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Seventh Episcopal District
African Methodist Episcopal Church

God Our Father • Christ Our Redeemer
The Holy Spirit Our Comforter • Humankind Our Family

2017
GOD FIRST
HOLY CONVOCATION
AND THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

March 29 - April 1, 2017
FLORENCE CIVIC CENTER
3300 Radio Drive
Florence, South Carolina 29501

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33

THEME:
Doing Church Differently: E3

"God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us." Acts 17:27 NIV

The Reverend Merritt Graves, Host Pastor
The Reverend Remus Harper, Host Presiding Elder
PRESIDING ELDER COUNCIL
OF THE SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

Palmetto Annual Conference
The Reverend Dr. Juenarrl Keith
Mt. Pleasant District
The Reverend Dr. Allen W. Parrott
Kingstree District
The Reverend Dr. Sandy W. Drayton
Georgetown District

South Carolina Annual Conference
The Reverend Dr. Norvel Goff, Sr.
Edisto District
The Reverend Malachi L. Duncan
Charleston District
The Reverend Joseph A. Darby
Beaufort District

Northeast Annual Conference
The Reverend Dr. James S. Cooper
Sumter District
The Reverend Remus Harper
Florence-Dillon District
The Reverend Dr. William Smith, Jr.
Marion District

Piedmont Annual Conference
The Reverend Judy M. Richardson
Greenville District
The Reverend Samuel L. McPherson
Abbeville-Greenwood District

Columbia Annual Conference
The Reverend Rosalyn G. Coleman
Columbia District
The Reverend Joseph Postell
Lancaster District
The Reverend Dr. M. Charmaine Ragin Merrick
Newberry District

Central Annual Conference
The Reverend Dr. Charles Young
Orangeburg District
The Reverend Eddie Gaston, Jr.
Manning District
The Reverend Phillip Anderson
Wateree District

SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT INSTITUTIONS

Allen University
Ernest McNealy, PhD
Interim President

Dickerson Seminary
The Reverend Dr. Eric S. C. Manning
Dean

Reid House of Christian Services
TBA
CONNECTIONAL OFFICERS
OF THE SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

The Reverend Dr. George Flowers  
Executive Director  
Global Witness and Ministry

The Reverend Dr. Garland Pierce  
Executive Director  
Department of Christian Education

Mrs. Lula Shaw Cleckley  
President, CONN-M-SWAWO

Mrs. Tanya Harper  
Recording Secretary, WMS

Ms. Sylvia Blake  
Member-At-Large, WMS

The Reverend Eduardo Curry  
Member, Judicial Council

Mr. George Brown  
Connectional President, Sons of Allen

Mrs. Gloria DeVeaux-Cobb  
Recording Secretary, Lay Organization

Mr. Norman L. Deas  
Advisor to the President, Lay Organization

Mr. Wayne Singleton  
Treasurer, Music and Christian Arts Ministry

The Reverend Myron Hill  
Parliamentarian, Music and Christian Arts Ministry

EPISCOPAL DISTRICT OFFICERS
OF THE SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

The Reverend Dr. Allen W. Parrott  
President, Presiding Elder’s Council

Mr. Roger Cleckley  
President, Lay Organization

Mrs. Sandra Anderson  
President, Women’s Missionary Society (WMS)

Dr. Ila McFadden  
Director, Young People’s Division (YPD)

Mr. C. Rashon Murray  
President, Young People’s Division (YPD)

Mrs. Anna M. Keith  
President, Ministers Spouses, Widows and Widowers Organization + Kids (MSWAWO + PKs)

The Reverend Dr. Allen W. Parrott  
Chairman, Christian Education Board

The Reverend Dr. Juenarrl Keith  
Dean, Christian Education Department

Ms. Andrea White  
District Commissioner, Debutantes-Masters Commission (DMC)

Mr. Monroe Miller  
President, Sons of Allen

The Reverend James Brown  
President, Richard Allen Young Adult Council (RAYAC)

The Reverend Jeannine Smalls  
President, Women in Ministry (WIM)

The Reverend Carey Grady  
Dean, State Board of Examiners

The Reverend Dr. Caesar Richburg  
Chair, State Board of Examiners

Attorney Kay Hightower  
Director, Social Action
As we embark upon a new direction for ministry in the 7th Episcopal District, I want to share my vision with you for the God First Holy Convocation and why we are gathered.

What is the God First Holy Convocation?

The God First Holy Convocation is not your average Mid-Year Convocation. It has a different structure and mission. The Convocation is not the meeting where the various components or auxiliaries meet and give reports. The God First Holy Convocation creates a different experience.

This gathering is a Clergy and Lay Leadership Conference, which offer opportunities for spiritual development and growth for the entire Kingdom of God. The learning experience is designed to provide tools for personal Christian enhancement. The entire Convocation is fast paced and high spirited. Every worship experience, plenary session, and breakout session has been developed to expose you to new ideas and fresh perspectives on how to do “Church Differently” and how to walk in your Spiritual Authority to be effective Disciples in the Kingdom.

This year’s theme, “Doing Church Differently: E3”, focuses on Engaging, Encountering and Embracing the mandates of the mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. We are encouraged to Engage in Social Justice, Encounter the Holy Spirit and Embrace new ways to share the ancient story of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the 21st Century.

To implement the goals of the Convocation we have invited some of the best influencers within the kingdom of God. You will hear from inspiring preachers such as Bishop Paul S. Morton, Dr. Jasper Williams, Dr. Lance Watson, Dr. William Watley, Dr.Wanda Frazier-Parker, Bishop John R. Bryant, Dr. Grainger and Dr. Jo Ann Browning and Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd. Also, we will learn from some of the greatest minds in the Kingdom in our many breakout sessions designed for every ministry leader and member. Finally, with these great personalities, gospel recording artists, Myron Butler, Kathy Taylor and Rev. John P. Kee and the New Life Choir, we will share in this Kingdom Explosive three-day Convocation.

It is my hope and prayer that you experience the God First Holy Convocation with an open-mind. Encourage yourself to be present, on time, and engaged in every session. Allow God’s spirit to revive you so that you can leave Florence ready to move higher in ministry.

