



BISHOP HARRY L. SEAWRIGHT, PRESIDING PRELATE
REV. SHERITA MOON SEAWRIGHT, EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR

134th SESSION

of the

**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

MAY 26 – 30, 2026

LITTLE ROCK AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION CHURCH, VENUE
401 N. MCDOWELL STREET, CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28204

REV. DR. DEVIN D. PAYLOR, HOST PASTOR
GREATER BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH, HOST CHURCH

REV. DR. A. QISMAT ALIM, HOST PRESIDING ELDER
REV. DR. STEVEN L. LYONS, CO-HOST PRESIDING ELDER

"FIRST FOR CHRIST, SECOND TO NONE"



Preachers & Speakers

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



WMS ANNUAL DAY

MAY 26 | 12 PM

REV. DENISE LYNN SMITH, PASTOR
MT. BETHEL/MITCHELL CHAPEL AME
CHURCH, LENOIR, NC



WMS NIGHT IN WHITE

MAY 26 | 7 PM

REV. MYRAETTE MCGIBBONEY, PASTOR
WHITE CROSS AME CHURCH
EFLAND, NC



ANNUAL SERMON

MAY 27 | 10AM

REV. DR. CLAY BARROW, PASTOR
BETHEL AME CHURCH
GREENSBORO, NC



LAY WITNESS NIGHT

MAY 27 | 7PM

MIN. CAMERON SEAWRIGHT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE
BISHOP/SUPERVISOR
DIRECTOR, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS
MINISTRIES SECOND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT



WOMEN IN MINISTRY

MAY 28 | 12PM

REV. DR. PATTI L. THOMPSON FRAZIER
PASTOR
JOHNSON CHAPEL AME CHURCH
MEBANE, NC



ORDINATION SERVICE

MAY 28 | 7PM

BISHOP DAVID R. DANIELS, JR.
ECUMENICAL OFFICER
124TH BISHOP AME CHURCH



DEAN'S INSTITUTE

MAY 29 | 8AM

DR. VIRGIL LATTIMORE
PRESIDENT AND PROFESSOR OF
PASTORAL PSYCHOLOGY AND
COUNSELING
HOOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA



ECUMENICAL SERVICE

MAY 29 | 12PM

BISHOP SETH O. LARTHEY
100TH BISHOP, AME ZION CHURCH
WINSTON-SALEM, NC



CLOSING & COMMISSIONING SERVICE

MAY 29 | 7PM

REV. DR. BETTY HOLLEY, PRESIDING
ELDER, NEW DAYTON
THIRD EPISCOPAL DISTRICT
PRESIDENT PAYNE THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

EPISCOPAL GREETING

Dear Second Episcopal District Family,

I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to serve as the bishop assigned to the Second Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Returning to this capacity to the district from which I was elected to the episcopacy adds another layer of excitement. Thank you for your welcoming kindness.

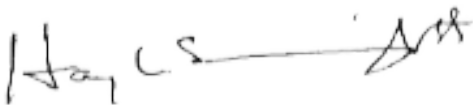
As the 2026 Annual Conferences begin, I honor the memories of Bishop Reginald T. Jackson and Supervisor Christy Davis Jackson, Esq. Their love for the Second Episcopal District showed up in everything they did. I continue to pray for Regina, Seth, Chris, Chico, and their family. Thank you for sharing in the “90 Days of Prayer” that began on Christmas Eve and ended the day before the start of this year’s series of Annual Conferences. Spending designated time together allowed us to grieve as a district while preparing for the district’s future.

In African Methodism, Annual Conferences are more than a meeting. They’re a gathering for worship, stewardship reports, and fellowship. Within a few days, relationships are created, strengthened, and renewed. I look forward to seeing people I know and meeting new people. I’m excited about my privilege of receiving pastoral reports and delegates’ responses. Of course, pastoral appointments always end each conference.

I extend sincere gratitude to the Council of Presiding Elders for their support. Interacting with you helps with the unexpected adjustment to a new Episcopal District. I appreciate the support from pastors, ministers, laity, component leaders, my staff, and the entire Second Episcopal District. Host pastors and congregations, thank you for your preparation in receiving all of us.

As we continue to pray, I know God will bless our efforts.

Because of Christ, I am,



Bishop Harry L. Seawright
Presiding Prelate
Second Episcopal District
of the AME Church

OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 – 10:00 AM

Rev. Dr. A. Qismat Alim, Presiding Elder, Eastern District
Worship Leader

The Introit.....The Western North Carolina Conference Choir

The Processional The Western North Carolina Conference Choir
“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

The Doxology..... “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

The Call to WorshipThe Rev. Devin D. Paylor, Host Pastor
Greater Bethel AME Church, Charlotte, NC

Leader: I was glad when they said unto me; let us go into the house of the Lord,
our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

People: For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand I had rather be a
doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of
wickedness.

Leader: Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek thy good.

People: Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the
courts of our God.

Leader: Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. Lord, I have loved thy habitation,
the place where thy honor dwelleth.

People: For the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before
him.

Leader: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable
in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.

People: O sing unto the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth, sing praises.

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The Hymn of Praise..... Rev. Jacqueline V. Robertson
McElrath Chapel AME Church, Morganton, NC

“And Are We Yet Alive”

*And are we yet alive, And see each other's face?
Glory and praise to Jesus give For His redeeming grace.*

*Preserved by power divine To full salvation here,
Again in Jesus' praise we join, And in His sight appear.*

*What troubles have we seen, What conflicts have we passed,
Fightings without, and fears within, Since we assembled last.*

*But out of all the Lord Hath brought us by His love;
And still He doth His help afford, And hides our life above.*

*Then let us make our boast Of His redeeming power,
Which saves us to the uttermost. Till we can sin no more.*

*Let us take up the cross Till we the crown obtain;
And gladly reckon all things loss, So we may Jesus gain.*

The Invocation Rev. Gary Dent
New Covenant AME Church, Charlotte, NC

The Choral ResponseThe Western North Carolina Conference Choir

The Hallelujah Chant

“Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Praise the Lord!”

The Scriptures:

Old TestamentHabakkuk 2:2-3..... Rev. Dr. Allonia H. Holmes
Living Waters AME Church, Raleigh, NC

EpistleEphesians 2:1-7 Rev. Willie L. Sanders Jr.
St. Stephen's AME Church, Liberty, NC

The GospelLuke 8:4-8Rev. Stephanie Revell
St. James AME Church, Sanford, NC

The Preface to the Decalogue“From All That Dwell”

The Turner's Decalogue in VerseRev. Dr. Gwendolyn Wise-Blackman
Union Bethel AME Church, Cary, NC

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Leader: Thou shalt have no gods but Me;

People: Before no idol bow thy knee;

Leader: Take not the name of God in vain;

People: Nor dare the Sabbath-day profane;

Leader: Give both thy parents honor due;

People: Take heed that thou no murder do.

Leader: Abstain from words and deeds unclean;

People: Nor steal tho' thou art poor and mean;

Leader: Nor make a willful lie, nor love it;

People: What is thy neighbor's dare not covet.

Leader: With all thy soul, love God above,

People: And as thyself thy neighbor love.

“The Gloria Patri”

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Mission HymnThe Western North Carolina Conference Choir

The Offering for Missions.....The Finance Committee

“We Give Thee but Thine Own”

The Worship through MusicThe Western North Carolina Conference Choir

The Presentation of the Episcopal Supervisor Sis. Dianne H. Tawwab
President, Western North Carolina Conference WMS

Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright
Supervisor, 2nd Episcopal District

The Presentation of the Bishop Rev. Dr. Steven L. Lyons
Presiding Elder, Western District, Western North Carolina Conference

The Presentation of the Preacher Bishop Harry L. Seawright
Presiding Prelate, Second Episcopal District

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The Sermonic SelectionThe Western North Carolina Conference Choir

The Annual Sermon.....Rev. Dr. Clay L. Barrow
Bethel AME Church, Greensboro, NC

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship.....Rev. Dr. Bridgette V. Gloster
Emmanuel AME Church, Durham, NC

The Worship through Giving..... The Finance Committee

“All things come of Thee, O Lord”

The Announcements.....Rev. Johnnie P. Bolden
Pearson Memorial AME Church, High Point, NC

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Communion Medley

The Solicitation..... Bishop Harry L. Seawright

You that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbor, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in His holy ways, draw near with faith and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling.

The General Confession (read together) Rev. Dr. Wayne E. Beatty
Lincolnvillle AME Church, Raleigh, NC

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time, most grievously have committed by thought, word and deed against Your divine majesty, provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

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The First CollectRev. Ronald Keith Banner
St. Paul AME Church, Lenoir, NC

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of your great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto you, have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins; confirm and strengthen us in all goodness; and bring us to everlasting life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Second CollectRev. Shontea Smith
Mt. Sinai AME Church, Pittsboro, NC

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your holy spirit that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

The Prayer of Adoration.....Rev. Kathy A. Merritt
New Birth Community AME Church, Greensboro, NC

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty that we shall at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts; heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Glory be to You, O Lord, most high." Amen.

The Prayer of HumiliationRev. Torrey Dekine
Allen Chapel AME Church, Laurinburg, NC

We do not presume to come to this Your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather the crumbs under Your table. But You are the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, Gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink His blood that our sinful souls and bodies may be made clean by His death and washed through His blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him and He in us. Amen.

