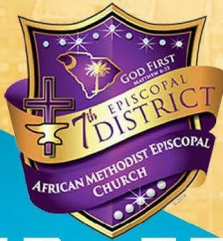


LITERARY REPORTS



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

S E R I E S



NORTHEAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE
LITERARY REPORTS

132nd Session of the Northeast South Carolina Annual
Conference September 27 - September 30

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.

*Presiding Prelate, Seventh Episcopal District African Methodist
Episcopal Church*

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JUDICIAL REPORT
Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: **Presiding Elder Johnnie O. Coe**

Members: The Reverends Janice G. McMillian, Angia Taylor, Benjamin Sims, E.
Robert Thomas, James Leonard

Report

**TO BE REPORTED LIVE DURING THE NORTHEAST
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

TRIERS OF APPEALS
Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Presiding Elder Joseph L. Postell

Members: The Reverends Darryl Woodberry, James Rodgers, Jeanette Collins-Murry,
Lisa Spears

Report

**TO BE REPORTED LIVE DURING THE NORTHEAST
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

MINISTERIAL EFFICIENCY
Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Merritt B. Graves

Members: Reverends: Johnathan K. Greene, Ralph L. Brown, Jr.
Debbie Bowen-Davis, Lisa Spears

Report

**TO BE REPORTED LIVE DURING THE NORTHEAST
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

CONFERENCE TRUSTEES
Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Presiding Elders: James S. Cooper, Johnnie O. Coe, Joseph Postell
Reverends: Harold Conyers, Debbie Bowens-Davis, Johnathan K. Greene, Sr.,
William C. Miller, Janice G. McMillian, Merritt B. Graves, Eva Smith-Smiling,
Don Robinson, Jeanette Collins-Murray, Archie S. Temoney, Sr.
Brothers: Keith Britton, Robert Commander, Ricarldo Washington, James Lighty,
Roosevelt Miott
Sisters: Misbrew L. Times, Ruth Ham Barabra Martin, Vivian McFadden

**TO BE REPORTED LIVE DURING THE
NORTHEAST ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

BOARD OF EXAMINERS
Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Presiding Elders: James S. Cooper, Johnnie O. Coe, Joseph L. Postell

Reverends: Johnathan K. Greene, Sr., William C. Miller, E. Robert Thomas, Alvin Webb, Ralph Brown, Jr., Harold Conyers, Janice McMillian, Larry Harris, Glen McLellan, Dwayne Bruce, Orlando McCauley, Jr., Elroy Davis, Gus Brown, Lisa Spears, James O. Rodgers, Timothy Johnson, Sr. Robert Hunter

**TO BE REPORTED LIVE DURING THE NORTHEAST
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

MUSIC

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Brother Thomas Slater

Reverends: James Brown, Traves Reames

Brothers: Eric Jordan, ViShawn Stephens, Mr. Mack, Aresenio Bradford

Sisters: Sister Sheryl L. Randall, Gwen Mishoe

Salutations: Greetings to Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Supervisor Phyllis N. Green, Presiding Elders, and the members of the 132nd Session of the Northeast, South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the Committee on Music Ministry, beg leave to make this report:

Report:

The Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference Music Ministry includes a combination of Sumter District, Marion District, Florence-Dillon District choirs and members. The District Ministers of Music plan together to create a Mass Choir that is available to sing at all Conference events, events to support the Bishop, and the Northeast Conference.

The Northeast Conference Music Ministry prepares to provide music for the Annual Pentecost Celebration, The Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference , and the Annual God First Fall Convocation. Choir members have worked together to learn appropriate hymns, gospel and contemporary selections, and service music for occasions as necessary.

We, the Committee, have reached out to all AME churches in our conference area to create a database for all musicians and singers and to extend membership.

Recommendations:

1. Encourage all churches in the jurisdictional area of the Northeast South Carolina Annual conference to have representation in this ministry as we continue to grow in service.
2. To continue collecting information to create a database for church musicians directly using group apps, social networks and other media regarding rehearsal dates and engagements.
3. To plan music workshops for all Ministers of Music and Choirs in the NECMM to build Godly focus, vocal training, selection of music, choir etiquette, and spiritual dedication to music preparation.
4. Encourage and make space for youth and young adult singers, musicians and dancers to build ministries within their districts and churches.

Respectfully Submitted,
Thomas

DEEDS, ABSTRACTS, ABANDONED PROPERTY

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Northeast Annual Conference: September 28 – 30, 2023
132nd Session

Deeds, Abstracts and Abandoned Property

Chair: Rev. Merritt B. Graves

Members: Revs. Gus Brown, Angia Taylor, Frederick Johnson, Elroy Davis, Willie Holmes, David Bright, Lemuel Washington

Sisters: Betty Judge, Barbara Martin, Judith Bethune, Janet Alston, Wanda Manning

Brothers: Raymond Mack, Bennie Richardson, Sam Smith, Bennie Vereen Jr., Ernest Groover

The Committee makes the following report and recommendations based upon consultation with the Presiding Elders of the Conference:

- 1) Presiding Elder James S. Cooper reports that there are no issues with deeds, titles, or abandoned property on the Sumter District.
- 2) Presiding Elder Joseph Postell reports that on the Florence-Dillon District, Bethel Hill and Zion Hill continue to be used for religious purposes and remain in compliance with the stipulations of the Trusts in which both properties were given to the A.M.E. Church. The property formerly known as Little Zion remains under the control of the Conference Trustees.
- 3) Presiding Elder Johnnie Coe reports that on the Marion District, the property known as Ebenezer Bucksville remains under the control of the Conference Trustees and is being maintained by the Trustee Board of Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church.

Recommendations:

- 1) That Bethel Hill and Zion Hill on the Florence-Dillon District continue to be used for religious purposes under the supervision of the Presiding Elder, and that any change in this status be reported to the Conference Trustees immediately.
- 2) That Little Zion on the Florence-Dillon District and Ebenezer Bucksville on the Marion District remain under the control of the Conference Trustees.

INCORPORATION OF CHURCH PROPERTY

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Leo Chapman, Jr.

Members: Reverends: Angia Taylor, Donna Jackson, Gus Brown, Felix Jordan, Eugene Dunson, Tony Paige, James Leonard, Shernard Barnes, John Brown. **Brothers:** Anthony Shields, David Rowell, Charles Bradley, Henry Stanley, Bennie Richardson, Bennie Vereen, Jr. **Sisters:** Brenda Bowens, Geraldine Hogan, Diane Reaves, Margie Scott, Essie Moultrie

After consultation with the Presiding Elders of the Conference, the Committee makes the following report and recommendations.

Reports: Per Presiding Elder Dr. James S. Cooper, 25 Churches of The Sumter District are properly incorporated with one to be incorporated (**Centerville A.M.E. Church**).

Per Presiding Elder Joseph Postell, all 30 Churches of The Florence/Dillon District are properly incorporated.

Per Presiding Elder Johnnie Coe, of the 34 total Churches of the Marion District, 29 are incorporated with the balance of 5 to be incorporated they are; **Friendship, St. Mark, Cane Branch, Hemingway Chapel, and St. Peter.**

The total of incorporated churches in the South Carolina Northeast Annual Conference is 84. Churches remaining to be properly incorporated is 6.

To the churches that are not incorporated, for the purpose of incorporation, the committee makes the following recommendations.

Recommendations

1. The Presiding Elder provides assistance to each Church not incorporated with the assistance of the Annual Conference Trustees if needed; to insure proper documentation and procedures are implemented, and proof of incorporation be provided to the Presiding Elder.
2. The Presiding Elder shall provide proof of incorporation and documentation to the Episcopal office.

Humbly submitted,

The Committee on Incorporation of Church Property
Reverend Leo Chapman, Jr. – Committee Chair

PRESIDING ELDER'S SALARY/UPKEEP

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Reverends: Harold Conyers, John Lewis, Archie S. Temoney, Sr., James P. Gause, Glenn McLellan, Merritt B. Graves, Frederick Johnson, Leonard Simmons, Ralph L. Brown, Jr., Orlando McCauley, Jr., Johnathan K. Greene, Sr., William C. Miller, Shernard Barnes, Drusilla Harvin, Frederick Graves, Jerome McCray, Benjamin Sims, Abraham Temoney, Jr. Cynthia Meyers

Brothers: Robert Commander, Coleman Randall, Glen J. Foxworth, Ricardo Washington, Keith Britton, Issac Johnson

Sisters: Teresa Toney, Wanda Manning, Dottie Cox, Felicia Davis

To Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Supervisor Phyllis N. Green, and the members of the 132nd Session of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference, we the members of your Committee on Presiding Elder's Salary and Upkeep beg leave to make our report.

Report:

The Florence Dillon District:

On January 28, 2023, The Presiding Elder Salary and Up-keep was discussed during the Florence-Dillion District Conference. After close consultation with Presiding Elder Joseph Postell, the pastors and delegates cast a unanimous vote not to give an increase in the Presiding Elder Salary and Up-Keep for the 2023-2024 conference year, due to rising economy and covid 19.

The Sumter District:

On February 11, 2023, The Pastors and delegation of the Sumter District Conference met at Mt. Olive AME Church. After close consultation with Presiding Elder James S. Cooper, the committee recommends a 3% increase in Presiding Elder Salary and Upkeep for the 2023-2024 conference year. A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Harold Conyers, seconded by Bro. George Gibson and carried by a unanimous vote.

The Marion District:

On January 28, 2023, The Presiding Elder Salary and Up-keep was discussed during the Marion District Conference at Mt. Olive AME Church. The Pastors and Delegates unanimously approved, at the request of Presiding Elder Johnnie Coe, no increase in compensation for the Presiding Elder of the Marion District for the 2023-2024 conference year.

Humbly submitted,

The Committee on Presiding Elder's Salary and Up-Keep

MISSIONS, CIRCUITS, AND STATIONS

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Committee Members: Reverends: James Leonard, James P. Gause, Leo Chapman, Jr., Sidney Hampton, Eric Robinson, Robert Taylor, Jr., Robert China, Jr., Alvin Webb, Jeanette Collins-Murray, Mary Rose, Kenneth Johnson, Frederick Johnson, Oliver Davis

Brothers: Robert Anderson, Richard Murray, Roosevelt O. Miott, Willie J. Davis, Chris Johnson, Earl McDuffey, John Nelson

Sisters: Gloria Bradshaw, Marilyn Ragin, Sara Davis, Rowena Phillips, Magdalen Jenkins, Tywana Dargan, Estelle Gilbert

To: Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders, Host Pastor, and the members of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference.

We, the members of the Committee on Mission, Circuits and Stations beg leave to make the following report. In meeting with Presiding Elder James S. Cooper, Presiding Elder Johnnie O. Coe and Presiding Elder Joseph Postell,

Sumter District Presiding Elder James Cooper ~ 26 Station Churches

Marion District: Presiding Elder Johnnie Coe ~ 28 Station Churches, 5 Missions Churches and 1 Circuit

Florence/Dillon District Presiding Elder Joseph Postell ~ 30 Station Churches

No Changes for this Conference Year.

Humbly Submitted

Your Committee on Mission, Circuits and Stations

Reverend James B. Leonard, Chairperson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Committee Chair: Reverend Glenn McLellan, Ph.D.

Reverends: Glenn McLellan, Merritt B. Graves, Mildred Watson, Letitia P. Miller, Phillip Washington, Larry Harris, Deirdre Howard, April Jackson, D. Pennie Damon

Brothers: Robert Commander, Douglas Mixon, Coleman Randall, Robert Adson, Richard Alford, Heskeith Myler

Sisters: Shirley Lowery, Ann Cade, Annie Hatcher, Pamela Williams, Teresa Toney, Connie Cox, Tiffany Cusack, Bernita Belin

Report

In service to the church, the ministry of Christian Education exists to act as a support system to all other ministries. In fulfilling its foundational role, the Christian Education Ministry continues to develop cooperative and innovative learning models, thereby improving the overall attention to the church's mission. Innovation and technology continue to infiltrate all other ministries of the church.

At the 51st Quadrennial General Conference, the connectional church adopted the theme: Forward in Faith: The Post Pandemic Ministry. Since 2021, this theme has served as both a guide and a challenge for the connectional church to move beyond that which we can see, as we walk by faith. It is with much gratitude that we declare appreciation for the foresight of the connectional church to walk by faith through this pandemic toward a post-pandemic era. The use of multiple information technology mediums is being utilized to fulfilling our calling and purpose.