Engage, Encounter and Embrace

Bishop Sam
Presiding Bishop, Seventh Episcopal District
PARKING
• Please use the West and South Parking Lot and enter through the box office doors each day.
• Parking attendants will be present to direct and guide all vehicles as they enter and exit the parking lot.

BUILDING LOGISTICS
• Restrooms are located on every floor of the Civic Center. Signage will be posted so that you may find the lavatory.

ACCESSING PRESENTATION MATERIALS
• All session materials will be uploaded to the Sched account and will be made available during the Convocation to attendees.
• A comprehensive packet will be downloadable from the AME 7th website post-Convocation

ONLINE GIVING
There are three options for online giving during the God First Convocation.

1. Text AME7 to 206-859-9405 to setup your Subsplash account for first time and begin giving throughout the Convocation.
2. Download the AME 7th App and give directly using our mobile platform
3. Give directly on the website by visiting AME7.church

INTERNET
The venue is equipped with hi-speed internet to ensure that we have an interactive and digital conference.

ONLINE STREAMING
All worship services and plenary sessions will be live streamed to the world. Viewers can access streaming video via the AME 7th website and app.

EMERGENCY
Local police and EMT representatives will be on-site to provide safety and emergency assistance as needed.

SPECIAL FRIDAY NIGHT ADVISORY
Security Checks/Wanding & Pre-Screening will be done prior to the 7:00 PM Service on Friday Evening due to the high-level of attendance at the concert.

SOCIAL MEDIA
• Take pictures and post on your social media accounts.
• Use the official hashtag #GodFirst17 on all of your posts.
CONVOCATION SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2017

11:00AM
Orientation A
Location: Arena

3:00PM
Orientation B & Choir Rehearsal
Location: Arena

7:07PM
Opening Worship Service
Bishop Paul S. Morton, Preaching
Founder, The Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship
Senior Pastor, Changing a Generation FGBC, Atlanta, GA

Kathy Taylor, Psalmist
Location: Arena

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017

8:07AM
Morning Glory Worship Service
Rev. Dr. Grainger Browning, Preaching
Pastor, Ebenezer AME Church, Fort Washington, MD
Location: Arena

9:30AM
Morning Plenary Session
Dr. Samuel Chand
Leadership Consultant, Dr. Samuel R. Chand Ministries
Location: Arena

11:00AM
Morning Breakout Sessions

Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount
Arnett Chapel AME Church, Chicago, IL
Session: With Head and Heart: Equipping Christian Educators for Today’s World
Location: Concourse A

The face of Christian Education is constantly changing. How do we effectively prepare for ministry with aging congregations? Strategies that may have worked 10 years ago may not be as effective today. Christian Education for children, youth, and adults in our challenging world must evolve in order to effectively minister to the needs of our parishioners. This session will help Christian Educators think of different and more effective ways to engage Christian Education. Suggested for clergy, missionaries, Christian educators, stewards.

Rev. Dr. Trina Armstrong
Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Theology
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL
Session: Is There A Balm in Gilead? Encountering Healing and Wholeness from Church Distress
Location: Concourse B

The worst hurt often is encountered in spaces of worship. This session is designed to help participants encounter self-care, spiritual, and healing practices that will help them overcome church-related distress. Suggested for clergy, stewards, missionaries, class leaders.

Dr. Samuel R. Chand
Leadership Consultant, Dr. Samuel R. Chand Ministries
Session: Who’s Holding Your Ladder?
Location: Arena

Learn practical leadership tips for ministry development from one of the top consultants and gurus in the world. Pastors will gain insight on how to develop as a leader and how to master the challenges of leading teams for success.
<table>
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<tr>
<td>12:30PM</td>
<td>Mid-Day Worship Service&lt;br&gt;<strong>Rev. Dr. William D. Watley</strong>&lt;br&gt;St. Philip AME Church, Atlanta, GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30PM</td>
<td>Lunch and Learn A (for Pastors)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Pre-Registration Required</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>Dr. Samuel R. Chand</strong>&lt;br&gt;Leadership Consultant, Dr. Samuel R. Chand Ministries</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30PM</td>
<td>Afternoon Breakout Sessions&lt;br&gt;<strong>Rev. James Wesley Dennis III</strong>&lt;br&gt;Director of Ministries, 7th Episcopal District</td>
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**Myron Butler**<br>National Recording Artist, Dallas, TX<br>*Session:* Ministry Leadership through Music (for Ministers of Music, Musicians, Worship Leaders)<br>*Special Time:* 10am-11:30am<br>*Location:* Mt. Zion AME Church

Learn how to lead your local music ministry effectively using best practices designed to grow and develop all stakeholders (choirs, praise teams, bands) for worship on Sunday mornings.

**Dr. Grainger and Dr. JoAnn Browning**<br>Ebenezer AME Church, Fort Washington, MD<br>*Session:* Stir Up the Gifts: Recognizing, Developing, and Cultivating Spiritual Gifts<br>*Location:* Arena

Every Christian is equipped with Spiritual Gifts designed to empower, encourage, and enrich their local church and community. However, if neglected, those spiritual gifts run the risk of coming close to extinction, rendering the Christian ineffective and unqualified for ministry. In this workshop, participants will learn how to recognize, develop, and cultivate their spiritual gifts for ministry in their local church and community. Suggested for all.

**Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount**<br>Arnett Chapel AME Church, Chicago, IL<br>*Session:* With Head and Heart: Equipping Christian Educators for Today’s World<br>*Location:* Concourse B

The face of Christian Education is constantly changing. How do we effectively prepare for ministry with aging congregations? Strategies that may have worked 10 years ago may not be as effective today. Christian Education for children, youth, and adults in our challenging world must evolve in order to effectively minister to the needs of our parishioners. This session will help Christian Educators think of different and more effective ways to engage Christian Education. Suggested for Christian educators, ministry leaders, clergy.