The Prayer of Consecration Bishop Harry L. Seawright

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of your tender mercy did give your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, who made thereby his oblation of himself, once offered; a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute and in his holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that, his precious death, until his coming again. Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech you, and grant that we receiving these your creatures of bread and wine, according to your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood: who in the same night that he was betrayed took bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me." Likewise after supper he took the cup and when he had given thanks he gave it to them saying, "Drink all of it, for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen."

The Elements Shared

The Lord's Prayer

The Doxology

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

The BenedictionRev. Dr. Clay L. Barrow

LAY NIGHT

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Sister Regenia Melvin, 2nd VP WNCCLC, St. Matthew, Raleigh, NC
Worship Leader

Theme: “Reviving the Connection: Exceedingly, Abundantly Above All We Can Ask and Think”

Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Opening Hymn.....Sister Tamera Ervin, President
Mission AME Church, Morganton, NC
“The Laymen’s Hymn” #582

Invocation Sister Carol Davenport, WNCCLC Chaplain
St. Paul AME Church, Raleigh, NC

Prayer Chant

SelectionThe Western North Carolina Conference Choir
The Rev. Anthony E. Radcliff and The Rev. Devin D. Paylor, Choir Directors

ScriptureEphesians 3:20-21..... Sister Ghesia Yellock, President
White Cross AME Church, Efland, NC

Welcome and OccasionSister Bobbi Hague, President
Greater Bethel AME Church, Charlotte, NC

SelectionThe Western North Carolina Conference Choir
The Rev. Anthony E. Radcliff and The Rev. Devin D. Paylor, Choir Directors

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Lay Litany Sister Valarie H. Connelly, 1st Vice President
Morganton, NC

Leader: We are Reviving the Connection of Faith. We celebrate what is visible today, and we acknowledge that there are innovations, opportunities, and blessings awaiting us in the future with possibilities so vast that they are beyond our current imagination.

People: Exceedingly, abundantly above ALL we can ask or think.

Leader We are Reviving the Connection of Gratitude. We are grateful to a God who blesses us not just with sufficiency, but with abundance— providing far more than we dare to ask, hope, or dream. This spirit of thankfulness fuels our optimism and unites us in grace.

People: Exceedingly, abundantly above ALL we can ask or think.

Leader: We are Reviving the Connection of Blessings. The advancement of science over the last century has eclipsed what our ancestors ever dared to dream. And much the same way, Lord, your blessings and the potential of them abound beyond our wildest expectations and imagination.

People: Exceedingly, abundantly above ALL we can ask or think.

Leader: We are Reviving the Connection of our Ancestors. Generation after generation we continue to witness the evidence of grace and favor, a testament to God’s enduring power which transcend both time and space.

People: Exceedingly, abundantly above ALL we can ask or think.

All: We are Reviving the Connection! Standing hand in hand, on one accord, searching God’s Word, seeking God’s will and serving God’s people, surrounded by God’s love whose plans for us are Exceedingly, Abundantly Above All That We Can Ask or Think.

Presentation of the Speaker Brother Joshua Ijames, YAR
Greater Bethel AME Church, Charlotte, NC

Selection The Western North Carolina Conference Choir
The Rev. Anthony E. Radcliff and The Rev. Devin D. Paylor, Choir Directors

Lay Message Minister Cameron I. Seawright
*Administrative Assistant to the Bishop/Supervisor
Director, Youth and Young Adults Ministries
Second Episcopal District*

Invitation to Christian Discipleship Rev. Micheal G. Shade
*Israel Chapel AME Church, Connelly Springs & Mt. Herman AME Church,
Glen Alpine, NC*

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Worship Through Giving..... Finance Committee

The Offertory

All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen

Special Presentations Sister Barbara R. Myers, President

Western North Carolina Conference Lay Organization

Closing Remarks Sister Barbara R. Myers, President WNCCLLO

Sister Penny Oliver, Second Episcopal District Lay Organization President

Bishop Harry L. Seawright (#133), Presiding Prelate 2nd Episcopal District

Doxology

The Lay Benediction Congregation

*May God bless us with the true spirit of Christianity, that we may live together,
not as man over man, but as Lay persons working with God. Amen*



Western North Carolina Conference Officers

- Sis. Barbara R. Myers, President
- Sis. Chaynel M. Blake, 1st Vice President
- Sis. Regenia Melvin - 2nd Vice President
- Sis. Gerald Logan, 3rd Vice President
- Sis. Azzie Y. Conley, Director of Lay Activities, Program Chair
- Bro. Brandon Owens, Recording Secretary
- Sis. Joan Brandon, Assistant Secretary
- Sis. Charmayne Morrison, Corresponding Secretary
- Sis. Dorothy Jeffreys, Treasurer
- Sis. Bettie M. Duell, Financial Secretary
- Vacant, Parliamentarian
- Sis. Carol Davenport, Chaplain
- Vacant, Historiographer
- Sis. Danita M. Thompson, Director of Public Relations
- Bro. Kenneth Woods, Eastern District Coordinator
- Sis. Sonia P. Barbre, Western District Coordinator
- YAR - Vacant

Program Committee

- Sis. Azzie Y. Conley*
- Sis. Chaynel M. Blake
- Sis. Alice Hillman
- Sis. Stephanie Gause
- Sis. Jacqueline C. Kanipe
- Sis. Mary L. Roseboro
- Sis. Daphane Sigmon
- Sis. Danita M. Thompson
- Bro. Kenneth Woods
- Bro. Dale Wragg
- Sis. Ghesia Yellock

WOMEN IN MINISTRY SERVICE

Thursday, May 28, 2026 – 12:00 Noon

Rev. Kim E. Moss, Worship Leader
Stoney Creek AME Church, Elon, NC

The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

The Call to Worship

The Hymn of Praise.....Rev. Joan A. Hopton
Union Bethel AME Church, Winston-Salem, NC

The PrayerRev. Jacquelyn McGowan
Ministerial Staff, Living Waters AME Church, Raleigh, NC

The Worship through MusicThe Conference Choir

The ScriptureRev. Gale Smith Noble
Flat Rock AME Church, Hillsborough, NC

The Offering..... Rev. Dr. Gwen Wise-Blackman
Union Bethel AME Church, Cary, NC
All things come of Thee, O Lord; and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.

The Presentation of the Preacher.....Rev. Shanell F. White
Springdale AME Church, Burlington, NC

The Sermonic SelectionThe Conference Choir

The Sermon.....Rev. Dr. Patti Thompson-Frazier
Johnson Chapel AME Church, Mebane, NC

The Invitation to Christian DiscipleshipRev. Dr. Barbareta A. McGill
Gaines Chapel AME Church, Efland, NC

The Presentation of the 2nd District WIM President..... Rev. Kimberly Richardson
Ministerial Staff, Living Waters AMEC, Raleigh, NC

The Presentation of the Bishop..... Rev. Dr. Bridgette V. Gloster
Emmanuel AMEC, Durham, NC

The Announcements..... Rev. Phyllis T. Royal
St. James AME Church, Raleigh, NC

The Benediction.....Rev. Dr. Patti Thompson-Frazier

THE SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND HOLY COMMUNION

Thursday, May 21, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Rev. Dr. Michael A. Cousin, Sr., Worship Leader
*Chair, Western North Carolina Conference Board of Examiners
St. Paul, Chapel Hill, NC*

The Processional..... The Dean of the Board of Examiners
Candidates for Ordination
Board of Examiners & Presiding Elders

“Guide Me O, Thou Great Jehovah”

The Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

The Call to Worship..... Rev. Gwendolyn I. Benjamin
Shiloh AME Church, Morganton, NC

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE HYMN OF PRAISE Rev. Kim E. Moss
Stoney Creek AME Church, Elon, NC

“Standing on the Promises”

[Verse 1]

Standing on the promises of Christ, my
King!
Through eternal ages let His praises ring.
"Glory in the highest!" I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.
[Refrain]

[Verse 3]

Standing on the promises of Christ, the
Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love’s strong
cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit’s Sword,
Standing on the promises of God. [Refrain]

[Verse 2]

Standing on the promises that cannot fail!
When the howling storms of doubt and
fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.
[Refrain]

[Verse 4]

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
List'ning ev'ry moment to the Spirit’s call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.
[Refrain]

[Refrain]

Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God, my Savior;
Standing, standing, I’m standing on the promises of God.

The Invocation Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Johnson Sr.
Mt. Zion AME Church, Hillsborough, NC

The Choral Response “He is Lord”

The Ministry of Music.....The Western North Carolina Conference Choir

**The Presentation of the Candidates by the Dean
for Ordination as Deacons**

Rev. Dr. Clay L. Barrow, Dean:

*Bishop Harry L. Seawright, we present to you these person(s) to be ordained
Deacon(s).*

Bishop Harry L. Seawright:

**Take heed that the person(s) whom you present unto us be apt and meet, by
godly conversation to exercise their ministry, duly to the honor of God and the
edifying of the Church.**

Rev. Dr. Clay L. Barrow, Dean:

We have inquired concerning them, and also examined them, and think them so to be.

Bishop Harry L. Seawright: Name the candidates

*(The Conference Dean will read aloud the name(s) of each candidate.
Each candidate will stand as their name is called and remain standing.)*

Bishop Harry L. Seawright:

Members of the conference, if there be any of you who know any impediment or crime in any of these person(s) presented to be ordained deacon(s) for which they ought not be admitted to that office, let them come forth in the name of God and show what the crime or impediment is.