The Northeast Conference Christian Education Department, through each of its Presiding Elder Districts, continues to serve this present age through media platforms. The utilization of various media platforms enables each Presiding Elder District to conduct business as necessary. Teaching, member recognition and planning have all taken place with the use of various media platforms.

Effective Christian Educators must remain committed to teaching sound biblical doctrine, as well as the history and polity of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Our Episcopal Leaders (Bishop and Supervisor Green and Reverend Sam Green, Jr., serve as models of Christian Educators who have constantly demonstrated their ability to inspire and inform all age groups. This is clear through increased interest and attendance at the

God First Holy Convocation, Aspire Christian Education Congress, and the Fall Planning Convocation.

Church School Conventions continue to be held in the districts with large turnouts of young people. Other efforts sponsored by the districts included Newsletters Publications, Graduation and Awards Day, Youth Revivals, Back-to-School Programs, Acolyte Ministry Training, Tutorial Ministry, Vacation Bible School, Prayer Services and Bible Studies, Health Care Ministries, Children's Church, and many others.

We eagerly applaud the leadership of our Presiding Elders, Cooper, Postell, and Coe for their support of these ministries as they are shared throughout the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference. We wish to thank the three District's CED's, Dr. Johnathan K. Greene, Sis. Ann Cade and Sis. Shirley Lowery along with all the Local CED's, YPD Directors, Superintendents, Pastors and everyone who assisted in whatever way to make Christian Education what it is in this conference.

Recommendations

- 1) Develop a passion for learning all the C.E. that is taught at the Local, District, and Episcopal Levels.
- 2) Continue to strengthen Church School/Bible Study with capable and committed instructors/teachers.
- 3) Encourage greater attendance and participation at "all" Seventh Episcopal District Meetings, to include Holy Convocation, Christian Education Conference, and the Fall Planning Convocation.
- 4) Teach the history and polity of the AMEC so that every AME will know the historical contribution, mission, operational components of our Zion.
- 5) Develop and implement training to enhance the information technology capabilities of those who currently lack the skills.

Bishop Green, Mrs. Green, and Reverend Samuel L. Jr., we thank God for your leadership in the Seventh Episcopal District.

Humbly Submitted, The Northeast South Carolina Conference Christian Education Committee

ANNUITY AND INVESTMENTS

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend E. Robert Thomas

Reverends: Melvin Lewis, Dwayne Bruce, Cynthia Meyers, Orlando McCauley, Jr., Frederick Graves, Christopher Powell, Abraham Temoney, Jr., Donna Jackson, Mildred Watson, Earnest Brown, Benjamin Sims, April Jackson, Darryl Woodberry

Brothers: Keith Britton, Larry White, Larry Jackson, Robert Abson

Sisters: Willie Mae Martin, Louvenia Wilson, Bertha Goodman, Clerria Teshima, Maggie Green, Theresa Dewitt, Renell Jones

We, the Committee on Annuity and Investments have consulted with the Sumter, Florence-Dillion, And the Marion Districts, and we have obtained information as follows at the 12% of eligible Pastors Annual Salary:

The Pastors of the Sumter District have participation of 100%.

The Pastors of the Florence-Dillion District have participation of 100%.

And The pastors of the Marion District have participation of 100%.

Recommendations:

- 1. All Pastors should continue to support and invest through the Annuity and Investment Department of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.**

This ends the report of Annuity and Investments Committee. It has been a joy to serve God, and His people. To God be the glory, for his Wonderful Blessings through the past years of service. Thanks to our Bishop, Presiding Elders, Delegates, and Members of this Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference. Your Committee on Annuity and Investments.

CLASSIFICATION OF PASTORS

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chairman: James Rodgers

Members: Alvin Webb, Merrit B. Graves, Lisa Spears, Archie S. Temoney, Sr., Robert Hunter, Kenneth Johnson, Marie Mitchell-Lanier, Eva Smith-Smiling, Glenn McLellan, Debbie Bowen-Davis, Donna Jackson, Samuel Temoney, Oliver Davis, Jeanette Collins-Murray, Patsy Brown, Larry Jackson, James Felder, James Rose, Gearldine Hogan, Lou Ella Wilson, and Pearlie Hammonds.

Bishop Samuel L. Green Sr., Supervisor Phyllis Green, General Officers, Presiding Elders, Pastors, Delegates, Friends, and Visitors of the 132nd Session of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference, we the members of the Committee on Classification of Pastors would like to make the following report.

The book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2021 Edition, pages 152-154, Section II, MINISTERIAL SUPPORT PASTOR SUPPORT was the source used as a guide in determining the following:

Florence-Dillon District:

Pastors:

10 Class A, 9 Class B, 4 Class D, 2 Locals, 1 Licentiate/supply

Churches:

22 Class A, 8 Class B

Marion District:

Pastors:

24 Class-A, 1 Class-D, 6 Locals

Churches:

20 Class-A, 14 Class-B

Sumter District:

Pastors:

22 Class A, 1 Class D, 3 Local

Churches:

21 Class A, 5 Class B

**Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference
Classification of Pastors and Churches**

Florence-Dillon District
Rev. Dr. Joseph Postell, Presiding Elder

Pastor	Classification	Church	Classification
Rev. Merritt Graves	A	Mt. Zion (Florence)	A
Rev. Leonard E. Simmons	B	Weston Chapel (Dillon)	A
Rev. Benjamin Sims	B	Bethel (Darlington)	A
Rev. Archie S. Temoney, Sr.	A	Mill Branch	A
Rev. Gus Brown	A	Union (Lakeview)	A
Rev. Elroy Davis	A	St. Paul (Claussen)	A
Rev. Janice McMillian	A	St. Mark (Johnsonville)	A
Rev. Abraham Temoney, Jr.	B	St Luke (Johnsonville)	A
Rev. Orlando McCauley	B	St. Matthews (Hamer)	A
Rev. Oliver Davis	B	Oak Grove (Olanta)	A
Rev. Lisa Spears	B	Bethel (Dillon)	A
Rev. Frederick Johnson	B	St. John	A
Rev. Robert Hunter	A	Goodland (Florence)	A
Rev. Shernard R. Barnes	B	New Mt. Zion (Sellers)	A
Rev. Patsy Brown	A	Trinity (Pamplico)	A
Bro. Sampson Spencer	Lic/Supply	Bethel Hill	B
Rev. Geraldine Dixon	A	Greater Fork Chapel	A
Rev. April Jackson	D	New Cannan	B
Rev. Melvin Lewis	B	St. Paul (Floydale)	A
Rev. Anthony Ford	D	New Spring Hill (Dillon)	A
Rev. Letitia Pringle-Miller	A	Savannah Grove	A
Presiding Elder J. Postell		Magnolia (Stateline)	A
Rev. Joanna Coe	A	Pine Hill	A
Rev. Christopher Powell	D	St. Mark (Olanta)	B
Rev. Larry M. Jackson	D	Magnolia (Bingham)	A
Presiding Elder J. Postell		Mt. Tabor	B
Rev. Eugene Dunson	Local	Zion Hill	B
Presiding Elder J. Postell		Welch Chapel (Timmons ville)	B
Rev Letha Bunkem	Local	New Hope	B
Presiding Elder J. Postell		Heward Chapel (Johnsonville)	B

**Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference
Classification of Pastors**

Marion District
Rev. Johnnie O. Coe, Presiding Elder

Pastor	Classification	Church	Classification
Rev. William Miller	A	Bethel (Conway)	A
Rev. John A Lewis	A	Bethel (Britton's Neck)	A
Rev. Willie Holmes	A	New Ebenezer (Mullins)	A
Rev. Jonathan Greene Sr.	A	St. Paul (Little River)	A
Rev. Henry J. Murray	A	Greater Singletary	A
Rev James P. Gause	A	Greater St. James (Conway)	A
Rev. Felix Jordan	A	St. James (Marion)	A
Rev. James Rodgers	A	Popular (Poplar)	A
Rev. Eric Robinson	A	Salem (Buckspport)	A
Rev. Glenn McLellan	A	Mt. Olive (Myrtle Beach)	A
Rev. Kenneth Johnson	A	Mt. Zion (Zion)	A
Rev. Daryl Woodberry	A	Mt. Zion (North Myrtle Beach)	A
Rev. Tony Paige	A	Soul Chapel (Gresham)	A
Rev. Milderd S. Watson	A	Macedonia (Little River Neck)	A
Rev. Johnny Randall	Local	Bethlehem (Raines)	A
Rev. John Brown	A	St. Mary (Marion)	A
Rev. Robert Taylor	A	St. Stephens (Loris)	A
Rev. Eva Smith-Smiling	A	Mt. Zion (Burgess)	A
Rev. Michael Scott	A	Brown Chapel	B
Rev. Marie Lanier	A	Friendship (Greshem)	B
Rev. Pauline Godbolt	Local	Wise Chapel (Marion)	B
Rev. Bobby Rogers	Local	William Chapel (Nichols)	B
Rev. Diane Foxworth	Local	Good Hope (Centenary)	A
Rev. Michael Holmes	A	Tabernacle (Marion)	B
Rev. Frank Judge (Retired)	A	Cane Branch	B
Rev. Frank Judge (Retired)	A	Hemingway Chapel	B
Rev. Marie Lanier	A	St. Mark (Pee Dee)	B
Rev. Carlos Shields	D	St. Peter (Aynor)	B
Rev. James B. Leonard	A	St. John (Marion)	A
Rev. Joseph Tucker	Local	New Bethel (Loris)	B
Rev. Joseph Tucker	Local	Mt. Pisgah (Galivant's Ferry)	B
Rev. Carlos Shields	D	New Hope (Bayboro)	B
Rev. Gwen Stevenson	Local	St. John (Longs)	B
Rev. Harold Moody (Retired)	A	Union Chapel (Galivant's Ferry)	B

**Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference
Classification of Pastors**

Sumter District

Rev. Dr. James Cooper, Presiding Elder

Pastor	Classification	Church	Classification
Rev. Harold Conyers	A	New Zion (Bishopville)	A
Rev. Ralph Brown	A	Mt. Olive (Sumter)	A
Rev. Robert Thomas	A	Mt. Pisgah (Sumter)	A
Rev. Robert China Jr.	A	Wayman Chapel (Sumter)	A
Rev. Alvin Webb	A	St. Luke (Sumter)	A
Rev. Dwayne Bruce	A	Beulah (Sumter)	A
Rev. Frederick Graves	A	St. Paul (Sumter)	A
Rev. Leo Chapman	A	Ebenezer (Maysville)	A
Rev. Jerome McCray	A	Unionville (Maysville)	A
Rev. Earnest Brown	A	Howard Chapel (Sumter)	A
Rev. Eric Ramsey	A	Mt. Pleasant (Lynchburg)	A
Rev. Lemuel Washington	A	Union Station (Sumter)	A
Rev. Deirdre Howard	A	St. John (Bishopville)	A
Rev. Dr. Angia Taylor	A	Centerville (Hartsville)	A
Rev. Dr. Pennie Damon	A	Mt. Calvary (Hartsville)	A
Rev. James Cabbagestalk	A	Mt. Sinai (Lynchburg)	A
Rev. Drusilla Harvin	A	Bethel (Sumter)	A
Rev. Samuel Temoney Rev Sonya Temoney	A	Quinn Chapel (Sumter)	A
Rev. Jeanette Collins- Murray	A	St. Peter (Maysville)	A
Rev. Cynthia Myers	Local	St. Matthews (Lynchburg)	B
Rev. Emanuel Davis	A	New Bethel (Bishopville)	A
Rev. Debbie Bowens-Davis	A	Agape Fellowship (McBee)	A
Rev. Donna Jackson	A	Pine Hill (Sumter)	B
Rev. David Bright	D	Reid Chapel (Sumter)	B
Rev. Clarence Hunter	Local	Lodabar	B
Rev. Sidney Hampton Jr.	Local	St. Michael (Wedgefield)	B

Respectfully submitted.