**Rev. Dr. Trina Armstrong**<br>Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Theology<br>Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL<br>*Session:* Is There A Balm in Gilead? Encountering Healing and Wholeness from Church Distress<br>*Location:* Santee

The worst hurt often is encountered in spaces of worship. This session is designed to help participates encounter self-care, spiritual, and healing practices that will help them overcome church related distress. Suggested for clergy, stewards, missionaries, class leaders.
## THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017

### 3:30PM

**Afternoon Breakout Sessions (…continued)**

**Rev. Dawn Wright**  
Impact UMC, Atlanta, GA  
**Session:** Worship by Design: Developing Meaningful, Exciting, Passionate, and Relevant Worship Services  
**Location:** Concourse A

Whether you prefer a traditional or contemporary worship service, excellence matters. Explore creative ways to enhance your worship service that will draw others to Christ. Suggested for clergy, media ministry staff, worship team, stewards, trustees.

**Myron Butler**  
National Recording Artist, Dallas, TX  
**Session:** Something to Sing About: Ministry through Music (for Choir Members and Music Ministry Staff)  
**Special Time:** 2:45pm-4:45pm  
**Location:** Mt. Zion AME Church

Explore the message behind the music as we develop an intentional ministry of music for the 7th Episcopal District.

### 7:07PM

**Evening Worship Service**  
Dr. Jasper Williams, Preaching  
Pastor, Salem Bible Church, Atlanta, GA  
Kathy Taylor, Psalmist  
**Location:** Arena

### 5:00PM

**Cultivate: Women’s Empowerment Dinner with Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn Boyd**  
* Limited seats available; Tickets required  
**Location:** Ballroom

## FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2017

### 8:07AM

**Morning Glory Worship Service**  
Rev. Dr. Grainger Browning, Preaching  
Pastor, Ebenezer AME Church, Fort Washington, MD  
**Location:** Arena

### 9:30AM

**Morning Plenary Session**  
Rev. Tony Lee  
Pastor, Community of Hope AME Church, Hillcrest Heights, MD  
**Session:** Crying in the Wilderness: Engaging One’s Prophetic Voice in the Age of Donald Trump  
**Location:** Arena

With the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States comes the increasing need for strong, fearless prophetic voices proclaiming the justice and love of God. This session is designed to engage prophetic witness in the context of the local church and community. Suggested for all.
10:30AM

**Morning Breakout Sessions**

**Rev. Dr. William Watley**
Pastor, Saint Philip AME Church, Atlanta, GA  
**Session:** Preaching With Fire: Effective Preaching for Intergenerational Congregations  
**Location:** Arena  
Preaching is an art. Explore ways to perfect the craft of preaching to reach intergenerational congregations.  
All Clergy should attend.

**Rev. Dawn Wright**
Impact UMC, Atlanta, GA  
**Session:** Small Church, Big Ministry: Tools for Dynamic Ministries in a Rural Context  
**Location:** Concourse A  
The size of a congregation is no measure for the impact of a congregation. Explore ways to strengthen the local church ministry in rural communities through evangelism, technology, and community empowerment. Suggested for pastors, stewards, trustees, class leaders, ministry leaders.

**Rev. Stephen A. Green**
National Youth and College Division Director  
**Session:** Do Justice: Foundations for Building a Social Justice Ministry for the Local Church  
**Location:** Santee  
Community based social justice witness is critical to the ministry of the AME Church. Explore ways to establish or expand your church’s social justice footprint in the community. Suggested for clergy, teachers, advocates, stewards, trustees, class leaders.

**Ms. Courtney Herring**
Digital Marketing Strategist  
**Session:** #church: Engaging the Congregation Digitally  
**Location:** Waccamaw

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram straight flexin’, where does the church belong? This workshop covers how social media can be used as a necessary tool for evangelism in order to advance gospel ministry. This session is intended for churches interested in learning social media basics. Suggested for clergy, media ministry staff, worship team, stewards, trustees.

**Rev. Russell St. Bernard**
Reid Temple AME Church, Glen Dale, MD  
**Session:** After the Music Stops: Developing an Effective Youth and Children’s Ministry  
**Location:** Pee Dee  
Explore ways to reach and retain young people in your ministry through effective Christian education, Christian formation, and leadership development. Suggested for clergy, Christian educators, youth pastors, youth leaders, young adult ministry leaders, stewards.

**Myron Butler**
National Recording Artist, Dallas, TX  
**Session:** Something to Sing About: Ministry through Music (Choir Rehearsal and Seminar)  
**Location:** Mt. Zion AME  
Explore the message behind the music as we develop an intentional ministry of music for the 7th Episcopal District.

12:07PM

**Mid-Day Worship Service**  
**Dr. Wanda Frazier-Parker**
Co-Pastor, Truth Tabernacle Ministries, Rocky Mount, NC  
**Location:** Arena

1:30PM

**Lunch and Learn B (for Pastors)**  
Pre-Registration Required  
**Location:** Ballroom

Schedule continued on next page....
FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2017

3:30PM

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Rev. Dr. William Watley
Pastor, Saint Philip AME Church, Atlanta, GA
Session: Preaching With Fire: Effective Preaching for Intergenerational Congregations
Location: Arena

Preaching is an art. Explore ways to perfect the craft of preaching to reach intergenerational congregations. All Clergy should attend.

Rev. Dawn Wright
Impact UMC, Atlanta, GA
Session: Purpose Driven Church: Tools and Practices to Prepare Your Church for Dynamic Ministry
Location: Santee

The effectiveness of a ministry is measured by the productivity of a ministry. Explore ways to ensure that your congregation is effective in its systems and programs to minister to the needs of all people. Suggested for pastors, stewards, trustees, class leaders, ministry leaders.

Rev. Russell St. Bernard
Reid Temple AME Church, Glen Dale, MD
Session: After the Music Stops: Developing an Effective Youth and Children’s Ministry
Location: Pee Dee

Explore ways to reach and retain young people in your ministry through effective Christian education, Christian formation, and leadership development. Suggested for clergy, Christian educators, youth pastors, youth leaders, young adult ministry leaders, stewards.

Rev. Stephen A. Green
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Session: Do Justice: Foundations for Building a Social Justice Ministry for the Local Church
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Myron Butler
National Recording Artist, Dallas, TX
Session: Something to Sing About: Ministry through Music (Choir Rehearsal and Seminar)
Location: Mt. Zion AME

Explore the message behind the music as we develop an intentional ministry of music for the 7th Episcopal District.