The Presentation of the Candidates by the Chairperson for Ordination as Elders

Rev. Dr. Michael A. Cousin, Sr. Chair:

Bishop Harry L. Seawright, we present to you these person(s) to be ordained Elder(s).

Bishop Harry L. Seawright:

Take heed that the person(s) whom you present unto us be apt and meet, by godly conversation to exercise their ministry, duly to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church.

Rev. Dr. Michael A. Cousin, Sr., Chair:

We have inquired concerning them, and also examined them, and think them so to be.

Bishop Harry L. Seawright: Name the candidates.

*(The Conference Dean will read aloud the name(s) of each candidate.
Each candidate will stand as their name is called and remain standing.)*

Bishop Harry L. Seawright:

Members of the conference, these are they whom we purpose, God willing this day to ordain elders; for after due examination we find not contrary, but that they are lawfully called to this function and ministry, and they are persons meet for the same. But if there are any of you who knows any impediment or crime in any of them, for which they ought not be received into this holy ministry, let them come forth in the name of God and show what the crime or impediment is.

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The Epistle – I Timothy 3: 8-13.....Rev. Debora Lawson Smith
Persimmon Grove AME Church, Greensboro, NC

Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; they must hold fast to the mystery of faith with a clear conscience. And let them first be tested; then, if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons. Let deacons be married only once and let them manage their children and households well; for those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

The Epistle – Ephesians 4: 7-13.....Rev. Percy T. McIntyre
Clover Garden AME Church, Burlington, NC

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.' (When it says, 'He ascended,' what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

The Gospel – John 10: 1-16Rev. Kathy A. Merritt
New Birth AME Church, Greensboro, NC

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and

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destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd."

"The Gloria Patri"

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

- The Presentation of the Preacher..... Bishop Harry L. Seawright
- The Sermonic SelectionThe Western North Carolina Conference Choir
- The Ordination Sermon..... Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr.
Ecumenical Officer, 124th Elected & Consecrated Bishop of the AME Church
- The Invitation to Christian Discipleship..... Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr
- The Ministry of GenerosityThe Finance Committee
- The Acknowledgment of Our Guests
- The Offertory Response

*All things come of Thee, O Lord
And of Thine own, have we given Thee. Amen.*

The Call of the Deacons

Then shall all candidates for elder's ordination stand at their seats.

The candidates should have nothing in their hands and looking directly at the Bishop.

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

All Candidates (In unison): I trust so.

Bishop: Do you unfeignedly believe all the canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

All Candidates (In unison): I do believe them.

Bishop: Will you diligently read and expound the same unto the people whom you shall be appointed to serve?

All Candidates (In unison): I will.

Bishop: It appertains to the office of a Deacon to assist the Elder in Divine Service. And especially when he or she administers the Holy Communion, to help him or her in the distribution thereof and to read and expound the Holy Scriptures; to instruct the youths, and in the absence of the Elder, to baptize. And furthermore, it is his or her office to search for the sick, poor, and impotent, that they may be visited and relieved. Will you do this gladly and willingly?

All Candidates (In unison): I will do so by the help of God.

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

All Candidates (In unison): I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my helper.

Bishop: Will you reverently obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, following with a glad mind and will their godly admonition?

All Candidates (In unison): I will endeavor to do so, the Lord being my helper.

(Then shall the bishop, laying his hand upon every one of them severally, say:)

Bishop: Take thou authority to execute the office of a deacon in the Church of God in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

When approached by the Bishop, each candidate, instructed by the Bishop, open their Holy Bible and place both hands on the Bible kissing it: The Bishop saying...

Take thou authority to read the Scriptures, and to preach the same in the Church of God in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Call of the Elders

The Ordination of Elders

Then shall all candidates for elder's ordination stand at their seats.

The candidates should have nothing in their hands and looking directly at the Bishop.

Bishop: You have heard, as well in your private examination as in the exhortation which was just made to you, and in the writings of the apostles, of what dignity and of how great importance this office is, to which you are now called. And how again we exhort you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ that you have in remembrance into how high a dignity and to how weighty an office you are called; that is to say to be messengers, watchers, and stewards of the Lord; to teach and to admonish, to feed and provide for the Lord's family; to seek for Christ's sheep that are dispersed abroad, and for his children who are in the midst of this evil world, that they may be saved through Christ forever.

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

Bishop: Forasmuch then as your office is both of so great excellence, and of so great difficulty, you see with how great awe and study you ought to apply yourselves, as neither you yourselves offend, nor be occasion that others offend. Howbeit ye cannot have a mind and will thereunto of yourselves for that will and ability are given of God alone; therefore you ought, and have need, to pray earnestly for His Holy Spirit. And seeing that you cannot by any other means compass the doing of so weighty a work pertaining to the salvation of people, with doctrine and exhortation taken out of the Holy Scriptures, and with a life agreeable to the same, consider how studious you ought to be in reading and learning the Scriptures and in framing the manners both of yourselves and of them that specially pertain to you, according to the rules of the same Scriptures; and for this selfsame cause how you ought to forsake and set aside as much as you may all worldly care and studies.

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

Bishop: And now that this present congregation of Christ here assembled may also understand your minds and wills in these things, and that this your promise may the more move you to do your duties, you shall answer plainly to these things which we, in the name of God and his Church, shall demand of you touching the same.

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

Candidates: I do so believe.

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

Candidates: I am so persuaded and have so determined by God's grace.

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

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

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

Candidates: I will, the Lord being my helper.

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

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

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

Candidates: I shall apply myself thereto, the Lord being my helper.

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

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

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

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

Bishop: Almighty God, who has given you this will to do all these things, grant also to you strength and power to perform the same, that He may accomplish His work which He has begun, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Veni Creator Spiritus

Bishop: Come Holy Ghost, our hearts inspire,

Response: And lighten with celestial fire;

Bishop: Thou the anointing Spirit art,

Response: Who doth thy sevenfold gifts impart;

Bishop: Thy blessed unction from above.

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

Bishop: Enable with perpetual light

Response: The dullness of our blinded sight;

Bishop: Anoint and cheer our soiled face

Response: With the abundance of thy grace.

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

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

Bishop: Teach us to know the Father, Son,

Response: And thee of both to be but one!

Bishop: That through the ages all along,

Response: This may be our endless song:

Bishop: Praise to Thy eternal merit,

Response: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Bishop: *Let Us Pray*

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, who of your infinite love and goodness toward us has given us your only and most dearly beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and the author of everlasting life; who, after he had made perfect our redemption by his death and was ascended into the heaven, sent abroad into the world his apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers, and pastors by whose labor and ministry he gathered together a great flock in all parts of the world, to set forth the

eternal praise of your holy name; for these so great benefits of your eternal goodness, and for that you have vouchsafed to call these your servants here present to the same office and ministry appointed for the salvation of mankind, we render to you most hearty thanks; we praise and worship you, and we humbly beseech you by your same blessed Son to grant to all, who either here or elsewhere call upon your name, that we may continue to show ourselves thankful to you of these and all your other benefits, and that we may daily increase and go forward in the knowledge and faith of you and your Son, by the Holy Spirit. So that as well by these your ministers as by them over whom they shall be appointed your ministers that your holy name may be forever glorified and your blessed kingdom enlarged through the same, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity of the same Holy Spirit, world without end. Amen.

The bishop with seven elders present shall lay their hands severally upon the head of everyone that receives the order of elder, the receivers humbly kneeling upon their knees, and the bishop saying...

The Imposition of Hands

Bishop:

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

The bishop shall deliver to each of them kneeling the Bible into his or her hands, saying...

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

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Communion Hymn..... Rev. David R. Montgomery
Turner’s Chapel AME Church, High Point, NC

“The Blood that Jesus Shed for Me”

The Solicitation..... Bishop Harry L. Seawright

You that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbor, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in His holy ways, draw near with faith and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling.

The General Confession..... Rev. Dr. Steven L. Lyons, Presiding Elder
Western District Western North Carolina Conference

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all people, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time, most grievously have committed by thought, word and deed against Your divine majesty, provoking most justly Your wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may hereafter serve and please You in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer of Consecration..... Bishop Harry L. Seawright

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who of your tender mercy did give your only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, who made thereby his oblation of himself, once offered; a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute and in his holy gospel command us to continue a perpetual memory of that, his precious death, until his coming again. Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech you, and grant that we receiving these your creatures of bread and wine, according to your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ’s holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood: who in the same night that he was betrayed took bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, “Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you. This do in remembrance of me.” Likewise after supper he took the cup and when he had given thanks he gave it to them saying, “Drink all of it, for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen.”