The Committee on Classification of Pastors

SOCIAL ACTION

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Name of Annual Conference: Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Date: September 28-30, 2023

Committee Name: Social Action

Chair: Rev. William C. Miller

Members: The Reverends: Jerome McCray, Frederick Johnson, Christopher Powell, Larry Harris, Melvin Lewis, Angia Taylor; Deidre Howard Brothers: Douglas Mixon, George Gibson, Johnny Mouzon, Isaiah Johnson, James Spain, Charles Dozier; Sisters: Sandra Wilson, Barbara Wilson, Dana Mitchell, Marguerite Mccoy, Esternell Foxworth, Wanda Brown, Barbara Davis, Maggie Green., Loubirdie Law, KarCelia German

Salutations: To Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr. – Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District, Sis. Phyllis N. Green – Episcopal Supervisor, the Presiding Elders, Clergy, Component Heads, Lay Delegates, Clergy Spouses, and all other members of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Report:

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus makes it clear that if we hunger and thirst for righteousness, we will be filled [Matt. 5:6]. In a time where people look to alternative news sources and artificial means to disconnect from the historic challenges we must face, our thirst for hunger and righteousness should be growing. The alarm of this moment should not be ignored. As many souls seek balance in the midst of unpredictable economic cycles and growing unrest around how we reckon with the true history of our nation, we urge the members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to stay the course. Stand on the Word of God and seek restorative justice through kingdom living.

What does one do when there is a genuine thirst for hunger and righteousness? A genuine thirst for hunger and righteousness speaks truth to power when we are selective about how we teach our history. Each of us can play our part in keeping the lamp of truth lit, pointing people in the direction of freedom as Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, Harriet Tubman, or Sojourner Truth did so courageously. To hunger and thirst for righteousness is to engage the systems that stand in the way of criminal justice reform, fair economic opportunities, and the creation of an education system that serves all children regardless of race, physical address, or economic status. To that end we offer the following recommendations:

Recommendations-

1. Protect the Vote – Never forget that the vote is sacred. Many have protested for a right to cast their constitutionally protected right to such. Some even lost their life in an effort to secure access for all citizens to the ballot box. As primaries and general elections approach, we strongly encourage the social action commissions of our congregations to partner with local non-partisan organizations in the effort of educating parishioners on their rights and how to challenge irregularities in their voting experience. Consider partnering with other churches on your presiding elder district or within your community to host a one-day civics boot camp to educate the community on upcoming elections, vital community needs and possibly provide basic health screenings.
2. Economic Justice – Economic justice can begin with renewed urgency to ensure that all persons are invited to the table. While we applaud the new opportunities and expansion brought to the state by highly recognized corporations, we believe that the Northeast corridor of our great state deserves its fair share of new investment. Horry and Florence Counties contain cities that rank among the fastest growing locales in the region. We urge strongly encourage that local governing bodies and chambers of commerce ensure that contracts and employment opportunities reflect the rich diversity of ethnic, gender, and religious beliefs found throughout the place we call home.

3. Education – We encourage churches to serve as learning conduits in helping to educate on the impact of contributions made by African Americans and other minorities which helped to lay the foundation for whatever successes our nation has experienced. Churches can identify designated representatives who will attend school board meetings and serve as active participants on school improvement councils. If feasible, the least we can do is help satisfy outstanding lunch debts at local schools in an effort to ensure that every child can focus and operate at their best.

4. Criminal Justice – We encourage churches to partner with local organizations to sponsor at least one forum to educate constituents on the resources available to returning citizens otherwise known as formerly incarcerated individuals. We encourage you to write letters urging your elected officials to support minimum sentencing reforms. Additionally, employers can make a profound impact by choosing to ‘ban the box’ on applications that inquire about a person’s incarceration history. There is a long history of this question leading to prejudice in the hiring process without providing individuals with real opportunities to show how their record is not a true or real reflection of their true character and capabilities. Some people truly need a second chance.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference
Social Action Committee

CHURCH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

CHURCH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT Northeast Annual Conference

September 28, 20223

Chair: Reverend Leonard E. Simmons, Sr.

Members: Presiding Elders: James S. Cooper, Johnnie O. Coe, Joseph Postell, The Reverends: Jerome McCray, Angia Taylor, Robert Hunter, Gus Brown, Leo Chapman, Jr., Geraldine Dixon, Jeanette Collins-Murray, Frederick Graves, Oliver Davis, Sonya Temoney, Melvin Lewis, Glenn McLellan, Earnest Brown, Eric Ramsey, Deirdre Howard, Anthony Ford. **Brothers** Ronald Johnson, Anthony Shields, James Rose, Winton Harrell, James Rich, Arthur McCommings, Samson Spencer **Sisters** Renell Jones, Albertha Knowlin, Helen Highsmith, Janet Alston, Veronica Gilliard.

Greetings to Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Supervisor Phyllis N. Green, pastors, delegates and members of Northeast Annual Conference from your Committee on Church Growth and Development.

Report

How can we grow our church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, during the COVID-19 pandemic? How can the church stay engaged as the COVI-19 variant is still here in our communities? What are some strategies for church growth during these unprecedented times? How can we as a church spread our mission and bring more back to the church?

We all are aware and it is certainly no secret that the members who attend church have lost some of their emotions or passion to worship in the physical building. As pastors and/or church leaders, we have noticed a significant decline within our local congregation.

We might ask the question of “*Do people feel good attending Church in the First Place?*” Researchers continue to ask Americans to provide the reason they attend church. The responses are the same and they are going to church or another house of worship to feel closer to God. Other leading reasons for going to church include: **(a)** hoping to provide our children with a moral foundation **(b)** wanting to become a better person and **(c)** to find comfort in times of trouble.

Why Don't People Attend Church? The majority of those who were surveyed stated that they do not attend church because they have found other ways to practice their faith. During the week the experts discovered that a certain percentage of the participants feel that they do not have the time in their schedule as being the biggest reason that they don't attend. Some also stated that they don't feel a warm spirit when they attend church on Sunday mornings.

How can we get our congregation to return to church especially after so much time has lapsed? Many of our churches returned to in person worship on June 20, 2021. Nevertheless there is still a large gap within our churches on Sunday morning.

The 7th Episcopal District has implemented reasons to continue training that consists of Re-Entry Documents, Resources for Pastors and Church Leaders, Fresh Start Webinar Series, COVID Signs, etc., that assisted our churches and their congregations to safely reopen and return to the Church buildings. Even as we were reopening and returning to our Church buildings, the COVID variant has resurged and continues to impact the nation. South Carolina has seen ups and downs in COVID-19 cases with some weeks of increasing positive cases.

As the coronavirus disease continues to spread around the globe, a percentage of these cases have forced decision-makers and religious leaders to caution everyone to continue to wear masks, social distance, check temperatures, and discourage common social interactions. Some see it as an inconvenience, however it is necessary for our people of color who have other sicknesses.

Churches and worship facilities are once again being affected by this. Some Churches have opened their doors with limited congregants, while some are making adjustments. Meeting for worship, Bible study, and fellowship services among congregations have seen a continued drop during weekly gatherings in their communities.

The AME church has embraced the use of various alternate means of reaching their parishioners by using some of the following platforms for Sunday online services.

- 1) Using the option of providing your online service via live stream, interactive, or prerecorded services. This may include Zoom, Facebook Live, an Online Church Platform, as well as YouTube. There is an increase in the overall opportunities to join an Online Church service.
- 2) We have also encouraged everyone to find ways to stay connected. One can consider connecting with other AME churches in your area for their Sunday online service, Church School, and weekly bible study.
- 3) Connecting with those non-attending members may require more creativity and effort. There are some parishioners in our congregation that are without a computer or smartphone? In those situations the class leader and Pastor should call those members. Many people are feeling isolated, so a phone call is the one way to reconnect with them. During the call we can check to see if they need anything and offer to shop for them and deliver the needed items. We could also mail them a personal note or your sermon text.
- 4) Supporting and staying connected with the young people is very critical. How can pastors and members connect with the youth, the littles of their congregation in these difficult times? We must find ways. A plan is needed right away to schedule opportunities to have a conversation with them. Also remembering to include them in church services to allow them to continue active participation.
- 5) How to remain faithful in giving during the pandemic. We must continue to encourage them to trust God when giving their tithes and offerings to the church. Churches must establish and set up alternate ways for their members to give. Members can use the church's online giving option via the church website. Members can send their donation weekly through the U.S. Postal Service or they can drop the donation off at the church.

In summary, in order to see continued improvements in our church membership and participation the congregation must be in a physical and mental place where we can grow. We have to meet some of our current and future members where they are. In other words we have to reach out to them and determine what their spiritual needs are. Then we must formulate a plan and figure out how to meet their needs and bring them back to participating and attending service. We cannot continue with how we did things in the past. We must look at ways to get some of our church locations past the old era of not being able to engage in viable ministry and outreach. Some of our memberships have become limited and they do not wish to change. But we must continue to create ways to reach those who may have become confused with who they should trust or whose they are.

The following are recommendations for your congregation to use to revive membership and attendance:

- Create a more inviting atmosphere
- Provide more opportunities for the present age/generation
- Develop outreach ministries to engage the community
- Proper management of church resources to help and serve the members/community

We must remember that a growing church must make room for the non-Christians and non-believers.

Reflections and Summary:

We are still living in a pandemic not just a national crisis, a world crisis. Not just an epidemic, but a pandemic of great proportions. A pandemic that supposedly knows no race, color, ethnicity, gender, age, economic status, religious belief, or political choice yet it appears to be hitting the African American community hard. In an age of social distancing, political parties are further divided on the issues. The have nots are still suffering at the hands of the haves and big businesses.

However, in times like these, there is hope. Hope that is not based on what I see, but hope that is based on what I know and believe about the power of God.

If we are honest with ourselves, prior to COVID 19, many of us were too busy. Too busy to pay attention to our family, our relationships, and our health. Some people have experienced furloughs or total loss of their jobs with no stability. But Psalm 46:10 reminds us to...*”Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am still in charge; be still and know that I will not lead you astray.”*

Some have declared that COVID-19 is God’s way of punishing us for our sins. God does allow things to happen through his permissive will. We must rely on our social distance for God to reassure and restore us. Jesus is always a stone’s throw away and he hears our prayers. Social distancing reminds us to seek our purpose in God. Remember Jesus began his social distancing in Luke chapter 2. There were eighteen whole years where Jesus socially distanced in order to properly develop. By the time social distancing is over for us, we should have faith to face what is in our future. We must know that this season of social distancing is not permanent, but is a part of our process. If we use it properly, we will also come out of this positioned and poised to faithfully fulfill our purpose.

Your Committee on Church Growth and Development.

CHURCH PLANTING

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Reverends: R. L. Brown, Merritt B. Graves, William C. Miller, Johnathan K. Green, Sr., Larry Michael Jackson, Alvin Webb, Benjamin Sims. Anthony Ford.

Letittia Pringle-Miller

Brothers: Johnny Mouzon, Roosevelt O. Miott.

Sisters: Wilhelmina Gross, Laraven Temoney, Lukeshia Pearson, April Cook, Louvenia Wilson, Dana Mitchell, Eleanor Soloman, Ashanti Gillespie.

To Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr, Supervisor Phyliss N. Green, Clergy and Lay members

of the 132nd Session of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference. We your committee on Church Planting, beg leave to make our report.

Report:

We must remember as we move forward that God designed church planting to expand His kingdom. Church planting is a means of rescuing lost souls for Christ. It is what we do as we faithfully proclaim the gospel and make disciples.

We should keep in mind what the word of God tells us in 1 Corinthians 3:5-7, which is simply that one plants, one waters but it is God who gives the increase.

Recommendations:

1. Pray frequently for God's divine guidance.
2. Communicate your intentions, and don't be afraid to ask for help.
3. Develop your network, don't get discouraged, and remain flexible.

Respectfully Submitted your Committee on Church Planting.

STATE OF THE CHURCH

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Dr. Orlando M. McCauley, Jr., Chair

Members: Reverends: Donna Jackson, Frederick Johnson, Janice McMillian, Elroy Davis, James Leonard, Matthew Furness, Michael Scott, Benjamin Sims Brothers: James Rich, Douglas Mixon, Earl McDuffie, Mac Brown, Donald Gerald, Raymond Mack, Charles Dozler Sisters: Mary Wilson, Mary Dicks, Kimberly Epps, Sytricia Price, Ester Goff, Barbara Martin, Barbara Gamble, Linda Battle, and Joanne Coaxum.