7:07PM

Evening Worship Service
Dr. Lance Watson, Preaching
Pastor, St. Paul’s Baptist Church, Richmond, VA

God First Concert featuring:
Rev. John P. Kee
Location: Arena
SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017

8:30AM

Morning Plenary Session
Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.
Presiding Bishop, Seventh Episcopal District

Session: Where Do We Go From Here?
Location: Arena

After the conference, now what? Join the conversation to identify practical and tangible ways to equip, empower, and engage your communities and congregation. All should attend.

Young Adults (18-24)
Session: Relevant, Not Cool: Engaging Millennials in Ministry
Location: Pee Dee

Millennials at large continue to be the most unchurched demographic. This session will consider ways in which the church can engage millennials into the life and ministries of the church. It will also address what millennials think about the modern church and how millennial presence and leadership can help take our churches to the next level.

Youth (13-17)
Session: Hidden Figures: Engaging Leadership from Behind the Scenes
Location: Waccamaw

Discover the leader within you and explore opportunities to develop your leadership and professional skills through creative and interactive engagement.

10:07AM

Closing Worship
Bishop John R. Bryant
Retired Senior Bishop, AME Church
Location: Arena
Convocation
Worship Services
OPENING NIGHT WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2017 · 7PM

The Order of Worship
The Reverend Remus Harper, Worship Leader
Presiding Elder, Florence/Dillon District, Northeast Conference

Hallelujah, You’re Worthy

The Processional
The Presiding Elders, Clergy, Stewards and Bishops

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 heavenly host, Praise Father,
Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Call to Celebration (page 23)
The Reverend Merritt B. Graves
Pastor, Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church, Florence

The Hymn of Praise | Hymn No. 364
“My Hope is Built” (page 23)
The Reverend Randolph Miller
Pastor, Nichols Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston

The Prayer
The Reverend Rose Goodwater Richardson
Pastor, Holy Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church, Mt. Pleasant

The Prayer Response
The Choir and Congregation

The Ministry of Music
The Holy Convocation Choir

The Scripture Lesson (Old Testament)
The Reverend Friendly Gadson
Pastor, Mt. Olive African Methodist Episcopal Church, Sumter

The Scripture Lesson (New Testament)
The Reverend Dr. Eric Manning
Pastor, Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston

The Summary of the Decalogue (page 23)
The Reverend Dr. Eric Manning
Pastor, Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston

The Gift for Missions
The Reverend Ronnie Brown
Pastor, Pine Grove African Methodist Episcopal Church, Manning

The Ministry of Music
The Holy Convocation Choir

The Stewardship Moment and Offering
The Finance Team

The Introduction of the Preacher
Bishop Samuel L. Green
Presiding Bishop, 7th Episcopal District

Guest Psalmist
Kathy Taylor
National Recording Artist

The Sermon
Bishop Paul S. Morton
Founding Bishop, Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International
and Senior Pastor, Changing A Generation FGB Church, Atlanta, GA

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship
Announcements
The Doxology
The Benediction
Bishop Paul S. Morton
MORNIG GLORY
THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017 • 8:07AM

The Order of Worship
The Reverend Leondra Stoney, Worship Leader
Pastor, Greater Howard African Methodist Episcopal Church, McClellanville

Praise & Worship
Convocation Praise Team

The Petition to God
The Reverend Danté Kenly
Pastor, St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church, Columbia

The Reading of the Word
The Reverend William Miller
Pastor, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Conway

The Celebration through Music
Convocation Praise Team

The Presentation to the Preacher
Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.

The Celebration through Music
Convocation Praise Team

The Celebration of the Preached Word
The Reverend Dr. Jo Ann Browning
Co-Pastor, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church, Ft. Washington, MD

The Response
The Announcements
The Doxology
The Benediction
The Reverend Dr. Jo Ann Browning
The Order of Worship
The Reverend Dr. William Swinton, Worship Leader
Pastor, Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston

Praise & Worship
Convocation Praise Team

The Petition to God
The Reverend Annabelle Robinson
Pastor, Emanuel AME Church, Charleston

The Reading of the Word
The Reverend Clifford Jackson
Pastor, Bethel AME Church, Anderson

The Celebration through Music
The Holy Convocation Choir

The Presentation to the Preacher
Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.

The Celebration through Music
The Holy Convocation Choir

The Celebration of the Preached Word
The Reverend Dr. William D. Watley
Pastor, St. Phillip African Methodist Episcopal Church, Decatur, GA

The Call to New Life

The Offering
Finance Team

The Announcements
Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.

The Doxology
The Benediction
The Reverend Dr. William D. Watley
The Order of Worship
The Reverend James Cooper, Worship Leader
Presiding Elder, Sumter District, Northeast Conference

“The Presence of the Lord is Here”

The Processional
The Presiding Elders, Clergy, Trustees and Bishops

The Doxology
“The Presence of the Lord is Here”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father,
Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Call to Celebration (page 24)
The Reverend Wayman Coleman, III
Pastor, Flat Rock African Methodist Episcopal Church, Abbeville

The Hymn of Praise
“I Will Trust in the Lord” (page 24)
The Reverend Malcolm O. Simpson
Pastor, Zion Hill African Methodist Episcopal Church, Pinewood

The Prayer
The Reverend Ralph L. Brown, Jr.
Pastor, Greater Target African Methodist Episcopal Church, Holly Hill

The Prayer Response
The Choir and Congregation

The Ministry of Music
The Holy Convocation Choir

The Scripture Lessons
The Reverend Robert L. Morris
Pastor, Rock Hill African Methodist Episcopal Church, Vance

The Gift for Missions
The Reverend Vanessa Johnson
Pastor, St. John African Methodist Episcopal Church, Cottageville

The Ministry of Music
The Holy Convocation Choir

The Stewardship Moment and Offering
The Finance Team

The Introduction of the Preacher
Bishop Samuel L. Green
Presiding Bishop, 7th Episcopal District

Guest Psalmist
Ms. Kathy Taylor
National Recording Artist

The Sermon
The Reverend Dr. Jasper Williams, Jr.
Senior Pastor, Salem Bible Church, Atlanta, GA

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship
The Announcements
The Doxology
The Benediction
The Reverend Dr. Jasper Williams, Jr.
The Order of Worship
The Reverend Benjamin Sims, Worship Leader
Pastor, St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church, Oatland

Praise & Worship
Convocation Praise Team

The Petition to God
The Reverend Wanda Y. Rapley
Pastor, Greater Hopewell AME Church, Irmo

The Reading of the Word
The Reverend Barbara A. Nelson
Pastor, Cumberland African Methodist Episcopal Church, Sampit

The Celebration through Music
The Choir

The Presentation to the Preacher
Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.

