

The CFIC ministry had the distinct pleasure to assist in the announcement of the Bishop Richard Allen “Forever” Stamp and the announcements of events relative to the Bicentennial Celebration of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Where do we go from here? As with the ministries’ inception, the Clergy Family Information Center (CFIC) “Will go where the Will of God leads”.

![Map Image]
Thank you for this opportunity to serve the Church of Allen and be a part of keeping alive the spirit and legacy of our Founders.