We, as members of the church militant, continue to face a barrage of attacks from all walks of life, while grappling with the uncertainties of this mundane life; Amidst a world characterized by many vices. We're constantly bombarded by a plethora of weaponry from the armory of cancer culture with the media holding a huge segment of the artillery. Our role as a spiritual institution must remain firm, faithful, and fearless in what the Bible reminds us to do: be alert and sober minded because your enemy, the adversary prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he might devour" (I Pet.5:8-9).

Since its inception the Christian Church has often experienced a myriad of challenges and yet, it continues to remain a city of refuge, beacon of hope, and a safe harbor of comfort and assurance; for the weary and wounded in our society. The Church is constantly faced with many vices that contribute to crippling and delapidating effects such as racism, discrimination, inequalities, and social unrest. We're now living in an era of blatant denial of truths, propagated by a culture of tolerance for political expediency and acceptability. This is for the sake of conformity to the status quo. Much of what's happening in our political discourse, the disintegration of civic trust between the African American community and law enforcement, ironically, is a direct result of spiritual apathy on the part of certain elements of the Christian Church, masquerading under the canopy of conservatism.

Some folk who identified themselves as religious conservatists, are aiding individuals with extremist views, to exert themselves and their political ideologies and rhetoric under a pseudo name as members of the Christian Church. They continue to spew out poisonous messages of hatred that undermine one of the core tenets of our Faith as summarized in the Decalogue: loving God with our heart, soul, and mind; but also, loving our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:30-31). These so-called conservative Christians, are simply religious extremists, espousing destructive and divisive messages, paradoxically, from their bully pulpits in the name of Evangelicalism. Most of us believers-both lay and clergy, are still aware of the fact that the church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord: She's His new creation, by water and the Word. From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride, and with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

The aftermath of the coronavirus pandemic, and the political fallouts continue to have impacts in pockets of our communities. There are scimmages of the virus in certain quarters of society, which should compel us to remain mindful and cautious not to let our gird down.... although we survived the carnage to gather once again in this sacred space as African Methodism, singing the famous opening hymn, “**and are we yet alive to see each other’s face....**” Let us also reflect on the journey of the past twelve months since we last assembled.

The State of the Church is still strong and solid. It continues to stand on the very word of God, contained in the Lord’s promise made to Peter and the other apostles: Upon this rock, I’ll build my church and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it (Matt. 16:18). As we reflect on this assured promise, let us also be reminded of one of Bishop Richard Allen’s quotes, which states, “The Lord was pleased to strengthen us, and remove all fear from us, and disposed our hearts to be as useful as possible.” The State of the Church, despite its stern position has also shifted greatly as part of the aftermaths of the coronavirus pandemic. Even with the return of in person worship, many congregations across denominational lines are dealing with declines in church attendance. A Pew Research survey conducted last year amongst Black Protestants revealed that those who generally attended religious services at least once a month is now 15% lower than it was in 2019 (46% vs. 61%). Such statistic should compel us as church leaders to exert every effort to reactivate our class leaders’ system to ensure those that have felt prey to COVID-19 fatigue be contacted, visited, and if possible, inquire of them how we can help them become reengaged.

The State of the Church remains strong despite the prevailing and glaring presence of several challenges on all fronts. We must remain a beacon of hope, a voice of reasoning and compassion, as members of our congregations are compelled to face new challenges and changes in their lives. The African Methodist Episcopal Church has always been in the forefront of history addressing issues relating to social, political, environmental, and economic injustices that often plagued not just the African American communities, but communities of color including marginalized ones. We applaud the impeccable and unparalleled leadership of our Episcopate, Bishop Sam for the tenacious and compassionate leadership he has provided and continues to provide to the Seventh Episcopal District since arrival. He often challenged us as a denomination to rally, stand up, for issues that matter to communities of color. His call to action whenever issues of injustices arise result in the resurgence of the AME Church in South Carolina as prognosticator of social gospel, as we’ve done in the past. We’re all proud of his nomination to the position of executive member of the national Democratic Part. In furtherance, we were again proud as AMEs when several hundred of us if not thousands gathered at the State Capitol in Columbia last year to hear our Bishop address the legislatures and was honored for his role in the society. To borrow from the phrase of the late civil rights icon, John Lewis, we must never settle for less, nor allow the spirit of mediocrity to deter us from getting

into “good trouble” since the ark of injustice and unfairness, continues to bend towards our people. We are not oblivious to criticism or skepticism; as a matter of fact, these attributes have been part of our identity since the founding of our Zion. The truth of the matter is, we’ve done what the Lord commanded, “Inasmuch as you’ve done it unto the least of your brothers and sisters, you’ve done it for me” (Matt. 25:37-40). The truth is still marching on. This is what we believe as members of the Northeast Annual Conference. Together we can say, the fight for justice and equality continues.

The lyrics of Black Church historian and psalmist, the late James Weldon Johnson, “God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who has brought us thus far on the way, Thou who hast by thy might, led us into the light, keep us forever in thy path, we pray”, hold true as we refocus and redirect our resources to administer to the needs of our parishioners after returning to in-person worship. We’re forever grateful to the almighty God who by his providence has allowed to gather once again at this 132nd session of the Northeast Annual Conference. To God be the glory!!!

The State of the Church as a committee concerns itself with our current trajectory-where we are, the many accomplishments we’ve made despite numerous challenges that have confronted us. In the same token, the committee wishes to encourage us in our resolves to remain vigilant, vocal, and vibrant envisioning a brighter and more prosperous future to remain relevant. The State of the African Methodist Episcopal Church remains strong and resolute confirming our ethos as enshrined in the motto which says, “**God Our Father, Christ Our Redeemer, Holy Spirit Our Comforter, Humankind Our family,**” and as such, let us remain faithful to call, being our brothers and sisters’ keepers in the cause of kingdom’s building.

The apostle Paul admonishes us as he did to the believers in Galatia, “Let us not grow weary in well-doing, we shall reap if we faint not (Gal. 6:9). We must remain prayerful, and passionate with a determination to continue our current trajectory of meeting the needs of the communities we serve. Thanks once again to our Bishop for strengthening the smaller congregations by infusing funds into their coffers, helping them with expenses outside of what it raised from the offerings, to continue their ministries. Our neighbors, truly, are no longer just the home that is opposite ours or physically next to us, but those in other places as we’ve seen since the dawn of zoom technology. We’ve become much closer as a world using zoom and other media platforms that connect us to other people elsewhere.

We must remain purposeful and prayerful as we envision the future for the local congregations we serve, staying in touch with the Lord for directions and guidance as new ministries are birthed. Let us employ the commitment of young people, youth, and young adults to begin taking on leadership roles in the church. For the admonition of the prophet Habakkuk still seems relevant, “**Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it...**” (Hab. 2:2-3)

Recommendations:

1. Now that zoom and other social media platforms have allowed us to do ministry differently, we should devise strategies to maintain their relevancy without jeopardizing our outreach efforts. This should be done through leadership training to include our young people.
2. We must be intentional about the relevancy of our class leaders' system to ensure those on the class rosters are accounted for regularly.
3. The local church, through its leadership, must ensure every member is trained to know how to witness, reaching the unchurched including those who have abandoned the faith.
4. The Church's future resides in the hands of our young people and young adults, we must devise ways to ensure their participation in church activities is intentional and consistent and not sporadic.

STATE OF THE COUNTRY

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Jerome McCray

Reverends: Lemuel Washington, James Gasque, Deirdre Howard, Henry J. Murray, Jr., Michael Holmes, Elroy Davis, James Leonard, Willie Holmes, Benjamin Sims

Brothers: Roosevelt O. Miott, Earl McDuffie, Henry Stanley, David Rowell

Sisters: Helen Highsmith, Sytricia Price, Dana Mitchell, Maggie Green, Dottie Cox, Sarah Stevens

To Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr, Supervisor Phyllis N. Green, and the members of the 132nd Session of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference, we the members of your committee on The State of The Country beg leave to make our report.

“Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it.” Time and again, mankind has faced problems, but has often failed to take the hard-earned knowledge into the next battle; we must not pretend that the current situation is normal; it is not.

America's political division is deeply ingrained in the political parties, as we have learned in the days since the election. There is nothing but a dream when it comes to the past administration going away quickly. We must face the fact that the past administration is not going to fade from the political arena like other administrations.

Therefore, as we are confronted with the challenges of our country, let us forever be reminded that when we are united on one accord much can be accomplished. It is the intent of this committee to highlight a few issues of concern.

1. According to a recent insider poll, more than 9 out of 10 Americans are concerned about the state of the country because of the pandemic and an attempted coup because of the 2020 election results.
2. The Supreme Court's recent ruling could put thousands of American citizens on the street any day now.
3. American citizens respect their local law enforcement agencies, but are increasingly viewing them as enforcers and warriors, not as protectors
4. Outdated textbooks, not enough teachers, no ventilation, and the need for new schools: the tragedy of America's rural schools.

Recommendations:

1. It is recommended that you take the COVID-19 vaccine and adhere to CDC regulations.
2. It is recommended that you contact your local housing authorities and elected officials concerning your eviction notice.
3. It is recommended that your community and local law enforcement agencies establish open communication channels by holding monthly meetings and/or community programs.
4. Our faith-based communities should form partnerships with our schools

Respectfully submitted,

The State of The Country Committee

TEMPERANCE

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Rev. Lisa Spears

Reverends: Robert Taylor, Drusilla Harvin, Robert Hunter, Oliver Davis, Frederick Johnson, Elroy Davis, Don Robinson, Robert China, Jr., Henry J. Murray, Jr., Mildred Watson, Johnathan K. Greene, Sr., Merritt B. Graves, Leo Chapman, Jr. Brothers: Larry Jackson, Sam Smith, John Nelson, Larry White, Douglas Mixon, George Gibson, Coleman Randall, Johnny Mouzon, John C. Cusack Sisters: Ruth Ham, Ann Cade, Vanessa McCray, Victoria Belin, Christine Williams, Ethel Parker, Brenda Arnette, Marilyn Israel, Queen Ester Davis, Vivian Rogers, Betty Williams, Margaret Fore, Necole Reed

Temperance is defined as 1) the abstinence from alcoholic drink and 2) the quality of moderation or self-restraint (self-control). In the Greek it is translated as “temperate” which means self-control, the virtue of mastering one’s desires, passions and sensual appetites. It is one of six core human virtues and it is composed of forgiveness, mercy, humility, prudence, and self-control and moderation.

The lack of temperance has become a common theme in our culture and the fruits of that are destructive behaviors.

Practicing self-control is essential to success in every area of one’s life, including one’s spiritual, work, and personal life. The lack of temperance in a family is at the root of generational curses. Poor habits are taught and “caught” and passed down the line in families. Instilling temperance in each generation begins with you today.

God requires his believers to employ temperance in all aspect of their lives. We are to be led by the Holy Spirit. We offer the following practices to foster temperance.

- 1) Physically.** Temperance is good for our health in the area of diet. Eating properly helps to mitigate certain illnesses such as heart disease, cancer, childhood obesity, elevated blood pressure and diabetes. See the attached article, Seven Ways To Improve Your Diet for Optimal Health. It also includes links to fighting stress, satisfying your sweet tooth, setting weight loss goals, and creating a meal plan.

<https://www.fitwatch.com/blog/7-ways-to-improve-your-diet-for-optimal-health>

2) **Financially.** Many are struggling with enormous debts because we struggle with delayed gratification, a symptom of not practicing temperance. We should discipline ourselves and tithe which according to Malachi 3:10 leads to blessings. We should teach our children to prepare for retirement in their early 20's. The link below gives financial tools and resources including how to create a budget.

<https://sites.google.com/view/moneyresources/home>

3) **Spiritually.** Temperance and spiritual disciplines are essential for growing spiritually. It is impossible to live godly lives and please the Lord without self-control because our flesh wants only to please itself. Meditate on God's Word.

See the scriptures below and more in the link to the Open Bible:

<https://www.openbible.info/topics/temperance>

- **Galatians 5:23** - Temperance or self-control is one of the fruits that comes with the Holy Spirit when He indwells believers.
- **Romans 13:14** - Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lust.
- **Titus 1:8; 2:2,3** - Be hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled upright, holy, and disciplined. Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. Older women are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good.

4) **Socially**

We are commanded to manage our relationships with forgiveness (Matthew 6:14-15) which increases hope and lessens conflicts. When we practice temperance in our relationships with others, we control our responses, and consider the appropriateness of our reactions before we use our words to hurt someone or wound a relationship.