The Celebration through Music
The Choir

The Celebration of the Preached Word
The Reverend Dr. Grainger Browning
Pastor, Ebenezer AME Church, Ft. Washington, MD

The Announcements
Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.

The Doxology
The Benediction
The Reverend Dr. Grainger Browning
The Order of Worship
The Reverend Myra E. Meggett, Worship Leader
Pastor, Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, James Island

Praise & Worship
Convocation Praise Team

The Petition to God
The Reverend Krystal F. Bryant
Pastor, St. Paul AME Church, Cokesbury

The Reading of the Word
The Reverend Courtney D. Colleton
Pastor, Trinity Historic AME Church, Manning

The Celebration through Music
The Choir

The Presentation to the Preacher
Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.

The Celebration through Music
The Choir

The Celebration of the Preached Word
Dr. Wanda Frazier-Parker
Pastor, Truth Tabernacle Ministries, Rocky Mount, NC

The Call to New Life

The Offering
Finance Team

The Announcements
Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.

The Doxology
The Benediction
Dr. Wanda Frazier-Parker
The Order of Worship
The Reverend Dr. William Smith, Worship Leader
Presiding Elder, Marion District, Northeast Conference

“Better” (by Hezekiah Walker)

The Processional
The Presiding Elders, Clergy, Class Leaders and Bishops

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 heavenly host, Praise Father,
Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Call to Celebration (page 25)
The Reverend Michael Burgess
Pastor, Singleton Chapel AME Church, North Santee

The Hymn of Praise
“I Call You Holy” (page 25)
The Reverend Dr. Dwayne Bruce
Pastor, Nichols Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Charleston

The Prayer
The Reverend Fredrick A. Wilson
Pastor, Live Oak African Methodist Episcopal Church, Vance

The Prayer Response
The Choir and Congregation

The Ministry of Music
The Holy Convocation Choir

The Stewardship Moment and Offering
The Finance Team

The Introduction of the Preacher
Bishop Samuel L. Green
Presiding Bishop, 7th Episcopal District

The Ministry of Music
The Holy Convocation Choir

The Sermon
Dr. Lance D. Watson
Senior Pastor, St. Pauls Baptist Church, Richmond, VA

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

The Announcements

The Doxology

The Benediction
Dr. Lance D. Watson

God First Concert featuring:
John P. Kee
and the New Life Community Choir
9:30PM
The Order of Worship
The Reverend Allen W. Parrott, Worship Leader
Presiding Elder, Kingstree District, Palmetto Conference

The Order of Worship
The Reverend Allen W. Parrott, Worship Leader
Presiding Elder, Kingstree District, Palmetto Conference

“The Order My Steps”
The Processional
The Presiding Elders, Clergy and Bishops

The Doxology
“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host, Praise Father,
Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Call to Celebration (page 26)
The Reverend Dr. M. Charmaine Merrick
Presiding Elder, Newberry District, Columbia Conference

The Hymn of Praise
“We’re Blessed” (page 26)
The Reverend Samuel L. McPherson
Presiding Elder, Abbeville-Greenwood District, Piedmont Conference

The Prayer
The Reverend Dr. Charles Young
Presiding Elder, Orangeburg District, Central Conference

The Prayer Response
The Choir and Congregation

The Ministry of Music
The Holy Convocation Choir

The Scripture Lessons (Old Testament)
The Reverend Joseph Darby
Presiding Elder, Beaufort District, South Carolina Conference

The Scripture Lessons (New Testament)
The Reverend Joseph Postell
Presiding Elder, Lancaster District, Columbia Conference

The Gift for Missions
The Reverend Dr. Norvel Goff
Presiding Elder, Edisto District, South Carolina Conference

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The Sermon
Bishop John R. Bryant, Retired
The 106th Elected and Consecrated Bishop AME Church

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship
The Announcements
The Doxology
The Benediction
Bishop John R. Bryant
The Call to Celebration

MINISTER: 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 dwell in the tents of wickedness.

MINISTER: 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.

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

PEOPLE: For the Lord is in His Holy Temple, Let all the earth keep silence before Him.

MINISTER: 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 shall sing His praises.

The Hymn of Praise - Hymn No. 364 “My Hope is Built”

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

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

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

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

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

The Summary of the Decalogue

Hear what Christ our Savior saith, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang 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 Call to Celebration

LEADER: In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst,
PEOPLE: Come worship a God who feeds the hungry.

LEADER: In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed,
PEOPLE: Come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.

LEADER: In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumor of war,
PEOPLE: Come worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.

LEADER: In the midst of a world where love is not freely shown and forgiveness is hard to find,
ALL: Come worship a God whose grace and love know no end.

The Hymn of Praise - “I Will Trust in the Lord”

I will trust in the Lord.
I will trust in the Lord.
I will trust in the Lord until I die
I will trust in the Lord.
I will trust in the Lord.
I will trust in the Lord until I die.
I’m goin’ to treat everybody right.

2. I’m goin’ to stay on the battlefield.
3. I’m goin’ to stay on a bended knee.
4. I’m goin’ to watch, fight and pray.
The Call to Celebration

LEADER: Shout for joy! The savior is here.

PEOPLE: Sing with gladness! Our darkness is turned into light.

LEADER: Let every heart prepare a space. Let every home make ready. For a new day has dawned.

PEOPLE: The world has been made new. The savior has been born. Sing with joy!