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The Sharing of the Elements

Bishops, Presiding Elders, Board Of Examiners, and Ordinands

The Lord's Prayer

The Celebratory Hymn..... Rev. Dr. Larry D. McDonald
St. Paul AME Church, Raleigh, NC

“What A Fellowship”

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,
Safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
Leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

The Announcements..... Rev. Devin D. Paylor, Host Pastor
Greater Bethel AME Church, Charlotte, NC

The Benediction

Ordinands

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Candidates to be elected and ordained **Itinerant Deacon** in the African Methodist Episcopal Church



TIMOTHY C. COUSIN

AGE: 32
ST PAUL AME CHURCH
CHAPEL HILL, NC

Candidates to be elected and ordained **Itinerant Elders** in the African Methodist Episcopal Church



**REV. SHELBY JAMECE
MILES**

AGE: 29
ST JAMES AME CHURCH
OAK RIDGE, NC



**REV. JEANINE
DESCHAMPS LATTA**

AGE: 58
MOUNT ZION AME CHURCH
GREENSBORO, NC



REV. TARA TINNIN

AGE: 49
ROCK CREEK AME CHURCH
SNOW CAMP, NC



**REV. DR. VERONA
HUTCHINSON**

AGE: 45
ST. JOHN AME CHURCH
RALEIGH, NC

Candidates to be elected and ordained **Local Deacons** in the African Methodist Episcopal Church



RELECIA F. ELLERBE

AGE: 59
BETHEL AME CHURCH
GREENSBORO, NC



LAVERNE M. NEWBY

AGE: 72
POPULAR SPRINGS AME CHURCH
SANFORD, NC

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE

Rev. Wayne A. Johnson, Sr., Worship Leader
Mt. Zion AME Church, Hillsborough, NC

The Call to Worship..... Rev. Vernon P. Burns
Hunter’s Chapel AME Church, Mebane, NC

Leader: Blessed are they who die in the Lord.
People: **They will rest from their labor.**
Leader: Blessed are they who die in the Lord.
People: Their deeds will follow them.
Together: Let us remember our colleagues, friends, and loved ones as people who have an anchor and a hope.

The Opening Hymn Bro. Jackie Williams
Zion Campbell AME Church, Laurinburg, NC

“Hold To God’s Unchanging Hand”

<i>[Verse 1]</i>	<i>[Verse 4]</i>
<i>Time is filled with swift transition, Naught of earth unmoved can stand, Build your hopes on things eternal, Hold to God’s unchanging hand.</i>	<i>When your journey is completed, If to God you have been true, Fair and bright the home in glory Your enraptured soul will view.</i>

[Refrain]
*Hold (Hold to His Hand) to God’s unchanging hand,
Hold (Hold to His Hand) to God’s unchanging hand;
Build your hopes on things eternal, Hold to God’s unchanging hand.*

The Prayer Rev. Oliver W. Banks
St. John AME Church, Gibsonville, NC

Eternal God, you hold all souls in life. Give us your light and your peace; give comfort to those who mourn as we remember the departed of the last Annual Conference year. Grant that we may follow the good examples of those who served you and are now at rest. Let us not be found wanting in the day of judgement, but may we enter your unending joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Scripture *1 Corinthians 15:55-58* Rev. Kerri A. Rigsbee
Dickerson Chapel AME Church, Hillsborough, NC

⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast,

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unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

The Memorial Litany.....Rev. Phyllis A. Caldwell
Mission AME Church, Morganton, NC

Leader: Since our last Annual Conference, we have been visited by the angel of death. As painful as these deaths are and the memory of them, we remember the word of God, that we do not “grieve as those who have no hope.” Today, we pause to remember those who have joined our ancestors and where one day we shall be. We give thanks for servants of the Church who have finished their labor. Let us comfort grieving families and show deep respect for our departed co-laborers.

People: **Brothers and Sisters, these are they who have run the race and finished their course this Annual Conference Year. We thank our Heavenly Parent for their labor and faithful witness.**

Memorialize the DeceasedBishop Harry L. Seawright

The deceased members of the Connectional Church.

The deceased ministers and spouses.

The deceased laypersons who were delegates at the last Annual Conference.

Other names that will be shared.

The Closing HymnMrs. Barbara Robinson
Lincolntown AME Church, Raleigh, NC

When Peace Like a River

[Verse 1]

*When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to
say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

[Verse 4]

*And Lord, hast the day when the faith
shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound, and the Lord
shall descend
Even so, it is well with my soul*

[Refrain:]

*It is well (it is well), With my soul (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

The Closing Prayer.....Rev. Phyllis T. Royal
St. James AME Church, Raleigh, NC

Leader: O God, we thank You for all those remembered here. Let us cherish their memory, celebrate their ministries, continue their work, and live in hope as sojourners ourselves that we can meet the Savior face to face. Amen.



THE 2ND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT MEMORIALIZES AND GIVES THANKS FOR THE LIVES, LEADERSHIP, AND FAITHFUL SERVICE OF BISHOP REGINALD THOMAS JACKSON (4/26/1954 - 11/25/2025) AND EPISCOPAL SUPERVISOR CHRISTY DAVIS JACKSON, ESQ. (4/24/1964 - 11/30/2024), RESPECTIVELY.

BISHOP JACKSON AND SUPERVISOR JACKSON SERVED THIS DISTRICT WITH DISTINCTION, DEVOTION, AND AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO GOD, THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AND THE PEOPLE THEY WERE CALLED TO SHEPHERD. THEIR LEGACY OF FAITH, JUSTICE, AND COMPASSIONATE LEADERSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS.

DURING OUR SEASON OF MOURNING, THE 2ND EPISCOPAL DISTRICT EXTENDS HEARTFELT PRAYERS, LOVE, AND CONTINUED SUPPORT TO REGINA, SETH, CHRIS, AND THE ENTIRE JACKSON FAMILY. MAY GOD'S PEACE AND COMFORT SURROUND THEM AND STRENGTHEN ALL OF US WHO GRIEVE.

THE RETIREMENT SERVICE

Rev. Willie L. Sanders, Jr., Worship Leader
St. Stephen's AME Church, Liberty, NC

Leader: We come here today to worship God and celebrate in the presence of God the ministry of The Reverends _____ who have been faithful servant leaders.

People: We give thanks for the mantle of leadership bestowed upon us, the spirit of humility, the generosity of love and acceptance, and the ability to make disciples, baptize, teach, marry, bury the dead, and empower laity to serve.

The Presentation of Retirees Secretary of the Conference:Rev. Bridgette V. Gloster

Leader: Bishop, the Virginia Annual Conference desires formally to recognize at this session the completion of the active service of these ministers. As Secretary of the Annual Conference, I present to you (List Names of Retirees) for the service of recognition and honor, in appreciation of their untiring labors in the Christian ministry.

Bishop: Rev(s) (List of Names of Retirees), the record of your active ministry is written in the record of God. The African Methodist Episcopal Church is deeply grateful for your ministry and for the care that you have exercised in faithfully fulfilling your vows of ordination and assignments. May the precious memories of your years of sacrificial service and fruitful labor be blessed and hallowed. And now, as you yield your official responsibilities in the active ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, be assured that the years that are yet to be may be filled with good works and become the crown of all your ministry, bringing glory and honor to you and the Church. The Annual Conference will look to you for spiritual guidance and godly example. Your colleagues in the ministry will continue to seek and respect your leadership and counsel. They will annually listen for your answer to the "Roll Call" of the Conference. Rev(s). (List of Names of Retirees), Job well done.

The Statement of Achievement for Retirees

The Closing Remarks Bishop Harry L. Seawright

The BenedictionRev. Dr. Wayne A. Johnson Sr.
Mt. Zion AME Church, Hillsborough, NC

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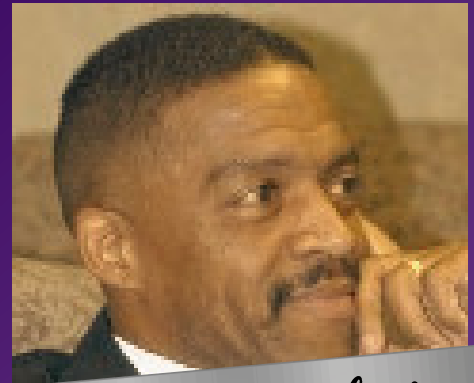
Retirees



Patrice H. Fields

REV. DR. PATRICE H. FIELDS
Itinerant Elder

THE REV. JASPER W. HEMPHILL JR.
Itinerant Elder



Jasper W. Hemphill Jr.



Allonia H. Holmes

REV. DR. ALLONIA H. HOLMES
Itinerant Elder

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Retirees



REV. JOAN A. HOPTON

Itinerant Elder

Joan A. Hopton

REV. DR. RONALD IVEY

Itinerant Elder



Ronald Ivey

REV. RANDOLPH P. LYNCH

Itinerant Elder



Randolph P. Lynch

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Retirees



Kevin Royster

REV. KEVIN ROYSTER

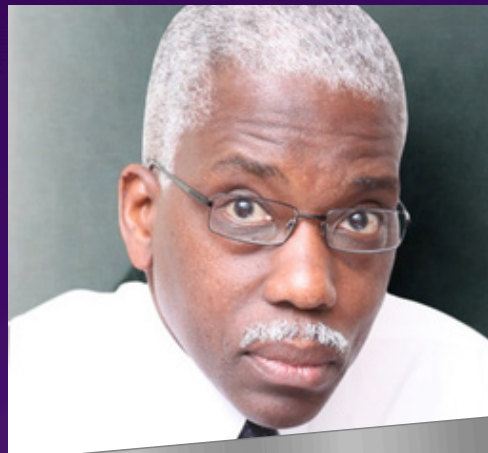
Itinerant Elder



Gay Singleton

REV. GAY SINGLETON

Itinerant Deacon



Wilmot Taylor

REV. WILMOT TAYLOR

Itinerant Elder

REV. ALLEN D. TERRELL

Itinerant Elder



Allen D. Terrell

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Friday, May 29, 2026 – 12:00 Noon