- **Proverbs 15:1** - A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
- **Proverbs 12:18** - Rash language cuts and maims, but there is healing in the words of the wise.
- **Proverbs 17:27** - Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.

5) Mentally

Patterns of unhealthy responses, due to adverse past events that stir painful memories, can cause negative responses, even when we have little awareness of our behavior. Many of us are programmed by adverse experiences in our childhood. Take this free ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) questionnaire to understand more about trauma that may still be impacting your attitude, thoughts, and behavior now. Remember, it's OK to love Jesus and seek the help of a professional therapist!

<https://www.acesaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/ACE-Questionnaire-for-Adults-Identified-English-rev.7.26.22.pdf>

Recommendations:

- ✓ Pastors and Christian Education Directors should take the lead in implementing training and biblical studies on temperance for all age groups.
- ✓ Build a drug prevention & awareness training program for our children.
- ✓ Offer workshops that focus on developing and maintaining healthy relationships (including marriage topics for lay and clergy).
- ✓ Clergy and laity alike are encouraged to continue to seek God's guidance in making healthy choices regarding family, health, and ministry.
- ✓ Give focused prayer time to forgiveness, self-control, and building healthy social emotional practices in our families.
- ✓ Seek God for guidance, direction, and the strength to live a more temperate life daily.
- ✓ Encourage clergy to deliver sermons that focus on bringing our flesh under subjection, abstaining from conflict on social media, interpersonal negativity, unhealthy indulgences, and excesses that lead to poor health outcomes.

In summary, temperance impacts us relationally, spiritually, financially, and mentally. It can also impact our health and well-being positively if it becomes a daily habit.

FAMILY LIFE

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Committee Members

Reverends: Dwayne Bruce, Debbie Bowens-Davis, Patsy Brown, Lisa Spears, Anthony, Eugene Dunson, Sonya Temoney, Eric Robinson, Eric Ramsey, Johnny Randell,

Brothers: James Rich, Larry Jackson

Sisters: Betty Williams, Elizabeth McCall, Frances Baker, Janie Calhoun

Report

The research and reporting of this committee finds that there are many recurring concerns to be addressed regarding family life. While all families are faced with issues, this committee will focus on the black family life, which consists of the vast majority of the Northeast Annual Conference.

While there are many disparities and challenges facing our families, we find one word that ties all these issues together – “uncertainty”. The element of uncertainty is present from the fear of being a victim of mass shootings in schools, shopping malls, or grocery stores. Historical experiences of discriminatory actions when trying to buy a home or when pulled over in a routine traffic stop has created levels of uncertainty. Recent studies reveal that uncertainty is a concern for equitable medical care for all people, especially pregnant women of color who need unbiased prenatal and post-natal care.

All of the above issues and many more need to be addressed on an individual basis. However, we can see the commonality of the presence of many uncertainties. The church has an opportunity and a role to offer mental and spiritual hope to our families.

Recommendations

Our AME local churches should:

1. Compile a listing of local support groups and agencies. An updated listing of resources and agencies can aid the pastor and church administrators in assisting the members of our community.
2. Our churches should offer gatherings to discuss the silent fears that exist in our families and churches. Discuss ways the church and families can become involved in the local community.

Create the weekly worship experience, bible studies, and etc. to be spiritually uplifting and re-energizing moments in the life of our families. Please avoid verbally “beating down” those who come to our churches to be lifted up

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend April Jackson

Members: Reverends Eric A. Ramsey & James C. Brown

Brothers: Christopher Nowlin, Christopher Hyman, Derrick McCoy, Jarwon Kelly, Merritt B. Graves II

Sisters: Marquette Bethea, Gayle Wilson, Barbara Robinson, Janeisha Hannah, Tammy Bellamy, Joyce Green, Jaleel Eaddy, Rose Toney, Destinee Reese, April Cook, Chaquanda Park, Lukeesha Pearson, Tabitha James, Jamesha Robinson, Demetria Davis, Gloria Ham, Tiffany Cusack.

Salutations: To The Right Reverend Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., Mrs. Phyllis Green, Presiding Elder Joseph Postell, Presiding Elder James Cooper, Presiding Elder Johnnie O. Coe, and to the component heads and members of the 131st Session of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference. The Youth Ministries Committee would like to make the following report for the 2022-2023 conference Year:

Report: The YPD conference year started with the young people worshipping in a hybrid manner that included in-person worship, phone conferences, and virtual worship through virtual platforms. The YPD'ers from the Northeast continue to worship God in Spirit and in Truth. The Northeast YPD'ers were well represented; Christopher Nowlin, Conference President; Destinee Reese, Connectional Recording Secretary; LaRaven Temoney, Episcopal Communications Secretary, each shared inspirational messages. A virtual Bible study was created with participation from YPD'ers, Young Adults, and Ministers throughout the Northeast Conference. Youth also displayed their gifts through song, musical instruments, poetry, and dramatic reading all from the Talented Noble Northeast. We all enjoyed being able to worship and fellowship in person again.

Meetings were held both in-person and virtually throughout the year:

- Planning Meeting
- Self-Denial Meeting (29 participants)
- Virtual Bible Study from all three Presiding Elder Districts
- Black History programs
- Souper Bowl of Caring
- YPD Retreat (69 participants)
- All Committee Service projects

The Northeast Conference YPD'ers remain steadfast, unmovable, and committed to service through the following projects:

- Collecting and delivering supplies to the community at large
- Backpack for the children's center
- Cleaning supplies for senior citizens
- Diabetic socks for nursing homes
- Coloring books and crayons
- Word search and crossword puzzles
- Adult briefs to nursing homes
- Can goods for the homeless shelters
- Nonperishables for the homeless shelters
- Cleaning the senior members yards
- Wellness check phone calls
- "Help 4 kids" received food supply

Our Christian Debutante-Master Commission's (CDMC) District and Local Commissioners continued to keep in contact with the registered participants by social media and phone, making sure they are learning the information for their CDMC studies. The Northeast Conference Debutantes and Masters took the pre-and post-tests and, submitted an essay of their interest in world or personal issues. This Conference Year a website (neccdmc.com) is maintained by one of our committed volunteers (Mr. Duane Robinson) to allow the Commissioners, Parents, young people, and others who visited the website to obtain the information needed to continue their studies and learn their pledges.

1. Recommendations:
2. We recommend continuing monthly virtual or in-person youth Bible study with different pastors and/or leaders facilitating it that is open to anyone, especially the youth of the church.
3. We recommend that our youth continue to be involved in worship every Sunday in some capacity, with annual evangelism training to assist them in telling others about the good news.
4. We recommend an annual youth revival service with our young people serving as worship leaders and preachers who will use the Word of God to speak to and inspire believers of all ages.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Darryl L. Woodberry

Members:

Reverends: Abraham Temoney, Jr., April Jackson, Carlos Shields, Larry M. Jackson

Brothers: Jarwon Kelly, Derrick McCoy, William Bristow, Micah P. Gore, Anthony Germany, Benzel Vereen

Sisters: Marquette Bethea, Jameshia Hannah, Gayle Wilson, Tammy Bellamy, Monique Sumter, LaRaven Temoney, Jaleel Eddy, Jazzmyn Mack, Iesha Murray, Shamira Williams, April Cook, Zipporah Ford, Theresa Hatcher, Gloria Ham, Tiffany Cusack

Report

As we enter into this season of abundant blessings, the young adults of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference will continue to seek opportunities to worship, praise, and make disciples for Jesus Christ. Our young adults have been very inspirational to the church in maximizing opportunities to minister to the masses beyond the four walls of the church. Our young adults sought opportunities for meaningful participation in the local church rather than providing low-level support for a couple of ministries. The young adults of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference have all responded to the vision for why they need other generations to follow the biblical pattern of how people grow in the church on the local, district, conference, episcopal, and connectional level. It is the church's responsibility to provide opportunities for young adults to thrive and support them in their growth spiritually, professionally, and socially. The young adults of our conference will embrace the call that God has placed upon their lives that will take the church to the next level. It is essential that the church recognizes the urgency to actively involve our young adults in the life and the ministry of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Recommendations:

1. We recommend that the church effectively communicate with young adults who have no biblical context for the church, Bible study, or corporate worship. The language of the church must be empathetic to this growing group of young adults who are totally unchurched.
2. We recommend that churches implement ways to attract, involve, and keep our young adults active. Opportunities for the development of practical ministry initiatives and contemporary worship should be considered.
3. We recommend that churches should remain heavily engaged in using digital media to spread the Gospel. The young adults of our conference believe that our church must fulfill its global mission of winning souls for Christ. The young adults will continue to use and manipulate various digital media platforms to reach people throughout the entire world.
4. We recommend that Social Justice and Voter Registration/Education training for our young adults be instituted in our churches. As our young adults begin to perceive the amount of social injustices and the current state of our government on all levels, it is our responsibility to educate, prepare, and empower them to speak their voice to establish justice and vote in all elections on all levels.

PRISON MINISTRY

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Elroy Davis

Prison Ministry: Reverends Mildred Watson, James Rodgers, Abraham Temoney, Jr., David Bright, Alvin Webb, Michael Holmes, Felix Jordan, and Pennie Damon.

Brothers: Odell Woodberry, John White, Sr.,

Sisters: Berta Goodman, Judy Gregg, Shirley Davis, Juanita Benbow, Judy Livingston, Michelle Geddis, Pearlie Hammonds, Maggie Green, Theola Clark

Salutations: Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr. *Presiding Prelate,*

Mrs. Phyllis N. Green, *Episcopal Supervisor*

Members of the 131st Session of the Northeast SC Annual Conference

“I was in prison and you came to visit me...I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me”(Matthew 25:36-40, NKJV).

This scripture passage gives insights into God’s heart for prison ministry.

REPORT INFORMATION

The State of South Carolina provides an abundance of service programs in which inmates can participate. Certain programs will decrease their prison time. South Carolina has twenty-one institutions which houses over twenty two thousand inmates. Inmates are housed at different institutional levels based on their offense(s). Due to COVID-19, services within the prison system are no longer active. Inmates are confined to their housing area.

Level 1: (Minimum Security) The inmates are considered a minimal risk to the public. As a result, these inmates are afforded the opportunity to participate in groups, sessions, life skills, and rectification projects in order to reform them. Inmates are also offer strong work and programs to keep them productive and earn money. Many of the inmates in low security facilities are either first time low-risk criminals or those who have shown good behavior in the system and have earned the right to be in an environment that provides more freedom.

Level 2: (Medium Security): This prison level most resembles a large residence hall which programs and services to inmates provided to better prepare returning citizens for successful entry into society. Some of the programs offered, but not limited to: Jumpstart (faith-based program that produces inmates for life after prison); Bee program (making honey); Quilting; Addiction recovery program; Animal Rescue and Training program. Life skills, Grief and Loss, Authentic Manhood, CDL classes, Barbing, and other re-entry programs are taught to and by inmates, according to their special training and skills.

Level 3 (Maximum) Inmates are usually behind heavy-duty walls and reinforced fences. There are cameras sighted throughout the building for close monitoring of inmates actions. Inmates secured in high security facilities cannot often be trusted to work out in the field in any community programs. They have little opportunity to socialize with other inmates and considered to be dangerous. They are the most violent offenders incarcerated who spend exorbitant amount of time in solitary confinement, protective custody, and special units.

In most cases, maximum security inmates are confined to their cell up to 23 hours a day and strict monitoring.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, social distaining and absence of in-person visitation, we realized that prison ministry must be done differently. There were no visitations allowed, so the committee continues to pray for the inmates and reflect on our mission when we are allowed to re-enter the prison again. While we are praying for the inmates, we also ask God to bless this committee in developing a nonjudgmental attitude and reexamine the call.

Recommendations: The AME churches in Sumter, Marion, and Florence-Dillon Districts of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference become more active in:

- ❖ Support of Prison Fellowship through participation in Angle Tree once a year.
- ❖ Adopt a greeting Card Ministry.
- ❖ Become a financial donor to the prison's Chaplaincy Service.
- ❖ Reach out, encourage and support family members of inmates in the local churches.