LEADER: God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

LEADER: In the midst of a world where love is not freely shown and forgiveness is hard to find,

ALL: Let us worship God with love, thanksgiving, and praise.

The Hymn of Praise - “I Call You Holy”

I call you holy, your name is holy.
You are so holy to me.
I call you holy, your name is holy.
Holy you are and holy you’ll be.

I call you holy, your name is holy
You are so holy to me.
I call you holy, your name is holy.
Holy you are and holy you’ll be
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

I call you righteous.
The Call to Celebration

LEADER: Shout for joy! The savior is here.

PEOPLE: Sing with gladness! Our darkness is turned into light.

LEADER: Let every heart prepare a space. Let every home make ready. For a new day has dawned.

PEOPLE: The world has been made new. The savior has been born. Sing with joy!

LEADER: God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

LEADER: In the midst of a world where love is not freely shown and forgiveness is hard to find,

ALL: Let us worship God with love, thanksgiving, and praise.

The Hymn of Praise - “We’re Blessed”

We’re blessed in the city
We’re blessed in the field
We’re blessed when we come and when we go
We cast down every stronghold
Sickness and poverty must cease
For the devil is defeated
We are blessed

Late in the midnight hour
God’s gonna turn it around
It’s gonna work in your favour

We’re blessed in the city
We’re blessed in the field
We’re blessed when we come and when we go
We cast down every stronghold
Sickness and poverty must cease
For the devil is defeated
We are blessed
Wednesday, March 29, 2017 | Opening Worship Service
Bishop Paul S. Morton, Preacher

Text: __________________________________________________________

Sermon Title: __________________________________________________

What are the main points or key message of the sermon?
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________

What questions do I have as I hear this sermon?
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________

How can I apply this message to my life?
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
SERMON REFLECTIONS

Thursday, March 30, 2017 | Morning Glory Worship Service
Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Browning, Preacher

Text: _______________________________________________________________

Sermon Title: _______________________________________________________

What are the main points or key message of the sermon?
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________

What questions do I have as I hear this sermon?
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________

How can I apply this message to my life?
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
Thursday, March 30, 2017 | Mid-Day Worship Service
Rev. Dr. William Watley, Preacher

Text: ____________________________________________________________

Sermon Title: ____________________________________________________

What are the main points or key message of the sermon?
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

What questions do I have as I hear this sermon?
________________________________________________________________
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________________________________________________________________

How can I apply this message to my life?
________________________________________________________________
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________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
SERMON REFLECTIONS

Thursday, March 30, 2017 | Evening Worship Service
Rev. Dr. Jasper Williams, Preacher

Text: ____________________________________________

Sermon Title: ____________________________________

What are the main points or key message of the sermon?

_________________________________________________

_________________________________________________

_________________________________________________

What questions do I have as I hear this sermon?

_________________________________________________

_________________________________________________

_________________________________________________

How can I apply this message to my life?

_________________________________________________

_________________________________________________

_________________________________________________
Friday, March 31, 2017 | Morning Glory Worship Service
Rev. Dr. Grainger Browning, Preacher

Text: ____________________________________________

Sermon Title: ___________________________________

What are the main points or key message of the sermon?
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

What questions do I have as I hear this sermon?
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

How can I apply this message to my life?
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
Friday, March 31, 2017 | Mid-Day Worship Service
Dr. Wanda Frazier-Parker, Preacher

Text: ____________________________________________________________

Sermon Title: ____________________________________________________

What are the main points or key message of the sermon?

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

What questions do I have as I hear this sermon?

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

How can I apply this message to my life?

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
Friday, March 31, 2017 | Evening Worship Service
Rev. Dr. Lance Watson, Preacher

Text:______________________________________________________________

Sermon Title:_____________________________________________________

What are the main points or key message of the sermon?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

What questions do I have as I hear this sermon?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

How can I apply this message to my life?
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
Saturday, April 1, 2017 | Closing Worship Service
Bishop John R. Bryant, Preacher

Text: ________________________________________________________________

Sermon Title: ______________________________________________________

What are the main points or key message of the sermon?
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

What questions do I have as I hear this sermon?
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

How can I apply this message to my life?
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
THE CHARLESTON AME MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 14TH NOON

SEVEN
LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

THE CHARLESTON CONVENTION CENTER
5000 COLISEUM DRIVE, N. CHARLESTON, SC

REV. RANDOLPH MILLER
ALLIANCE PRESIDENT

FEATURING

BISHOP SAMUEL L. GREEN, SR.
PRESIDING PRELATE

REV. DR. HENRY E. GREEN, JR.
REV. DR. JOHN F. GREEN
REV. DR. DAVID W. GREEN, SR.
REV. HENRY E. GREEN, III
REV. SAMUEL L. GREEN, JR.
REV. STEPHEN A. GREEN

AME7.CHURCH
Bishop Paul S. Morton
Bishop Morton is a gifted and anointed artist, author, and pastor with a clear and distinct voice in the 21st Century. A pastor’s pastor, Bishop Morton is the Senior Pastor of the Changing A Generation and is the Founding Presiding Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International, one of the fastest growing movements in America. Bishop and his wife, Pastor Debra Morton, are the proud parents of three and the grandparents of six.

The Reverend Dr. Grainger Browning Jr.
Rev. Dr. Grainger Browning, Jr. is the Senior Pastor of Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church in Fort Washington, Maryland. Called to preach in 1979, Reverend Browning was appointed pastor of the Ebenezer A.M.E. Church in 1983 with a membership of 17 and a budget of $12,000. Under his leadership, the church membership has grown to exceed 8,000 members and a budget of $8 million, ministering to the spiritual, educational, political, social, economic, health, and recreational needs of the community. Dr. Browning is married to the Reverend Dr. Jo Ann Browning who serves as the Co-Pastor of Ebenezer AME Church. They are the proud parents of two children and grandparents to three grandchildren.