Rev. Phillip R. Cousin, Jr., Worship Leader
St. John AME Church, Raleigh, NC

- The Opening HymnThe Western North Carolina Conference Choir
- The Invocation Rev. Gwendolyn I. Benjamin
Shiloh AME Church, Morganton, NC
- The Choral Response
- The Scripture Rev. Phillip Randolph Lynch
St. James AME Church, Winston-Salem, NC
- The Choral SelectionThe Western North Carolina Conference Choir
- The Welcome and Recognition of Guests.....Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Johnson Sr.
Mt. Zion AME Church, Winston-Salem, NC
- The Worship through GivingThe Finance Committee
- The Offertory
- The Presentation of the Preacher..... Bishop Harry L. Seawright
- The Sermonic Selection.....The Western North Carolina Conference Choir
- The Sermon Bishop Seth O. Lartey
*100th Elected & Consecrated Bishop,
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church*
- The Invitation to Christian Discipleship..... Bishop Seth O. Lartey
- The AnnouncementsRev. Beverly M. Solomon
Poplar Grove AME Church, Greensboro, NC
- The Benediction Bishop Seth O. Lartey

CLOSING WORSHIP SERVICE

Friday, May 29, 2026 - 7:00 PM

Rev. Dr. Steven L. Lyons, Presiding Elder, Western District
Worship Leader

The PreludeThe Western North Carolina Conference Choir

The Processional.....“We’re Marching in the Light of God”

The Doxology..... “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

The Call to Worship Rev. Dr. Larry D. McDonald
St. Paul AME Church, Raleigh, NC

Leader: I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord,
our feet shall stand within Thy gates, O Jerusalem.

People: For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a
doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of
wickedness.

Leader: We have gathered from every corner of the Annual Conference to praise
God and witness the commissioning of our leaders.

People: We come to ask God’s blessing on those who shall lead and those who
will follow the call of Christian service.

Leader: We prepare to preach a saving, healing, and liberating gospel. We seek
to be more loving and faithful to Jesus as we cry for justice in His name.

People: We come to sing praise to the Almighty.

All: Let us go from this place filled with the Holy Spirit and mature in love.
God give us a holy fire for justice to take where we labor with mercy.
Amen! Praise the Lord! Amen!

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The Hymn of Praise..... Rev. Kelvin Royster
Macedonia AME Church, Milton, NC

“I Am On The Battlefield For My Lord”

[Chorus]

I am on the battlefield for my Lord.
I'm on the battlefield for my Lord,
And I promised Him that I would serve Him 'til I die.
I'm on the battlefield for my Lord.

[Verse 1]

I was alone and idle; I was a sinner too.
I heard a voice from heaven say there is work to do.
I took the Master's hand, and I joined the Christian band.
I'm on the battlefield for my Lord. [Chorus]

[Verse 2]

I left my friends and kindred bound for the Promised Land,
The grace of God upon me, the Bible in my hands.
In distant lands I trod, crying sinner come to God.
I'm on the battlefield for my Lord. [Chorus]

[Verse 3]

Now when I met my Savior, I met Him with a smile,
He healed my wounded spirit and owned me as His child.
Around the throne of grace, He appoints my soul a place.
I'm on the battlefield for my Lord. [Chorus]

The InvocationRev. Dwayne R. Elam
Zion Campbell AME Church, Laurinburg, NC

The Choral Response.....“We Need to Hear From You”

The Ministry through Music.....The Western North Carolina Conference Choir

The Scriptures:

Old TestamentRev. Myraetta McGibboney
White Cross AME Church, Efland, NC

Epistle Rev. Dr. Jasper W. Hemphill, Jr.
St. Paul AME Church, Mt. Airy, NC

The Gospel..... Rev. Dedrick Jones
Joseph Temple AME Church, Laurinburg, NC

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The Summary of DecalogueRev. Dr. Abdue L. Knox I
St. Joseph’s AME Church, Durham, NC

Hear what Christ our Savior saith, You shall love the Lord thy God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment, and the second is like it: you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

The Gloria Patri

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

The Ministry through MusicThe Western North Carolina Conference Choir

The Offering for Missions..... The Finance Team

The Offertory

Special Greetings Former Governor Roy Cooper
Candidate, U.S. Senate in North Carolina

The Presentation of the Episcopal Supervisor Sister Jerica Hamilton
Director, Western North Carolina Conference YPD

Rev. Sherita Moon Seawright
Supervisor, 2nd Episcopal District

The Presentation of the Bishop Rev. Dr. A. Qismat Alim, Presiding Elder
Eastern District, Western North Carolina Conference

The Presentation of the Preacher Bishop Harry L. Seawright

The Sermonic Selection.....The Western North Carolina Conference Choir

The Sermon Rev. Dr. Betty Holley
Presiding Elder, New Dayton District &
President, Payne Theological Seminary

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship Rev. David R. Montgomery
Turner’s Chapel AME Church, High Point, NC

The Worship through GivingThe Finance Committee

The Conference ResolutionResolutions Committee

The Commissioning Service

The Selection..... Rev. Dr. Brian K. Lucas Sr.
Maxwell Chapel AME Church, Graham, NC

"A Charge to Keep I Have"

A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify,
A never dying soul to save
And fit it for the sky.

To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfill;
O may it all my powers engage
To do my Master's will!

Arm me with jealous care
As in Thy sight to live,
And O, Thy servant, Lord, prepare
A strict account to give!

Help me to watch and pray,
And on Thyself rely
Assured if I my trust betray,
I shall forever die. Amen

The Presentation of Certificates

The Prayer Rev. Joshua Stephens
Rock Creek AME Church, Snow Camp, NC

The Scripture 2 Timothy 4: 1-5..... Rev. Joan A. Hopton
Union Bethel AME Church, Winston-Salem, NC

The Commissioning Hymn Rev. Dr. Sarah Springs
St. Matthew AME Church, Graham, NC

“Go Preach My Gospel”

Go, preach My gospel,” saith the Lord.
“Bid the whole earth My grace receive.
Explain to them My sacred word;
Bid them believe, obey, and live.

“I’ll make My great commission known,
And ye shall prove My gospel true
By all the works that I have done
And all the wonders ye shall do.

“Go, heal the sick; go raise the dead;
Go, cast out devils in My name;
Nor let My prophets be afraid,
Though Greeks reproach and Jews blaspheme.

“While thus ye follow My commands
I’m with you till the world shall end;
All power is trusted in My hands;
I can destroy and can defend.”

He spake, and light shone round His head,
On a bright cloud to heaven He rode.
They to the farthest nation spread
The grace of their ascended God.

The Reading of Appointments Bishop Harry L. Seawright

The Doxology

The Benediction Bishop Harry L. Seawright



Rev. Denise Lynn Smith-Ranel

Pastor, Mt. Bethel/Mitchell Chapel AME Church, Lenoir, NC

The Reverend Denise Lynn Smith-Ranel is an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and currently serves as Pastor of Mount Bethel–Mitchell Chapel AME Church in Lenoir, North Carolina. She is a seasoned pastor, prophetic preacher, hospice chaplain, and singer whose ministry is marked by theological depth, pastoral compassion, and an unwavering commitment to healing, justice, and hope.

Her leadership has been evident from her earliest days in ministry. She served as President of the Rochester Institute of Technology Gospel Ensemble and Gospel Chaplain, cultivating worship and spiritual life among students. She later served as President of the Black Student Caucus at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, the alma mater of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., standing firmly in the tradition of prophetic Black faith and scholarship. She also served as Coordinator for Women in Ministry in the First Episcopal District, championing the voices and callings of women in the AME Church.

Rev. Smith-Ranel holds a Master of Divinity with a counseling focus, a Master of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. A proud veteran of the United States Air Force, she brings discipline, resilience, and clarity of call to every assignment.

Her preaching is both prophetic and pastoral, deeply rooted in Scripture while courageously attentive to the social realities of our time. She believes the gospel compels us not only to shout about hope, but to stand for justice... not only to gather in worship, but to serve with purpose.

She is the author of the forthcoming book **Rain, Rein, Reign**. She is married to the Reverend Darrell W. Ranel Sr., esteemed AME pastor and host of the legendary Darrell Ranel Morning Gospel Show, often affectionately known as “the hardest working man in radio.” Together, they are the proud parents of ten children, reflecting a life grounded in faith, family, and legacy.

She comes not only as a preacher, but as a woman called, commissioned, and sent by God for such a time as this.



Rev. Myraette McGibboney

Pastor, White Cross AME Church, Efland, NC

Rev. Myraette “Cookie” McGibboney is a devoted servant of God who loves the Lord, people, and especially children. Known for her powerful spirit, loving heart, and deep connection to community, she is a native of Greensboro and Charlotte, North Carolina. She considers the greatest moment of her life to be accepting Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She is the proud daughter of the late Ruby Morehead McGibboney and Louis McGibboney and the loving mother of three children: Camille, Quinton, and Aubrianna.

Rev. McGibboney joined her family church, Persimmon Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church in Greensboro, North Carolina, at an early age. She later answered the call to ministry and faithfully served in pastoral leadership for more than two decades.