We, the committee, give praises to God, Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green Sr., Episcopal Supervisor, Mrs. Phyllis Green, The Presiding Elders, Johnny O. Coe (Marion District), Dr. Joseph Postell, (Florence/Dillon District, and Dr. James Cooper, (Sumter District) for the opportunity to serve.

HOSPITAL MINISTRY

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Drusilla Harvin

Reverends: Mildred Watson, Alvin Webb, Donna Jackson, Jerome McCray, Elroy Davis, Geraldine Dixon, Michael Scott, Robert Taylor, Jr. **Brothers:** Clarence Gilbert, David Rowell, Donald Gerald. **Sisters:** Sharon Grice, Veronica Gillard, Elizabeth McCall, Bertha Goodman, Sharon Davis, Rosie Garner, Helen Highsmith, Margie Scott Suzette Robinson.

Greetings:

Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate, Mrs. Phyllis Green, Episcopal Supervisor, and Members of the 132nd Session of the Northeast SC Annual Conference, we, the Committee on Hospital Ministry, beg leave to make our report:

The Committee on Hospital Ministry is committed to providing updated and accurate information to members of the NEC. There are three objectives in Hospital Visitation: God has called us to Care, Share and Pray for others. **Care**, St Matthew 25: 40,” The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. **Share**, Galatians 6:2, “Bear one another’s burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ. and pray for others in moments of medical care. This report is to give several aspects of Hospital Visitation which allows for proper visitation, awareness of hospital policies concerning the patients and their care, and how clergy can effectively minister spiritually, to the patients during their hospital stay. Citing the World Health Organization definition (WHO) of Post-Pandemic Transition as a “decrease of pandemic surveillance due to a decrease in pandemic outbreak,” with organizations in charge remaining vigilant in ensuring preparedness. As we are in a post-pandemic era, hospitals all over are reassessing visitation restrictions that were necessary to protect patients and staff from infection and help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

South Carolina Health and Association says, “we know that patients benefit from the presence of family or support persons during hospitalization. While visitation was limited, many South Carolina hospitals observed several benefits, including quiet time for patients to rest, a more peaceful or productive work environment, and enhanced security. To that end, SCHA formed a task force, made up of 16 hospital leaders with diverse expertise and perspectives, to develop templates, best practices, and other resources to help hospitals design visitation programs that best suit local needs. COVID-19 Pandemic brought a whole new dimension/normality to visitation: While masks are no longer required in most areas, we still strongly recommend wearing one when inside. Some departments, including those that serve high-risk patients, may continue to require masking. Virtual visits are a good way to support your loved one, use hand sanitizer when you enter and leave the patient's room, most patients are allowed up to two designated visitors per day, subject to each hospital's guidelines and visitation hours. Visitors are encouraged to limit how long they visit. It is imperative that when visiting hospital patients that guidelines are taken seriously and followed according to the policies of both hospitals and CDC.

Recommendations: recommendations:

1. Establish Hospital Ministry in the Local Church with CDC Guidelines
2. Provide visitation of sick and shut-in members collaborating with existing boards serving in this capacity in the church to ensure no one is without physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial assistance as noted in our 2016 AME Doctrine and Discipline and the Great Commission (Matthews 28: 16-20; Mark 16:15-18; James 5:14).
3. Establish Hospital Prayer Team

stress disorders are now added to new disparities to a disproportionate rate not only in the Black Church, but also in the community at large across the races and lifespan.

This past conference year, the Covid-19 Pandemic has impacted each and every one as we have seen and attempted to plague us now with Variant Strains. Therefore, the Hospital Committee in our churches, who were traditionally Clergy, Stewards, Class Leaders, Missionaries, Health Coordinators, Lay Leaders, and caring members, will collaborate and coordinate with all organizations in the church to care for ill members. These members are in the hospitals, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, hospice house, and homebound. And through these caring venues, the Hospital Committee will seek to implement the following recommendations:

- Provide visitation of sick and shut-in members collaborating with existing boards serving in this capacity in the church to ensure no one is without physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial assistance as noted in our 2016 AME Doctrine and Discipline and the Great Commission (Matthews 28: 16-20; Mark 16:15-18; James 5:14).

Relevant to the Pandemic times, CDC and World Health Organization has consistently recommended throughout 2020 thru 2021 year, guidelines which included mask wearing, social distancing, frequent hand washing and or the use of hand sanitizer, and vaccination against the Covid 19 virus as your health provider, health clinic, and pharmacist recommended.

LAY ACTIVITIES

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Ricarldo Washington Members:

Brothers: Dale Wilson, James Lighty, Heskeith Myler, Kenneth Lowery, James Washington

Sisters: Loubirdie Law, Esternell Foxworth, Pamela Williams, Brenda Bowens, Mary Cooke, Marquette Bethea, Yvette Robinson, Francine Gasque, Betty Jo Judge, Shirley Jones, Misbrew Times

Salutations: We praise God for His merciful blessings upon the Northeast Conference Lay Organization. He has kept us in spite of ourselves and we give Him all glory and praise. Special thanks to Bishop Sam for his unwavering support to the Lay Organization and the clergy and laity of the 7th Episcopal District. We are blessed by God to have a shepherd who cares so much for the sheep he nurtures and leads. His love for lay people, on all levels, is noticed every day. Thanks to Supervisor Phyllis N. Green for her encouragement and kindness through all of our endeavors. We thank the greatest team of Presiding Elders, Rev. Dr. James Cooper, Rev. Johnnie Coe and Rev. Joseph Postell, for their love, dedication and commitment to the upbuilding of God's kingdom and their support to the laity and clergy of the Northeast Conference. A special thanks to District Presidents Misbrew Times (Sumter), Shirley Jones (Marion) and Francine Gasque (Florence-Dillon) for their untiring service to the Districts of the Annual Conference. They have each impacted the districts they serve in a powerful and uplifting manner through power sessions, training and awareness. They are to be commended for their service in kingdom building. Thanks to the entire Northeast Conference Lay Executive Committee for all they have done, are doing and will do to continue to help make the Lay Organization a ministry that pleases God. You are appreciated!

The Northeast Conference Lay Organization had a successful conference year. We planned from the outset to have a hybrid year with some meetings being in-person and others being virtual. We've done just that. God, through the pandemic, has enlightened us about how to be better stewards of our time. We planned our work, and we worked our plan as we made the necessary adjustments along the way. We've learned that not all meetings can and should be virtual, and there's no replacement for in-person fellowship and worship. Yet, we went virtual when we saw the benefit to do so. God has no hands, but our hands. He has no feet, except our feet. By God's grace and mercy, He has allowed us to accomplish several tasks. A few of them are as follows:

- Sponsored Lay Training on the origin and history of the Class Leader System (Rev. Dr. Glenn McLellan-presenter)
- Conducted Lay training (“So You Say You’re an AME”) at Campbell Chapel AMEC-Bluffton (South Carolina Conference)
- Annual Lay Day speaker at: Campbell Chapel AMEC-Bluffton (South Carolina Conference); High Hills AMEC-Sumter (Columbia Conference)
- Strategically planning and partnering with the Northeast Conference YPD to engage and re-engage our youth and young adults for their invaluable information and input
- Provided historical NEC Lay information to the SED Lay Historiographer for publishing and archiving
- Increased total of NEC Lay Scholarships to \$3250
- ❖ Will announce the winner of the 2023 NEC Lay Scholarship (\$1000) at the Lay Witness Service

We are thankful for the work that God has assigned to our hands. We are even more thankful to Him for allowing us to do work that is pleasing in His sight. Praise God!

In closing, we’d like to take this opportunity to recognize and pay tribute to the 7th Episcopal District Lay Person of the Year, Bro. Alphonso Times, who hails from the Northeast Conference, Sumter District.

It was Jesus who said, “I came not to be served, but to serve.” Bro. Times, like Jesus, is a servant leader. He is the epitome of a servant who enjoys serving. According to the selection committee, his commitment to involve others is phenomenal. Bro. Times had the most time involvement on all levels of the Lay Organization. Longevity has its privileges. His longtime service on the Connectional Level of the Lay Organization was exclusive. He worked in the press room writing articles for the daily Biennial Newsletter and videoing segments of the various Biennials for eight years. He also worked on the Connectional Level with morning devotions and the Memorial Services. Currently, Bro. Times serves as the SED Lay 3rd Vice-President where he continues his dedication and service to God and the Lay Organization.

Congratulations to Bro. Alphonso Times, 7th Episcopal District Lay Person of the Year!

Recommendations:

1. Strategize and work with our conference YAR so that Young Adults will understand their value and worth in the church. We desperately need their input, talents and creativity.
2. Provide programs, incentives and training to encourage our Young Adults to want to be active in our churches and the Lay Organization
3. Strategize our efforts in assisting the 1st Vice Presidents (on all levels) to increase membership in the Lay Organization.
4. Ascertain the needs of the people and determine how the Lay Organization can make a difference

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Sisters: Eva Grant, Roxanne Postell, Mirriam Cooper, Joanna Coe, Lizzie Graves, Kathleen Simmons, Myra Palmer, Joyce Green, Thomasena McNeil, Lillie J. Muldrow, Terri Brown, Odessa Graves, Mattie Chapman, Sandra Conyers, Bernice Sanders, Mary Dicks, Gayle Wilson, Willie Mae Martin, Felicia Davis, Carolyn Jones, Albertha Knowlin, Dorothy Hemmingway, Pamela Williams, Gwendolyn Mishoe, Farrah Woodberry, Lisa Holmes, Celessia Stevenson, Estele Harrell, Mable Cox, Wilhelmina Goss, Rebecca Stanley, Marguerite Brant, Jennifer Parsley, Ann Williams, Gayle China, Katie Washington, Amy Brown, Odell McCauley

To: The Right Reverend Samuel L. Green, Sr., Supervisor Phyllis N. Green, and the 132nd Session of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference.

To God be the Glory, for the great things he has done and continues to do!!

The report of the Women's Missionary Society is being presented with the Lord as our guide. Our journey continues with this, another year, completed.

As we worked toward the goals of communicating programs and policies from the Connectional and Episcopal Levels; receiving recommendations for programming and policies from the Connectional and Episcopal Levels and coordinating appropriate program activities, through conference meetings, conference phone calls, commission meetings, and Zoom meetings, the following were completed this conference year:

The Northeast Conference WMS had a successful 20th WMS Quadrennial Convention from July 29-August 3, 2023 at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. The Noble Northeast Conference WMS financially supported the Connectional Mission Walk with a contribution of \$1725.00, which was the highest amount raised by sisters in the nation-state of South Carolina.

Sisters attended the virtual Connectional NGO, on October 21-22, 2022.

November 10-11, 2022, WMS Sisters attended the God First Fall Convocation 2022; January 20-22, 2023, missionaries convened at the Sheraton for the 7th Episcopal District 30th WMS Retreat. The Northeast Conference had 189 sisters registered; on March 3-5, 2023 we journeyed to Embassy Suites, Columbia, SC for the 7th Episcopal District 30th YPD Retreat. The WMS participated in the God First Convocation and Theological Institute on April 20-22, 2023. Our in-person, Christian Education Leadership and Youth Congress, took place on July 5-8, 2023 in the city of Greenville, SC.

We were represented virtually, or in person, at all Connectional and Episcopal District meetings.

A planning meeting was held on November 27, 2022, for the Northeast Conference WMS where 151 sisters participated. Officers Training Institute for officers on all levels was held on December 17, 2022, with 90 sisters attending via Zoom. Our Recommitment-Rededication Worship Experience, held on January 25, 2023, was a phenomenal experience with 162 sisters and brothers attending via Zoom. The Reverend Janice McMillian was our messenger. Our Annual Workshop was on February 18, 2023, with 145 participants, and the topic was "Mental Health and Suicide." The Reverend Lisa Spears was our workshop presenter.

In addition to our scheduled meetings, the Northeast Conference WMS virtually observed Breast Cancer Awareness on October 16, 2022. We also held a Virtual Voter Alert Town Hall Meeting on October 30, 2022, with 92 participants, featuring special guest presenters Reverend William Miller, Reverend Dr. Johnathan K. Greene, Sr, and Elder Cedric Spain. Lastly, we attended and participated in the 11th Annual Walk to Health on April 22, 2023, at Mount Zion AMEC in partnership with Pee Dee Medical Alliance. Adults and children from various locations gathered to participate in the walk and engage in health workshops.