The Reverend Dr. Jo Ann Browning
The Reverend Dr. Jo Ann Browning is Co-Pastor of Ebenezer African Methodist Episcopal Church in Fort Washington, Maryland. Pastor Browning has organized and convened 31 annual women’s spiritual retreats attracting thousands from throughout the U.S. and around the world. In 2006, she founded Journey of Faith, LLC which is dedicated to empowering women. She also released her first book, “Our Savior, Our Sisters, Ourselves: Biblical Teachings & Reflections on Women’s Relationships” in 2006. The book provides teachings that explore the realities of being a Black woman, wife, mother and minister. It is designed to empower and bless women as they continue on their own journeys of faith. Her second book, “Faithful, Focused & Fearless: Lessons to Fortify Your Future” was released June 2009. In spring 2011, the book was repackaged and re-released by Christian publisher, Creation House and is currently available online at Black Expressions.com. Dr. Browning is married to the Reverend Dr. Grainger Browning and is the proud parents of two children and grandparents to three grandchildren.

The Reverend Dr. Lance D. Watson
Dr. Lance D. Watson is the Senior Pastor of the Saint Paul’s Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia and chief visionary for its corporate affiliates, Destiny Schools, Charisma Books and Gifts, Saint Paul’s Community Foundation, NIA, Inc. of Greater Richmond and Positive Power Media Group. This young, progressive and forward-looking congregation for “People On the Grow” serves as the spiritual home for more than 12,000 persons and supports mission and ministry causes around the globe. Dr. Watson is married to Mrs. Rose Watson and are parents to three children.

The Reverend William D. Watley, Ph.D.
Accomplished writer, preacher, and educator, The Reverend Dr. William D. Watley is the Senior Pastor of the historic Saint Philip African Methodist Episcopal Church in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Watley received his Bachelor of Arts in Theology from St. Louis University and a Master of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center. He received a Master of Philosophy and his Doctor of Philosophy in Ethics from Columbia University. He holds a Doctor of Divinity from Payne Theological Seminary, and in addition, completed post-doctoral work at the Ecumenical Institute in Celigny, Switzerland and Harvard’s Institute for Education Management.

The Reverend Dr. Wanda Frazier-Parker
Wanda Frazier-Parker is a trusted and influential voice in ministry and leadership. Pursued by churches and corporations to share biblical truth and collaborative leadership principles, she travels extensively throughout the United States and abroad serving women’s conferences, facilitating intergenerational leadership seminars and mentoring emerging leaders. A graduate of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary’s Doctor of Ministry program with an Effective Ministry to Women emphasis, Dr. Parker organized Synergy Summit, a regional gathering designed for female executives and ministry leaders to collaborate and share successful, career advancement strategies. Professionally, Dr. Parker serves as a leadership trainer for Kellogg Company. A certified John Maxwell coach, trainer, and speaker, Dr. Parker is also the author of 40 Day Health & Wellness Journal.

Bishop John Richard Bryant
Bishop John Bryant is 106th Elected and Consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

He is the recipient of many honors and awards: including the Ebony Magazine’s Honor Roll of Outstanding African American Preachers, and Ebony’s list of the 100 Most Influential Black Americans. He has published a collection of sermons entitled, “God Can: Sermons of Encouragement from the Life of Elijah.” He and his wife, The Rev. Dr. Cecelia Williams Bryant, have co-authored a new book, “Healing For Wounded Vows.” As a bishop, he has inspired a generation of ministry leaders with a global and spiritual mindset.

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The Reverend Dr. Reginald Blount  
Dr. Reggie Blount serves on the faculty of Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary as Assistant Professor of Formation, Youth and Culture. He teaches in the area of Youth Ministry, Christian Education and Congregational Leadership. He is also Pastor of Arnett Chapel A.M.E. Church in Chicago, IL. He speaks and teaches nationally and internationally helping faith communities envision new and creative ways to minister to, with and on behalf of young people, engage in transformative Christian Education and foster congregational and community renewal. He is a contributor in “Making God Real for a Next Generation: Ministry with Millennials Born from 1982 to 1999” (Discipleship Resources, 2003) and “Educating For Redemptive Community” (Wipf & Stock, 2015).

The Reverend Dr. Trina Armstrong  
Dr. Armstrong is an AME Itinerant Elder and a licensed marriage and family therapist serving in Illinois where she is an Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Pastoral Theology at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston. A mental-health and wellness advocate, Dr. Armstrong is deeply passionate and committed to forming and nurturing healthy and compassionate religious leaders and pastoral care givers who practice life-giving and holistic care in all ministry settings. Dr. Armstrong regularly writes, lectures, and preaches on trauma and healing in African American life. Dr. Armstrong holds a Ph.D. in Practical Theology-Spiritual Care and Counseling from the Claremont School of Theology and is the proud mom to Ariana and a dog name Jireh.

The Reverend Dawn Wright  
Rev. Dawn Wright is a woman after own God’s heart. Her passion is helping all God's people experience God through different lenses. She recently birthed a ministry called Kaleidoscope. Its purpose is to actively do ministry in a different context. Rev. Dawn Wright believes there are no boundaries in experiencing God. She serves as the Associate Minister at Greater Mount Carmel AME Church, where Rev. James A. Hardaway is the pastor. She currently works for Impact church, as Chief Operating Pastor.

Ms. Courtney Herring  
Courtney Herring is a digital marketing strategist and copywriter based in metro ATL. She has spent the last several years serving several nonprofit organizations, socially conscious start-ups and faith-based organizations. Her passion for writing and communicating makes her the perfect fit for partnering with purpose-driven business leaders and organizations, creating effective digital marketing strategies to convince and convert their audiences into valuable, lifelong community members online. In addition to serving clients and partners like Shirley Caesar Outreach Ministries, Black Enterprise, and INROADS, Courtney enjoys facilitating workshops for entrepreneurs, non-profit and faith-based organization leaders to help them make their vision a reality.

The Reverend Tony Lee  
Rev. Tony Lee is the founder and Senior Pastor of the Community of Hope A.M.E. Church in Hillcrest Heights, MD. Community of Hope is recognized throughout the region for its innovative ministry, social engagement and community outreach. Community of Hope has gained national recognition for its work around HIV/AIDS, violence prevention, community/police partnerships and educational advocacy. The church’s work is also highlighted in the documentary “The Gospel of Healing” and Rev Lee is a contributor in the books “Being a Black Man: At The Corner Of Progress And Peril” and “Reach: 40 Black Men Speak On Living, Loving & Succeeding”.