Her first pastoral appointment was assigned by Bishop Vinton R. Anderson at Elizabeth AME Church in Liberty, North Carolina (2000–2001). Under the leadership of Bishop Adam Jefferson Richardson, she served as pastor of St. James AME Church in Sanford, North Carolina (2001–2015). In 2015, she was appointed by Bishop William P. DeVeaux to serve White Cross AME Church in Efland, North Carolina, where she continues to lead faithfully. She was nominated by Bishop James L. Davis to serve a term on the Board of Examiners and was later reappointed to White Cross AME Church under the episcopal leadership of Bishop Reginald T. Jackson.

In addition to her pastoral ministry, Rev. McGibboney is a retired Registered Nurse with a heart for global missions. She has participated in medical mission trips to Haiti, Peru, the Caribbean Islands, and four Central American countries: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Most recently, she traveled to Rwanda, Congo, and Goma, Africa, visiting the 17th Episcopal District and the Weaver School. Her spirit of service extends to volunteering with Youth for Christ, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and the American Heart Association.

Rev. McGibboney’s professional nursing career was marked by excellence and distinction. She served as a Congregational Nurse through initiatives supported by The Duke Endowment and Cone Health, ministering at Genesis Baptist Church and Persimmon Grove AME Church. She has assisted numerous churches in establishing Congregational Nurse programs and has served as a nurse for the Western North Carolina Annual Conference. Her recognitions include being named one of the “Great 100 Nurses of Excellence,” Nurse Star of the Month in RN Magazine, and author of Pregnancy-Induced Hypertension in Advance for Nurses Magazine. She received multiple honors from Cone Health, including Employee of the Month, numerous peer recognition awards, and a DAISY Award nomination. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she was recognized as a FOX8 News Hero for her dual service as both Nurse and Pastor.

Rev. McGibboney holds multiple degrees and has pursued extensive studies in both nursing and theology. She is a proud graduate of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (Aggie Pride), where she earned Bachelor of Science degrees in Clothing and Textiles Merchandising and Nursing. She also holds a Master of Theology from Jacksonville Theological Seminary. Her additional studies include continuing education in Congregational Nursing at Duke University and Occupational Health and Safety at North Carolina A&T State University.



Rev. Dr. Clay Barrow

Pastor Bethel AME Church, Greensboro, NC

A native of Philadelphia, PA, Rev. Dr. Clay L. Barrow was reared in Windsor, NC. Upon matriculating through the public school system and graduating with honors and as an NC Scholar from Bertie High School in 1989, Dr. Barrow continued his educational pursuit at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he received a BA degree with a double major in Psychology and Political Science in 1993. He attended the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, graduating in 1996 with a Master of Divinity with concentrations in Black Church Studies and Pastoral Care and Counseling. He is a 2017 graduate of Hood Theological Seminary after completing his Doctor of Ministry project, "Implementing a Pragmatic Model for Teaching Pastoral Care and Crisis Management to Candidates in the Western North Carolina Conference Board of Examiners of the AME Church." Dr. Barrow was the first to complete the D.Min. Specialization in Pastoral Theology and Care, the first to complete the program in a record five semesters, and the first to complete the program with a 4.0 GPA.

Dr. Barrow's career began in the educational field, teaching Old and New Testament at the prestigious Westminster Schools in Atlanta, GA. His ministerial career also began in Atlanta as a Volunteer Chaplain in the Atlanta Police Chaplaincy Corps. While there, Dr. Barrow initiated the first supervised ministry internship between the Atlanta Police Department and the Candler School of Theology. His employment continued at the Atlanta Urban Ministry as a tutor for children residing in two battered women's and children's shelters and later served as the Emergency Aid Coordinator. He also served as the Co-Director of the Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church/Cool Girls, Inc. Joint After-School Program, which provided academic assistance to at-risk females at a local public housing community.

Upon relocating to Sumter, SC, in 2001, Dr. Barrow completed an Internship and a one-year Residency in Clinical Pastoral Education (5 units total). After completing CPE, Dr. Barrow began working for the Santee-Wateree Mental Health Center as a school-based therapist, Triage Specialist, Crisis Team member, and After-Hours Team Coordinator.

Since graduating from Hood, Dr. Barrow serves as an Affiliate Professor of Pastoral Theology at Hood Theological Seminary, as well as the Director of Supervised Ministry, the Director of the Center for Chaplaincy, and the Area Convener (Departmental Chair) of Pastoral Theology.

Dr. Barrow is an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, having served the pastorates of Mt. Zion in Greeleyville, SC, Mt. Sinai in Lynchburg, SC, Bethel/Red Bluff in Wytheville, VA, Clapp's Chapel in Whitsett, NC, and, currently, is the proud pastor of Bethel in Greensboro, NC. He serves the 2nd Episcopal District of the AME Church as the Dean of the Board of Examiners, Chair of the Legislative Task Force of the Western North Carolina Conference, and the Historiographer of the 2nd Episcopal District.

Dr. Barrow is married to Tawana Walker Barrow, MD (retired psychiatrist). They have two daughters: Maia, who is a recent graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA, and Evita Staples (Dr. Quinton Staples) of Greensboro, NC, and one granddaughter, Judah Staples. He is a proud member of Omega Psi Phi, Inc., Tau Omega Chapter, where he serves as the Chaplain.



Minister Cameron I. Seawright

Administrative Assistant to the Bishop/Supervisor

Director, Youth and Young Adults Ministries, Second Episcopal District

Minister Cameron I. Seawright is a dynamic leader, minister, and entrepreneur with a deep passion for service, empowerment, and spiritual development. Over the years, he has consistently demonstrated strong leadership and a steadfast commitment to activism, ministry, and community impact.

Cameron has launched two business ventures. Isaiah's Cart, a grocery delivery service, operated from July 2020 through May 2021. He is currently the owner of Isaiah's Orbit, a 360 photo booth rental company founded in June 2022.

He is a 2025 graduate of Benedict College, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, graduating cum laude. While at Benedict, Cameron served as President of BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ), Co-Chair of the Student Advisory Board for the Tyrone Adams Burroughs School of Business, and President of the Collegiate 100 Chapter of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. His academic excellence and leadership earned him the Spouses Education Scholarship from the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and the Foot Locker Scholarship from the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

He also represented Benedict College as a Congress of National Black Churches (CNBC) Leadership Scholar in Orlando, Florida, and was recognized on the Dean's List for six consecutive semesters.

From January 2023 to May 2025, Cameron served as Campus Minister at Benedict College, becoming the first student to hold this position. Affectionately known as "Pastor Cam," he led the Religious Services Department through a season of revitalization, significantly increasing worship attendance and giving, while providing tangible support to students through transportation assistance, gift cards, and emergency financial relief. Under his leadership, a proposal was submitted to renovate the historic Antidel Chapel, including upgraded audiovisual equipment, new carpeting, and refurbishments honoring the chapel's historic significance.

Cameron is enrolled at Emory University's Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia, where he has completed his first year pursuing a Master of Divinity with the support of a full-ride scholarship.

From June to December 2025, Cameron served in the 13th Episcopal District as Consultant for Youth and Young Adult Development Ministries. During this time, he authored a grant proposal, coordinated Youth and Young Adult services across all Annual Conferences and district meetings, championed the importance of ensuring this generation is seen and valued within the church, created intentional space for diverse expressions of worship, and coordinated a youth-centered international experience in South Africa aimed at expanding worldviews, cultivating cultural competency, and inspiring a global understanding of ministry and service.

Cameron currently serves as Administrative Assistant and Director of Youth and Young Adults for the 2nd Episcopal District. In this role, he designs and implements programming that fosters leadership, discipleship, and mentorship. He collaborates with district and local leadership; plans district-wide events; and leads fundraising and grant-writing initiatives to advance ministry goals.



Rev. Dr. Patti Thompson-Frazier

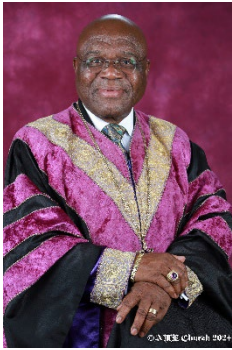
Pastor, Johnson Chapel AME Church, Mebane, NC

Rev. Dr. Patti Thompson Frazier is the daughter of the late Mr. Benjamin Thompson and Rev. Anita Thompson of Hillsborough, NC, and the enormously proud wife of Aloysius Frazier.

She was educated in the Orange County School System. Patti was awarded her Bachelor of Science from North Carolina Central University and continued her education at Temple University School of Podiatric Medicine. She has been licensed to practice Podiatry in New York and North Carolina. With the help of God, she completed the Master of Divinity Program at Hood Theological Seminary in 2023.

Rev. Dr. Thompson Frazier labored in a small part of the vineyard by the name of Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church for a decade as an associate minister. At Johnson Chapel, her ministry for children and youth was birthed and developed. She pastored Elizabeth AME Church in Liberty for five years. God saw it fit to bring her back home to Johnson Chapel A.M.E. Church, where she now serves as the pastor. She is a willing vessel for kingdom building. Her motto is, "God, use me."

Her favorite scripture is 2 Timothy 2:15," Study to show thyself approved unto God a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."



Bishop David Rwhynica Daniels, Jr.

Ecumenical Officer, 124th Elected & Consecrated Bishop of the AME Church

The Right Reverend David Rwhynica Daniels, Jr. of Liberia was the Pastor of Eliza Turner African Methodist Episcopal Church, in Monrovia, Liberia. Bishop John Richard Bryant appointed him pastor of Eliza Turner Memorial AME Church in February 1989. In May 1989, Rev. Daniels founded the Christian United for Peace, "CUP" which he helped to organize along with many professionals and permanent Liberians. He and many peace-loving Liberians opposed the civil war and called for a national "Peace March," which brought out thousands of peace-loving citizens to denounce the war.