We distributed flyers for various causes including Heart Awareness, March of Dimes, Domestic Violence, HIV/AIDS, Sexual Assault, **Moms Demand Action** for Gun Sense in America, and Moms in Prayer.

Our End of Year Meeting was held on August 19, 2023, via Zoom and was attended by more than 135 sisters and brothers. During the meeting, we reviewed PowerPoint reports from our Area Chairs, YPD Directors, and conference Second Vice President, saluted our Life Members and Torch Lighters, and encouraged growth in our local societies by organizing and sustaining “Men of Missions” auxiliaries. We also acknowledged the support and expertise of our Third Vice Presidents and young adults who model the use of their technical skills both virtually and in person.

Each area held Executive Board and Planning meetings and other mission activities via Zoom and in person.

We supported the Angel Tree Prison Ministry during the Christmas season.

This year, we awarded scholarships to three seniors: Jahlil Lewis received \$1000, Shania Hampton received \$700, and Isaiah Walton received \$500. Additionally, we provided financial assistance to two Sumter area agencies: Midlands Fatherhood Coalition, and Faith Strong, each receiving \$500.

Gifts of love were given to WMS sisters who experienced illnesses and death.

Furthermore, we continue to support the March of Dimes, Heart Awareness, Scholarship Fund, Allen University, Fistula, and our overseas districts realizing that missions are a continuing journey.

Reports are submitted at Annual Meetings. Local presidents communicate via e-mail, Zoom, and in person.. Areas collaborate for support and idea sharing. Reports must be timely and submitted to Area Chairperson. Inquiries are made for missing reports.

Recommendations:

1. Continue engagement in the Angel Tree Prison Ministry.
2. Continue support of Allen University by recruiting students.
3. Continue mentoring and supporting young men of the church in collaboration with the Sons of Allen
4. Continue prayers for and supporting sisters and brothers in Districts 14-20.
5. Continue making voter registration and voting a top priority.
6. Continue support of **Moms Demand Action** for Gun Sense in America.

SONS OF ALLEN

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Name of Annual Conference: Northeast Annual Conference

Date: September 28-30, 2023

Venue: 132nd Session of The Northeast Annual Conference

Committee Name: Sons of Allen

Chair: Rev. Merritt B. Graves

Members: The Reverends Merritt B. Graves, Eric Robinson, Dr. Ralph L. Brown, Jr., Abraham Temoney, Jr., Darryl Woodberry, Elroy Davis, Eric Ramsey, Gus Brown, James P. Gause, James Rodgers, Michael Holmes, Anthony Ford, Shenard Barnes, Christopher Powell: Brothers Robert L. Commander, Harold Hughes, Henry Stanley, Jr., Harold Britton, William Wilson, Derrick Green, Hughie Bryant, John Oxendine, Rodney Session, Ronald Parrott, Thad Lane, George Brown, Kevin Simmons, James Calhoun, Richard Murray, Jr., Levern Israel, Harold Phillips, Leroy Wilson, Ernest Cooper, Johnnie Mouzon, James Spann, Clarence Gilbert, Clint Pack, Ronnie Fling, William Alford, Clarence Freedom, Glenn Foxworth, Bobby Brown, Johnny Graves, Kenny Lowery. Titus Bethea, Kenneth McElveen.

Salutations - To The Right Reverend Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the 7th Episcopal District, Mrs. Phyllis N. Green, Episcopal Supervisor, Presiding Elders, Pastors, Delegates, and Members of the 132nd Session of the Northeast Annual Conference.

We, the members of The Northeast Annual Conference Sons of Allen, deem to make the following report, highlighting the current state of activities and success of this Ministry for the 2022/2023 Conference Year. We believe that our mission-setting standard, “BRINGING MEN TO CHRIST,” still remains our primary focus. This is extremely urgent if we are to sustain our AME Church and God’s Kingdom.

This Conference year, we continued to focus our activities on training, educating, and establishing measures to create a different approach to getting men involved in the church and in doing ministry. This remains a daily challenge for our local church units, chapters, and the conference. We believe that all things are possible with God being our helper. You will find listed below a few accomplishments, activities, and training held by the Northeast Annual Conference, chapters, and units:

October & November 2022

- 1). We participated in the “7th Episcopal District Post Conference”.
- 2). We awarded three scholarships.
- 3). We attended Allen University Homecoming and Parade.

December 2022

- 1). During the Christmas season, many units and chapters participated in the giving of gifts, talents and time to the needy, poor, and less fortunate.
- 2). Some units participated in the “Angle Tree Ministry” throughout the Conference.
- 3). Some units participated in the presiding Elders District Meetings.

January 2023

- 1). We had a Zoom call Conference meeting.

February 2023

- 1). We attended our Presiding Elders District Conferences.

March 2023

- 1). We had a “Stop The Gun Violence Rally”.
- 2). We had a Zoom call Conference meeting.

April 2023

- 1). We attended the “Connectional Christian Education Conference Meeting.”
- 2). We participated in the “7th Episcopal District Holy Convocation”.

May 2023

- 1). We had an in-person Conference Meeting.
- 2). We had a “7th Episcopal District SOA Meeting”.

June 2023

- 1). We attended the “7th Episcopal District SOA Retreat”.
- 2). We participated in the Homeless Shelter Project.
- 3). We had Father’s Day worship in our Churches.
- 4). We traveled with Bishop Green to the 1st Episcopal District.

July 2023

- 1). We participated in the “7th Episcopal District Leadership Congress”.
- 2). We traveled with Bishop Green to the 2nd Episcopal District

AUGUST 2023

- 1). We had an in-person Conference meeting.
- 2). We awarded three Memorial Scholarships.

Recommendations:

1. Continue to provide workshops/training on “Men’s Ministry”.
2. Continue the “Men’s Health Initiatives” in our local churches and communities.
3. Seek out additional resources/talents to do the work within the communities in which we live and serve.
4. We urge all men of the A.M.E. church in the Northeast Conference to revisit and commit to The Sons of Allen Men’s Ministry.
5. Partner with local law enforcement to address the crimes that are facing the communities and the nation.

Respectfully submitted,

The Northeast Annual Conference Sons of Allen
Brother Harold Britton, President

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Committee Chair: Reverend Dr. Debbie Bowens-Davis

Committee Members-Reverends: Drusilla Harvin, Donna Jackson, Janice McMillian, Angia Taylor, Mildred Watson, Eva Smith-Smiling, Marie Lanier, Geraldine Dixon, Lisa Spears, Patsy F. Brown, Letitia P. Miller, Jeanette Collins-Murray, D. Pennie Damon, Joanna Coe, April Jackson, Deirdre Howard, Sonya Temoney

The Northeast South Carolina Conference WIM continues to carry out missions in the three Presiding Elder Districts as well as collectively on the Conference and 7th Episcopal District Levels. The One hundred and thirty-first session of the Northeast South Carolina Conference, Women in Ministry Worship Service, was a wonderful spiritual experience with Reverend Lisa Spears as the Preacher of the Hour and music rendered by the Dynamic Northeast WIM Choir under the direction of Reverend Geraldine Dixon.

The NEC-WIM continues to honor our Women ministers (itinerate, local, and retired) for their spiritual, pastoral, and academic achievements through monetary gifts, expressions of encouragement, and opportunities to gather as a group for fellowship, worship, and learning. Each district has given generously to Allen University. The Conference was pleased to honor Retired Itinerate Elder Reverend Vermelle Marshall Humes as our Jerena Lee Awardee and Reverend April Jackson as our outstanding Young Pastor.

We continue to participate in the Seventh District WIM activities through Zoom and in-person opportunities for prayer, planning, worship, and fellowship. All Districts were represented at the WIM annual retreat.

The Sumter District gave a love donation to the WYCA, retirees, graduates, and bereavement, and supported the programs of WIM Pastors.

The Marion District- was supported by the clergy of the district in their endeavors to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through service and love donation. A Resolution of Respect for shared with the family of the Late Evangelist Elsie Thomas.

The Florence-Dillon District – Supported the programs of WIM on all levels. They work to support one another in ministry throughout the Florence-Dillon District. The Florence-Dillon District salutes Reverend Pasty Brown as she retires for her many years of our standing service as a pastor and treasure of the Florence-Dillon District WIM.

We will continue our outstanding support of Allen University with an annual donation to the university.

We will continue to remember to honor and support our retired WIM through cards, calls, visitations, and invitations to preach. We also have nine associate members.

The NEC-WIM will remain involved in our collective communities by supporting women's and children causes through our various community organizations. (YWCA, Pee Dee Coalition, and homeless shelters.) Additionally, we salute Reverend Jeanette Collins for work her work as an author and her success as the playwright and producer of the Play “The Devil Thought He Had Me.” Congratulations to Reverend Dr. Angia Taylor, a 2023 Doctor of Ministry graduate of South University. Her Project Title: Developing an Intergenerational Ministry at Centerville, AME Church, Hartsville, SC.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverends Debbie Bowens-Davis, Mildred Watson, Lisa Pitman Spears, Jeanette Collins-Murray, Drusilla Harvin, Donna Jackson, Janice McMillan, Angia Taylor, Eva Smith-Smiling, Marie Lanier, Geraldine Dixon, Pasty F. Brown, Letitia Pringle-Miller, D. Pennie Damon, Joanna Coe, April Jackson, Deidre Howard, Sonya Temoney, Pauline Godbolt, Dianna Foxworth, Gwen Stevenson, Mary Cynitha Myers.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S AND CHILDREN'S DIVISION

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Mrs. Gwendolyn M. Mishoe, Chair

Members:

Mrs. Thomasena McNeil	Christopher R. Nowlin	Preston Moses	Stephen Bridges
Ms. Gayle Wilson	Tyshawn Brisbane	Stasia Dozier	London McQueen
Ms. Robin Graves	Christopher Hyman	Harley Kelly	Davin McNeil
Michelle McFadden	Eryka Ladson	A'mazin Stinney	
Kaci Dozier	Nigeria T. Hannah	Leslie Johnson	

Greetings To: The Right Reverend Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate, Seventh Episcopal District; Sister Phyllis N. Green, Episcopal Supervisor; Sister Cassie Singleton, Connectional Financial Secretary; Sister Sandra A. Anderson, Episcopal WMS President; Sister Dr. Ila McFadden, Episcopal YPD Director; Brother Jaheim President, Episcopal YPD President; Sister Eva M. Grant, Conference Branch WMS President; Sister Gwendolyn M. Mishoe, Conference YPD Director; All Connectional, Episcopal, Conference, Area, and Local Officers, Area Consultants, Life Members, Torch Lighters, Presiding Elders, Pastors, Sisters and Brothers in Mission.

The Northeast Conference YPD began this 2022-2023 Conference Year under the theme: "There is U.N.I in Unity! #One Mind One God One Purpose." Our Scripture comes from Philippians 2:1-5. During this season of getting to know each other "Again" and realizing that our differences can divide us, we imagined what we could accomplish if we stayed focused on God's magnificent design for our differences to Unite us. The Northeast Conference YPD held Quarterly "A Night of Worship," a night for young people to express themselves through their gifts; Yes! There is Beauty even in our Brokenness, we held Virtual Monthly Bible Studies with round table discussions and our Leadership as Guest Speakers; monthly Virtual meetings and planned in person missions for each Area. The Northeast Conference YPD provided virtual training for directors and Officers, YPD Workshops, Self-Denial Study Week and Self-Denial Study Programs. The Northeast Conference YPD also attended the 30th Annual YPD Retreat, recognizing High School/College and Grad School Graduates, OPDers and one 8-year Director. We are truly grateful for the participation of all Areas and the Support of the WMS. The Northeast Conference YPD held Virtual Father's Day Appreciation and its first Mother's Day Prayer Brunch, we were blessed with prayers from our Leadership and our young people. We attended Aspire 2023 in Greenville, SC where we remain the undefeated Basketball Tournament Champions. The Northeast Conference YPD participated in the 20th YPD Quadrennial in Orlando Florida. We celebrated High School/ College and Grad School Graduates. We say, "God bless your every footstep," and to our OPD'ers," we say, "God Bless on their next chapter!" We are so appreciative of their exemplary leadership. The Northeast Conference YPD

is so very proud of the 7th Episcopal District's young people who participated in various competitions during the 20th YPD Quadrennial. We received the 2nd place win in the Bible Bowl competition and received 2nd and 3rd place win in the spelling Bee competition.