The Reverend Russell “Russ” St. Bernard  
Russell St. Bernard is an anointed, gifted, and passionate preacher of the Gospel and is now the Minister to Youth at Reid Temple AME Church in Maryland. Dedicated to assisting churches and youth ministries in doing ministry more effectively, Rev. Russ founded After The Music Stops LLC, which is a full-service youth ministry resource company with the goal of creating youth ministry resources and tools to assist leaders and parents as they serve their students. Additionally, Rev. Russ has been blessed to create a student and adult curriculum for the Urban Youth Workers Institute’s National Youth Ministry conference “Reload.” Russell is the proud husband of Erica St. Bernard and the proud father to Karis Olivia St. Bernard.

The Reverend James Wesley Dennis III  
James is a millennial scholar, minister, activist, and prophetic voice proclaiming good news to all. Currently, James is an ordained Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and serves as the Director of Ministries for the 7th Episcopal District. Passionate about building compelling, practical, and efficient ministries, James feels called to helping ministry leaders craft ministries that critically explore the gospel, love radically, resist political and spiritual oppression, and provide holistic care to all. Committed to social justice and the Gospel of Christ, James is dedicated to helping churches create, organized, and maintain significant social justice ministries that organize, educate, and train people for social change.

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MUSICAL GUESTS

Minister Myron Butler
One of the most exciting and influential young voices in modern gospel music, Myron Butler is making a name for himself as a singer, songwriter, producer, choir director and as the leader of Myron Butler & Levi. Butler has enjoyed massive gospel radio hits with “Set Me Free” and “Stronger”. The success has led to Stellar Awards, Grammy nominations and a reputation as one of the most in-demand men in gospel today.

Psalmist Kathy Taylor
Named one of the most enduring voices in Gospel music, Kathy Taylor is an anointed singer, songwriter, producer and executive producer. Kathy began her recording career as a soloist with the legendary James Cleveland’s Gospel Music of America and The Mass Choir. She was the featured vocalist on songs such as, “Anticipation”, “It’s Your Decision”, “He Did It” and “I Got My Joy Back”. These projects, along with her captivating and live performances have catapulted Kathy into the national spotlight. Through Kathy, God continues to pour out His Spirit. Her dedication to the Body of Christ and limitless love of God places Kathy in a unique position to minister the “Good News” of Jesus Christ.

Pastor John P. Kee
Born the 15th of 16th children, Pastor John P. Kee is one of gospel music’s greatest pioneers. Over the course of his professional career that spans three decades, he has written music for Hallmark, Inc., Stephanie Mills, Jonny Lang, The Hawkins Family, Daryl Coley, Billy Preston, Dorinda Clark Cole, Joe Walsh, Rev. James Cleveland, Florida Mass Choir, Mississippi Mass Choir, Vanessa Bell Armstrong, and made History in 1982 as one of the first writers to ever write more than one song for the legendary Dr. James Cleveland’s Gospel Music Workshop of America. His music has been featured in film and on television in commercial advertisements and even on Saturday Night Live. His Music catalogue is said to be one of the largest in the world today by an individual Publisher/Writer. Additionally, Pastor Kee has been the full-time pastor of the New Life Fellowship Center. Through non-traditional outreach that transcends the four walled structure, the church’s unique approach to ministry has resulted in a rapidly growing, thriving congregation. Pastor Kee’s ability to personally relate to the urban lifestyle allows him to reach those who would not typically attend church and further are not welcomed by many assemblies.
What area in your life do you need to develop to strengthen your faith?

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

How have I grown spiritually over the past year?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

What motivates you to attend this conference?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

List at least 3 people who you will pray with daily at the God First Convocation.
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Identify at least one mantra (Biblical passage, self-written, quote, etc.) that you will recite daily.
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

How is your soul? Please use this space to jot down your initial thoughts to this question.
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
DAY 1: EQUIP
“Strength”

Scripture Focus: The Lord is my strength and my defense[α]; he has become my salvation. Psalm 118:14

3 Things I am Grateful for:
1. 
2. 
3. 

Prayer Focus:

3 Things Excite Me:
1. 
2. 
3. 

2 Things I Need Today:
1. 
2. 

How Will I Make Sure Those Needs are Met?

What did I learn today?

Where am I being challenged?

DAY 2: ENGAGE “BELIEVE GOD”

Scripture Focus: Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness. Genesis 15:6 NIV

3 Things I am Grateful for:
1. 
2. 
3. 

Prayer Focus:

3 Things Excite Me:
1. 
2. 
3. 

2 Things I Need Today:
1. 
2. 

How Will I Make Sure Those Needs are Met?

What did I learn today?

Where am I being challenged?
DAY 3: EMPOWER
“Faith Walking”

Scripture Focus: Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ. Romans 10:17

3 Things I am Grateful for:
1. 
2. 
3. 

Prayer Focus:

3 Things Excite Me:
1. 
2. 
3. 

2 Things I Need Today:
1. 
2. 

How Will I Make Sure Those Needs are Met?

What did I learn today?

Where am I being challenged?
# GOD FIRST HOLY CONVOCATION POST-REFLECTION WORKSHEET

Instructions: Use this following worksheet to brainstorm your thoughts prior to the Convocation.

## FOCUS

**What did you learn?**

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

**How do you feel after attending the God First Convocation?**

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

## SET

**Name one tool that you will practice and use this year (personal, ministry, etc.)**

__________________________________________________________

**Identify at least 3 other accountability partners who will support you in your spiritual goals over the next year.**

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

## GO

**How can the tools and strategies learned at the 2017 God First Holy Convocation be used in your personal life and ministry (church, stakeholder, etc.)?**

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

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GOD FIRST CHRISTIAN EDUCATION LEADERSHIP AND YOUTH CONGRESS

Out of this World
7TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

July 10-13, 2017
FLORENCE, SOUTH CAROLINA

SAVE THE DATE
November 8-11, 2017
God First Fall Planning Convocation and Theological Institute