Bishop Daniels grew Eliza Turner from 12 members to over 500 in one year. The success of this ministry was swift but short-lived because of the civil war, which broke out in Liberia in December 1989.

Before his election in July 2004, he was the pastor of Turner Memorial AME in West Columbia, South Carolina. Bishop. Daniels, the visionary leader that he is, met Turner Memorial in debt, and he organized the church and instituted a Sacrificial Giving effort, which got the church out of debt in 16 months. He moved quickly to establish a school called Turner Child Development Center. They now have a thriving school with several full-time employees. Bishop Daniels was born in Rivercess County, Republic of Liberia, and West Africa in the spring of 1957. He is married to Mrs. Irene Moifoi Daniels. They are the proud parents of daughters: Danica Rwyssayma, Davida Renee, and Lesha Mardea.

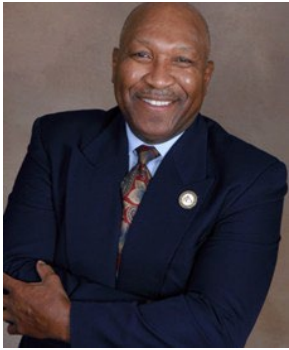
Bishop Daniels lived in the United States for a year and three months after he escaped for his life in June of 1990 from Liberia. When asked by Bishop John Richard Bryant the second time to come back to Liberia, Rev. Daniels gladly accepted the challenge. Bishop Daniels came back home to Liberia the second time to continue the ministry he began at Eliza Turner Memorial AME Church. Turner grew from a few hundred members to several thousand. The church went from one full-time employee to several employees before the 1996 hostilities.

In 1992, Rev. Daniels organized a ministry school, which developed into a seminary. It was named in honor of Bishop John Richard and Rev. Dr. Cecelia W Bryant. It was formally named the Bryant School of Ministry, "BSOM". It is known as the Bryant Theological Seminary. Under the leadership of Bishop C. Garnett Henning, Sr., Bishop Daniels played an integral role in organizing the AME University in Monrovia, Liberia. He also the founder of Frank M. Reid, Jr. Christian School in Liberia, emphasizing spiritual and academic excellence and Christian moral standards.

Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr. holds a Master of Divinity degree from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. He is trained in Clinical Pastoral Counseling and holds an Advanced Pastoral Clinical Education certificate. He was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree, Magna cum Laude, in Business Administration from Allen University.

On July 5, 2004, God answered the long-awaited prayer of Bishop David R. Daniels, Jr. to go back to be used by God "To Make a Positive Difference" when he got elected and consecrated as the 124th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. His election was a history-making event in the life of the church as the First West African to be elected from West Africa as Bishop in the AME Church. To God Be the Glory!

He was assigned to the 14th Episcopal District serving from 2004 to 2012. At the 2012 General Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, he was assigned to the 15th District encompassing Western South Africa, Namibia, and Angola, and reassigned in 2016 at the 50th Session of the General Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At the 2021 General Conference, he was assigned to the 17th Episcopal District encompassing Central Africa, including the countries of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Zambia. At the 2024 General Conference was assigned to the Ecumenical Office of the AME Church.



Dr. Vergel Lattimore

President and Professor of Pastoral Psychology and Counseling, Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, North Carolina

Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore III is a native of Charlotte, NC, and received his primary and secondary education in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. He received the B.A. (with high honors) in Social Welfare from Livingstone College (1975), Salisbury, NC, and the M. Div. from Duke University Divinity School (1977), Durham, NC. He holds a Ph.D. in Pastoral Psychology and Counseling from Northwestern University (1984), Evanston, IL. He was married to Joy R. Powell for 42 years before her death by cancer in October 2021, and they have three adult children. In December 2024, he married Alcecia S. Carr, and he was pleased to embrace two beautiful adult bonus daughters.

Dr. Lattimore is Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Care and Counseling and former Director of the M.A. in Counseling Ministries, Methodist Theological School in Ohio (1990-2012). He served as Director of Counseling, Addiction and Psychological Services (CAPS), Syracuse Community Health Center, Inc. (1988-90). He also worked as a Core Staff Pastoral Counselor/Area Coordinator, Onondaga Pastoral Counseling Center (1983-88), Syracuse, NY. He was Assistant Dean, Office of Minority Affairs, Duke University (1977-79).

He is a published poet in *Beyond the Stars* (1995/96), National Library, and author of *Instruments of Peace: The Viable and Strategic Role of Religious Leadership Factors in Averting War* (2013)

He is an ordained Elder in the A.M.E. Zion Church. In the Air National Guard (ANG), he served as Assistant to the Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Air Force, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC (2003-2005). He was the first African American chaplain to attain the rank of Brigadier General in the U.S. Air Force and the ANG.

He is a Psychotherapist Member, Association of Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE, 2019-); Clinical Member, Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT, 1992-) a licensed Independent Marriage and Family Therapist (IMFT, Ohio, 2004-); member, Atrium Healthcare System, Professional Advisory Group (2012-); member, Salisbury Rotary Club (2012-); F & M Bank, Board of Directors (2016-); and Board Chair, The Gift of Black Theological Education & Black Faith Traditions, Inc. (Gift Collaborative)(2023 -).

His honors (selected) include: Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities; Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society; North Mecklenburg High School Hall of Fame (Charter Inductee, 1997); Outstanding Young Men of America (1977, 1979, 1981, 1998); Life Member, Livingstone College Alumni Association; Life Member, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; President's Meritorious Service Award, Livingstone College (2004); Livingstone College Alumni Leaders Hall of Fame Inductee (2005); The Air Force Legion of Merit Medal (2005); State of Ohio National Guard – Distinguished Service Medal (2005); Who's Who in Black Columbus (2008, 2009); Who's Who in Black Charlotte (2012); Livingstone College Presidential Award (2015); and The Bishop Alfred G. Dunston, Jr. Salute to Service Award, International Ministers & Lay Association, A.M.E. Zion Church (2018); A North Carolina, Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) Living Legend Inductee (2019).



Bishop Seth O. Lartey

100th Bishop, AME Zion Church, Winston-Salem, NC

Bishop Seth O. Lartey is a 1976 graduate of the A.M.E. Zion Academy, Monrovia, Liberia, and the Liberian Baptist Theological Seminary, 1980, with a B.Th. degree. He received a B.A. degree in Intermediate Education from Livingstone College, Salisbury, North Carolina, in 1987. He's a graduate of the School of Divinity at Duke University, where he received a Master's degree in Religious Education. He received his D.Min. Degree in 2003 from Drew University in Madison, New Jersey. Bishop Lartey has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, among them, Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities, Presidential Scholar, NAACP Presidential Award, and the State of NC NAACP Man of the Year Award.

His pastorates began with St. Matthias A.M.E. Zion Church (West Africa), 1980-82. He moved to St. John A.M.E. Zion, Wilson, NC, as Associate Pastor 1983-85. He was made Interim Pastor at Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church in Wilson in 1985. Later in 1985, he was made Pastor at Invitation A.M.E. Zion Church in Snow Hill, NC, 1985-1987. He was moved to Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church in Elizabethtown, NC, from 1987 to 1992. In 1992, he was moved to Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion in Winston-Salem, NC, where he would remain for 20 years. Bishop Lartey was elevated to the episcopacy from Goler Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church as the 100th Bishop in succession.

Bishop Lartey is the Founder and President of the Goler Institute for Development and Education, Inc. He is also Founder and President of the Goler Community Development Corporation Inc. Bishop Lartey is Chaplain at the Forsyth Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He serves on numerous boards, including the Camp Dorothy Walls Conference and Retreat Center Board of Directors and the Brotherhood Pension Board of the A.M.E. Zion Church. He is married to the former Jacqueline I. Williams and is the parent of three children.



Rev. Dr. Betty Holley

Presiding Elder, New Dayton, Third Episcopal District of the AME Church

President, Payne Theological Seminary

Dr. Holley was elected as the 18th President of Payne Theological Seminary on May 10, 2026. She holds a BA from Bennett College, an M.Ed. from the University of North Carolina, an M.Div. from Payne Theological Seminary, and a Ph.D. from Union Institute and University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Before her career in higher education, she served as a teacher at Dayton Public Schools, Xenia Community Schools, Richmond County Schools (NC), and Greensboro Public/Guilford County Schools (NC). She has taught at the following institutions of higher education: Wilberforce University, Payne Theological Seminary, Wright State University, and Clark State Community College.

In addition to her duties as Academic Dean, she was the Director of the ATEP program at Payne Seminary. She was also a Research Scientist for Project SWOOPE (Students Watching Over Our Planet Earth) at the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

In 2022, Dr. Holley became Chair of the Board of the Commission on Accrediting at the Association of Theological Schools (ATS).

In her ministerial vocation, she has served as the pastor of Holy Trinity AME Church, Wilberforce, Ohio, and Central Chapel AME Church. She currently serves as the Presiding Elder for the Springfield-Xenia District.