There is also U.N.I in Community, The Northeast Conference YPD continues to have a great passion for our communities: attending to the needs of others during MLK Day of service, Superbowl of Caring, Virtual Black History Projects and in-person youth ministries.

Our Activities Include:

- Burgess Nursing Home Facilities
- Conway Manor Nursing Center
- Freedom and Hope Home Health Care
- The New Beginners Paradise Day Care Center
- March of Dimes
- Back Pack Buddies of Horry County
- Manor House
- Marion County NAACP
- United Ministries
- The Soup Kitchen
- Virtual African American History
- Help For Kidz's
- Bethel Food Pantry
- The DJ Rowell Foundation

The Northeast Conference YPD is very grateful for the love, support, and prayers of this great Conference. You are a constant beacon of light and we are thankful for the opportunity to serve.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue to give our youth an opportunity to manifest their ideas.
2. Acknowledge, support, encourage and pray with our YPDers as they accomplish their goals.
3. Establish more training opportunities for our directors and officers.
4. Continue to promote unity and growth throughout the YPD.

Humbly submitted,
Gwendolyn M. Mishoe, Chairperson

**CHRISTIAN DEBUTANTE-MASTER
COMMISSION**
Northeast South Carolina Annual
Conference

Chair: Sister Suzette K. Robinson, Conference Commissioner
Rev. Dr. Orlando McCauley, Northeast Conference Associate Commissioner

Members: District, Local and Assistant Conference Commissioners, Parents,
Allenites, Sub-Debutantes, Sub-Masters, Debutantes and Masters

Salutations: Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Seventh
Episcopal District; Mrs. Phyllis N. Green, Episcopal Supervisor;
Mrs. Latoya Dennison, Episcopal CDMC Commissioner;
All Connectional, Episcopal, Conference Officers; Presiding Elders, Area
Consultants, Pastors, their Spouses and Members of 132nd Session of the Northeast
South Carolina Annual Conference

Report: We, the members of the Northeast South Carolina Christian Debutante and Master Commission, especially the parents, would like to thank you for allowing us to work with your youth and young people. They continue to learn, in this virtual situation and one in-person session, about the church, its' leaders and their positions, God's words through Bible verses, worship services, social and world issues, educational institutes and the history and operation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. We also would like to thank the parents and guardians for allowing us to come into their homes in those virtual sessions and their attendance at the in-person session. The District and Local Commissioners kept in contact with the registered participants by social media, phone, and local church meetings, making sure they are learning the information for their CDMC studies. The Northeast Conference CDMC took the pre- and post-tests, and submitted an essay of their interest of world issues. This Conference Year we continued to utilize the website (www.neccdmc.com) for registration, and study guide information. The website is maintained and updated by one of our committed volunteers. This allows the Commissioners, Parents, young people, and others who visited the website to obtain the information needed to continue their studies and learn their pledges. Although we are a small group this year, the phone conversations, e-mails, texts, virtual meetings, and conference calls were very helpful during this time of continued studies. We appreciate the help and support we received from the Presiding Elders for visiting our sessions, Commissioners on all levels, the parents, Pastors, volunteers, and churches for their assistance. We would like to thank Rev. E. Robert Thomas, Pastor of Mt. Pisgah African Methodist Episcopal Church in Sumter, South Carolina, Mt. Pisgah's Local Commissioner, Rev. Dr. Dwyane Bruce, Paster of Beulah African Methodist Episcopal Church, for hosting the in-person session, Beulah's Local Commissioner and Mr. Michael Choice, the Sumter District Commissioner for the help and information they provided to keep the Christian Debutante and Master Commission informed.

We registered 25 Allenites ~ ages 6 to 11
10 Sub-Debutantes ~ ages 12 to 16
5 Sub-Masters ~ ages 12 to 16
1 Debutante
1 Master
15 Commissioners and Assistants

We appreciate the prays, spiritual support, and the financial support from the Pastors, Commissioners, and parents of the Northeast Conference. We give a special thank you to the parents and guardians of the registered participants and those persons who assisted with the virtual teaching.

Recommendations:

1. Each local church appoint Commissioners to participate with Christian Debutante and Master Commission.
2. Parents participate more with virtual session and in-person sessions when allowed.
3. Each local church to encourage the young people to participate.
4. Presiding Elders and Pastors continue to encourage members to participate.
5. Asking Pastors to assist/volunteer with the learning sessions.

MSWAWO

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Now faith is the assurance of the things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. (Hebrew 11:1) ~ Confidence, Faith and Trust, Reassurance, Trusting God, Stay positive.

Greetings to the members of the Northeast Annual Conference. It is our pleasure to make this report on behalf of the Ministers' Spouses Widows and Widowers Organization Plus Pks. We continued to meet some challenges as we carefully emerged from the mist of COVID. We are pleased to report our year was still great year. We, the spouses of the Noble Northeast Conference, continue to pledge our support to our spouses, and each other not by trying to be better than the other but better than the day before while bringing someone along with us. We continue to pray and lift the name of Jesus.

Though we did not meet face-to-face as often as we desired, we were able to gather in one place for a few and remained connected one to the other. We checked in on one another via phone calls, emails, text messages, and yes some of us even found and made time to visit some of our members. We were able to have our Christmas fellowship with Reverend Merritt and Mrs. Lizzie Graves serving as host and hostess. This was a great event, and the fellowship was amazing. We continued to meet and fellowship as an organization via Zoom, which allowed us to see each other. There were interactive games, and trainings/workshops to help us become a better people. Our end of the year meeting was face-to-face and our first time with a male spouse hosting our meeting. Brother Smiley Myers left no rock unturned. It was a great meeting, and our activity was out of this world. There were bow and wreath making activities led by Mrs. Terry Brown. Everyone had fun and was able to take with them what they made.

Assistance and donations were made to agencies and facilities to help those in assistive living facilities, schools and or nursing homes. The spouses of the Sumter District adopted schools and provided them with supplies to include requested personal hygiene items. We had spouses represented at all events to include the retreat, connectional meeting, Leadership Aspire, etc. We are pleased to share with you that we continue to have spouses serve as caregiver instructors teaching Power Tools for Caregiver classes, including Penelope Bright who serves as the PEE DEE Manager. This is an ADPI (Alzheimer's Disease Prevention Initiative) sponsored by the Seventh Episcopal District Women's Missionary Society. We are always happy to celebrate our PK's as they continues to shine and leave their marks: Dr. Anita M. S. Morton, MD, being featured in the Voyage of Atlanta Magazine; Eric Robinson, Jr., featured in the Diversity Works Magazine; Johnathan Greene, Jr. earned a Master's Degree in music; Tamisha Scott became a certified real estate agent for South Carolina, Abrielle Temoney is a registered nurse and Carrington Murray is a Licensed School Counselor and Mental Health Counselor. We continue to pray for and support our PKs.

It is with sadness that we share the transitioning of one widow, and one itinerate elder: Mrs. Hattie Gathers and Reverend Davie Brown (pastor). We know that earth has no sorry that heaven cannot heal. "Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4 Please allow me to say thank Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr, and Supervisor Phyllis N. Green for your untiring guidance and leadership. To President Lakesha Adams, thanks for your leadership, support and always being there. To the members of the "Noble" Northeast Conference, thank you for your love, support and encouragement.

It was not, nor is it, our desire to be better than anyone, but we thrive to be better than we were the day before. This happens as our conference continues to bond in fellowship and love while being supportive in all aspects of our organization. Thanks to my husband, Rev. Henry Murray and family for your encouragement and support. We are grateful and give thanks to an all mighty and all-knowing God for His covering.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Encourage continued virtual participation when meeting virtually.
- Encourage face-to-face meeting attendance while still maintaining COVID Protocols.
- Encourage and include our male, retired, widowed and widowed spouses.
- Plan events that build bonding and lasting relationship.
- Encourage and include the participation of our PK's.
- Continue to be our brothers and sisters keeper as we pray for, love, encourage and be there for each other during the good and bad times.

Respectfully Submitted September 29, 2023,

Ruth B. Murray

Along with the members of the Northeast Conference

Minister Spouses Widows and Widower Organization Plus PK's

CLASS LEADERS

Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Reverends: Harold Conyers, James Leonard, Letitia Miller-Pringle

Brothers: Harold Britton, Henry Stanley, Kenny McElveen, Isaiah Johnson

Sister: Francine Gasque, Renita Robinson, Sarah Davis, Bernice McElveen, Anna Coaxum, Leevy Allen

To Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Supervisor Phyllis N. Green, and the members of the 132nd Session of the Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference, we the members of your Committee on Class Leaders beg leave to make our report.

Report:

Bishop Richard Allen, the founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, adopted the Methodist Doctrine, including the “Class Leader System.” The Class Leader System has been in force in the A.M.E. Church since the beginning of the church.

The Class System is a basic organizational unit of the African Methodist Episcopal Church that connects each member to the local church. Each local congregation of the A.M.E. Church has its membership divided into small groups called classes. Each Class Leader is appointed by the Pastor annually and examined quarterly by the Pastor and the Presiding Elder.

Class Leaders are “called” disciples. These disciples have shown certain qualities in their lifestyles that reflect the Spirit of Christ. The Class Leader is to look after his/her members by visiting, calling, listening, praying, and being the informer to the pastor and official board on the welfare of the members. The Class Leader is called to be spiritually knowledgeable church member who can teach, inspire and motivate the class to translate their faith into discipline Christian living.

The Class Leader Ministry is vital to the growth of the local church because class leaders are responsible for not only managing new member intake and follow up, but class leaders are also responsible for ensuring that members have the necessary resources to keep them connected to the body as well as to God. This can only happen when class leaders are actively engaged with their class members.

There is no substitute for an effective Class Leader System in the church program. The Class Leader effectiveness is the greatest asset to the church. Every Class Leader tracking his/her members within the church family leads to the pastor being informed regardless of the statistical value of the member.¹

In recent years the A.M.E church has experienced a decline in membership and the Covid-19 Pandemic further escalate that decline. The church transitioned to online communication platforms such as Zoom, Facebook, YouTube and other digital technologies that has birth new ministries: remote working, learning, worship and praise. Many members have chosen online worship and has not return to in church worship.

The time is right to reactivate an effective Class Leader System to contact, inform, inspire and encourage our members to come back to church. There is a great need to nurture and support people in their

¹ Allen, Betty, *The Church Class Leader System*, AMEC Sunday School Union, 2006

Christian growth. The Class Leader System is our greatest asset designed for such functions in the church. Let us not talk about but, be about our Father's business.

Recommendation:

We, the Committee on Class Leaders, recommend that all Class Leaders in the Northeast Conference be trained annually and comply with The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal.

Respectfully submitted;

The Committee on Class Leaders

MEMORIALS
Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Rev. Robert L. China Jr.

Members: Revs. Jams Brown, Emmanuel Davis, Lisa Spears, Elroy Davis, Don Robinson, Eric Robinson, Henry Murray Jr. John Brown

Brothers: Douglas Mixon, John Smith, Michael Jackson, James Felder, George Gibson

Sisters: Vivian McFadden, Ann Jones, Helen Highsmith, Wilhelmina Gross, Dana Mitchell, Jennifer Paisley

Report: We, the committee on Memorials, have received from the secretary of the conference and have inquired of the Presiding Elders the names if there are any to be memorialized at this annual conference. They are as follows.

Bishop Richard Franklin Norris, 116th Elected and Consecrated Bishop

Dr. Sylvia Ross Talbot, Retired Supervisor

Sister Lula Shaw Cleckley, Immediate Past President, Connectional Ministers Spouses, Widows, and Widowers Organization Plus PK's

Brother Normal L. Deas, Former President, 7th Episcopal District Lay Organization, Advisor, Connectional Lay Organization

Reverend George Brown

Reverend Davie Brown

RESOLUTIONS
Northeast South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend: Letitia Pringle-Miller
Members: Reverends: James P. Gause, James Rodgers, Lemuel
Washington, Anthony Ford, Sonya Temoney, Deirdre Howard
Brothers: Samson Spencer, James Felder, L. Carlyle Dixon
Sisters: Fran Hudson, Elizabeth McCall, Diane Reames, Helen
Highsmith, Dana Mitchell, Sytricia Price, Berneta P. Belin

Report

**TO BE REPORTED LIVE DURING THE NORTHEAST
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