Present Areas of Service

- Director Of the Master of Divinity Degree Program at Payne Seminary
- Core Faculty, First Woman Full-Tenured Professor of Ecological Theology, At Payne Theological Seminary, Wilberforce, OH
- Accrediting Consultant for Turner Theological Seminary, Atlanta, GA
- Former Chair of the Board of Commissioners on Accrediting For the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) In the United States and Canada
- Member of the Redevelopment Taskforce Committee for the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) For The 2020 Standards
- Member Of the Global Awareness and Engagement Initiative Committee Of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS)
- Broader Social Impacts Committee (BSIC) Member at the Smithsonian Institute of Natural History in Washington, DC ([Http://Humanorigins.Si.Edu/About/Bsic](http://Humanorigins.Si.Edu/About/Bsic))
- Creation Justice Ministry Executive Board Vice-Chair, Representative for the African Methodist Episcopal Church
- 1st Vice-President of the Connectional Presiding Elders' Council
- 1st Vice-President for the Commission on Higher Educational Institutions and Seminaries in the African Methodist Episcopal Church

EASTERN DISTRICT

Rev. Dr. A. Qismat Alim, Presiding Elder
Pastors, Delegates, and Alternates

CHURCH	PASTOR	DELEGATE	ALTERNATE
Allen Chapel, Laurinburg	Rev. Torrey Dekine	Kenneth Pegues	Maurice Quick
Bethel, Greensboro	Rev. Dr. Clay Burrow	Chaynel Blake	Lamar Lee
Bethel, Reidville	Rev. Crystally Covington	Francetta Pickard	Cathy Watkins
Corpening Chapel, Morganton		Hattie Rutherford	Deirdre Rutherford Barrett
Emmanuel, Durham	Rev. Dr. Bridgette Gloster	Loretta McCauley	Emma Devine
Gaines Chapel, Efland	Rev. Dr. Barbareta McGill	Flora Compton	Bernice Allison
Greater Bethel, Charlotte	Rev. Devin Paylor	Nefertiti Brown	Philip Rice
Hartland, Morganton	Rev. Samuel Patterson	James Jefferson	Anita Lloyd
Mars Hill, Lenoir	Rev. Vernon Burns	Anita Lloyd	Tara Vannoy
Hunter's Chapel, Mebane	Rev. Michael Shade	Marla Thompson	Shirley Ray
Israel Chapel, Connelly Springs	Rev. Dedrick Jones	Margaret Carson	Dwight Kelley
Joseph Temple, Laurinburg	Rev. Dr. Wayne Beatty	Ida McGill	Annette Reed
Lincolnvillle, Raleigh	Rev. Dr. Allonia Holmes	Barbara E. Robinson	Ruby Williams
Living Waters, Raleigh	Rev. Samuel Patterson	Linda Badger	Tiffany Utley
McElrath, Morganton	Rev. Jacqueline Robertson	Tim Shade	Preston Thomas
Mt. Pisgah, Hickory	Rev. Brenda Prince	Valerie Jenkins	Sonji Rose
Mt. Sinai, Pittsboro	Rev. Shontea Smith	Henry Hadley	Ernest Dark
Mt. Zion, Greensboro	Rev. Jeanine Latta	Vernetta Bowden	Wanda Smith
Mt. Zion, Hillsborough	Rev. Dr. Wayne Johnson	Beverly Hester-Stephens	Sally Jones
New Covenant, Charlotte	Rev. Gary Dent	Iris Burke	Debra Welch
Piney Grove, Raleigh	Rev. Sharon Mitchell	Sue Harrington	Rev. Claire Francis
Poplar Springs, Sanford	Rev. Tara Tinnin	Shamaka Rivera*	Silas Newby*
Rock Creek, Snow Camp	Rev. Joshua Stephens	Earlene Thaxton	Leonard Foust
Shiloh, Morganton	Rev. Gwendolyn Benjamin		
Springdale, Burlington	Rev. Shanell White	Dustin Austin	Tonya Austin
St. James, Raleigh	Rev. Phyllis Royal	Bessie Walker	Vivian Hilliard
St. James, Sanford	Rev. Stephanie Revell	Roberta Davis	Robert Newby
St. Johns, Gibsonville	Rev. Oliver Banks	Sophia McCoy	Richetta Roach
St. Johns, Raleigh	Rev. Philip Cousin, Jr.	Patricia Penn	Michael Woods
St. Mary, Apex	Rev. Dr. Sequoia Dawson	Bobby Jean Cross	Lucille Thorpe
St. Matthew, Burlington	Rev. Dr. Patrice Fields	Monica Miles	Jamie Reid
St. Matthew, Graham	Rev. Dr. Sarah Springs	Sharon Hayes	Dana Boylan-Walker
St. Paul, Raleigh	Rev. Dr. Larry McDonald	Vaughn Faison	Olivia McDonald
Union Bethel, Cary	Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Wise-Blackman	Ida Pope	Reginald K. Blackman
White Cross, Efland	Rev. Myraette McGiboney	Anessa Miles	Nia Brown
Willow Tree, Morganton	Rev. Anthony Radcliff	Terry Connelly	Valerie Connelly
Zion Campbell, Laurinburg		Bro. Jackie Williams	Velton Bennett, Sr.

WESTERN DISTRICT

Rev. Dr. Steven L. Lyons, Presiding Elder
Pastors, Delegates, and Alternates

CHURCH	PASTOR	DELEGATE	ALTERNATE
Allen Chapel, Roxboro	John T. Capers	Sir Victor Torain	Stella Carver
Bailey's Chapel, Roxboro		Velma Drumright	
Bethel, Pleasant Garden	Kevin M. Odom	Dr. Tonya G. Goins	Katrina M. Cheek
Clapp's Chapel, Whitsett	Timothy M. Boone	Shavonica Stevenson	Sandra L. Vincent
Clover Garden, Burlington	Percy T McIntyre	Roberta Stone	Sandi Thompson
Dickerson Chapel, Hillsborough	Kerri A. Rigsbee	Maxine Riley	Beverly Thompson
Flat Rock, Hillsborough	Gale Smith-Noble	Frances Hope	Mary Hackney
Friendship, Ramseur	Willard K., Jr. Rogers	Marlene Montague	Charlese Montague
Gaston Chapel, Morganton	Allen E. Warren	Jacqueline Kanipe	Rosa Taylor
Johnson Chapel, Mebane	Dr. Patti M. Thompson-Frazier	Mary Ann Graves	Bro. Aloyisus Frazier
Little Rock, Collecttsville		Daniel Corpensing	A.J. Ferguson
Macedonia, Milton	Kelvin Royster	Marylene McCain	Martha Jeffries
Maxwell Chapel, Graham	Dr. Brian K., Sr. Lucas	Henry Foust	
Mission, Morganton	Phyllis A. Caldwell	Mark Erwin	
Mt. Bethel/Mitchell Chapel	Denise Lynn Smith	Olivia Banner	Connie Patterson
Mt. Herman, Glen Alpine	Michael G. Shade	Rufus Henry Shade Jr.	Rita Rankin
New Birth, Greensboro	Kathy A. Merritt	Bro. Stephen People	Phyllis Russell
New Harris Grove, Rougemont		Patricia Bumpass	Helen Trotter
Oak Level, Milton	Christopher M. Brooks	Dorothy Jeffries	Gloria Lea
Payne Chapel, Hillsborough	Allen Terrell	Brenda Harris	Carolyn Wade
Pearson Chapel, Yanceyville	Natasha L., Esq. Miller	Pattie Turner	
Pearson Memorial, High Point	Johnnie P. Bolden	Anna Mackey	Mary Lindsey
Persimmon Grove, Greensboro	Debora Lawson-Smith	Sis. Ashley Lucas	Carletta Judd
Poplar Grove, Greensboro	Beverly M. Solomon	Lennie Alexander	
Queen's Chapel, Burlington	Dwayne D. Alston	Deborah Harrison	Willie Harrison
Quinn Chapel, Roxboro		Riley Walters	
St. James, Asheville	Douglas B. Bynum	Dr. Harskins Hayes Jr.	Courtney Walker
St. James, Oak Ridge	Shelby J. Miles	Shania Hoskins	
St. James, Winston-Salem	R. Phillip Lynch	Patricia W. Jeffers	Byron L. Barbre
St. John, Nebo	Sandra Hooper	Sidney Rutherford	Zachary Joyner
St. Joseph, Durham	Dr. Abdue L., I Knox	Reico Izzard	Lauren Hester
St. Matthew, Raleigh	Marion B. Robinson	Lenora T. Woods	Chester Jenkins
St. Paul, Chapel Hill	Dr. Michael A. Cousin, Sr.	Carlotta B. Armstrong	
St. Paul, Lenoir	Ronald K. Banner	Patricia Lipford	Barbara R. Smith
St. Paul, Mt. Airy	Jasper W. Hemphill	Kathleen Lightfoot	Rosalind Moore
St. Stephen, Liberty	Willie L., Jr. Sanders	Victor Bartell	Nakia Murphy
St. Stephen's, Mt. Gilead	Willard K., Jr. Rogers	Reneé McCrae	Tracy Benson
Stoney Creek, Elon	Kim E. Moss	F. Darlene Willis	Diane Fowler
Turner's Chapel, High Point	David R. Montgomery	Patricia Edwards	John Lomax
Union Bethel, Winston-Salem	Joan A. Hopton	Belinda Jessup	Beverly Gwynn
Wayman Chapel, Graham	LaTonya W. Pender	Audrey McCain	Ada Nelson
Wood's Chapel, Graham	Toma R. Shaw	Lisa Woods	Donna Holt

