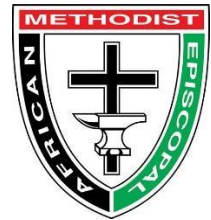


THE SEVENTH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The 160th Session of the
SOUTH CAROLINA
Annual Conference

September 14-16th 2023



LITERARY REPORTS

The Right Reverend Samuel L. Green Sr, *Presiding Prelate*

Mrs. Phyllis N. Green, *Episcopal Supervisor*

The Reverend Dr. Allen W. Parrott, *Host Presiding Elder*

The Reverend Dr Norvel Goff, Sr., *Associate Presiding Elder*

The Reverend Phillip Anderson, *Associate Presiding Elder*

JUDICIAL REPORT

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair:

Members:

Report

To be reported at the site of the South Carolina Annual Conference

TRIERS OF APPEALS

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend

Members: The Reverends

Report

To be reported at the site of the South Carolina Annual Conference

MINISTERIAL EFFICIENCY

South Carolina Annual Conference

To be reported at the site of the South Carolina Annual Conference

CONFERENCE TRUSTEES

South Carolina Annual Conference

To be reported at the site of the South Carolina Annual Conference

DEVOTION/WORSHIP

South Carolina Annual Conference

To be reported at the site of the South Carolina Annual Conference

MUSIC

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Cecelia Jenkins

Members:

Reverends: Cecelia Jenkins, Tradd Williams

Brothers: Harrington Ford

Sisters: Sylvia Singleton

Salutations:

Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders, and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the Music Committee beg leave to make this report:

Report:

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. Psalms 95:1-2

The Music Committee seeks to implement the *vision of the Music and Christian Arts Ministry which is to elevate, awaken, and enrich the worship experience*. To God be the glory as we have provided a rich culture of music through participation in all areas of worship with all age groups. Further, the Conference has done a wonderful job rendering music on the Episcopal level at our God First Holy Convocation in April, the 1st Episcopal District planning meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the 2nd Episcopal District planning meeting in Hampton, Virginia.

It is our prayer to continue to be committed to drawing all people closer to God by blending the historical nature of our music with the contemporary styles of music.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Cecelia G. Jenkins

Recommendations:

1. Provide education and training through a conference wide music symposium/workshop.
2. Foster the development of musicians through the use of traditional and non-traditional instruments.

DEEDS, ABSTRACTS, ABANDONED PROPERTY

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Rev. Dr. Larry L. Harris

Members: Reverends:

Charles McLamore, Thornell Thompson, Spavarie B. Taylor, William R. Jones, Yvonne B. Gregg, Jerome Wilson, Alvin Lark, Jr., Toney J. Slater, Jr., William Snipe, Roteshia Hamilton-Jackson, Clifford Levine.

Brothers: Ben Mitchell and James Ladson.

Sisters: Carolyn Butler, Lottie Witherspoon, Delores Olin, Albertha Scott-Walker, Dorothy Haynes, Betty White, Lakesha Price

Salutations: Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we the Committee on Deeds, Abstracts, and Abandoned Property, beg leave to make this report:

Report: The Committee on Deeds, Abstracts, and Abandoned Property contacted Presiding Elders: Dr. Norvel Goff, Sr., Rev. Phillip Anderson and Dr. Allen Wayne Parrott regarding the status of deeds, abstracts, and abandoned properties in each of their respective Districts. No problems have been reported to the committee from the Districts in the South Carolina Annual Conference. Each Presiding Elder will continue to monitor during their Quarterly conferences and provide guidance as needed.

Recommendations:

1. Each Presiding Elder continue to conduct periodic reviews of this critical matter and provide the appropriate guidance to Pastors and Congregations under their supervision. When necessary, advise the Seventh Episcopal District's Office and Legal team on matters that may require a legal review and or follow-up.
2. Each Presiding Elder consider providing training as needed to new pastors and officers at either the Church School Convention or District Conference on the importance of having all deeds and legal documents in order. Secondly these documents should always be properly filed in the church's Safety Deposit Box and the local Court House after review.
3. It is further recommended that this committee continue to be empowered to collaborate with and share information pertinent to the deeds/titles of local churches with the following Annual Conference committees to ensure the proper coordination and uniform keeping of records (both paper and electronic) congruent with the best interest of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Inc. Incorporation of Church Property; and Missions, Circuits, and Stations.

Respectively Submitted, The Committee on Deeds, Abstracts and Abandoned Property.

INCORPORATION OF CHURCH PROPERTY

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Dr. Myra D. Meggett

Members:

Reverends: Clifford Levine, Sinclair Frasier, Carol Berry, Michael Clark, Samuel Haney, Jr., Jeannine Smalls, Benjamin Dwight

Brothers: Julius Smalls, Jeffrey P. K. Graham, Randy Simmons

Sisters: April Rivers, Marjorie White, Jeannie Rivers, Betty Brown, Dorothy Haynes, Delores McCants, Mary Cox

Salutations:

Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders, and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the Incorporation of Church Property Committee, beg leave to make this report:

Report:

As reported by the Presiding Elders of the South Carolina Annual Conference: All the churches in the South Carolina Annual Conference are registered with the South Carolina Secretary of the State's Office as Incorporated Entities.

Recommendations:

1. A copy of local church's 'Incorporation of Church Property Papers' should be stored in a Bank Safe Deposit Box.
2. A copy of the local church's 'Incorporation of Church Property Papers' should be on file with the Conference Secretary.

Respectfully Submitted,

Incorporation of Church Property

MISSIONS, CIRCUITS, AND STATIONS

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Dr. Nathan M. Brown

Reverends: Walter Middleton, Etha J. Milligan, Nathan Brown, Michael Clark, Andre Thornhill, Jessie Townsend, Jr., Henry Borbor

Brothers: Frank Rice, Alphonso Brown, Roosevelt Quarterman

Sisters: Velma Brown, Scarlette Reid, Zelphair Grant, Sharon Blake, Allyne Mitchell, Martha Graham

Salutations: Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the Committee on Missions Circuits and Stations, make this report:

Report:

Edisto District Reports 31 Station Churches, 0 Circuit Churches, 2 Missions Church: Bethel AME (Edisto) and New Generation AME Churches.

Charleston District Reports 22 Station Churches, 0 Circuit Churches, 5 Mission Churches: Shiloh, (Eutawville), New Mt. Zion, (Summerville), Mt. Zion, (Harleyville), St. Luke, (Summerville) and Ebenezer (Aiken).

Beaufort District Reports: 25 Stations Churches, 1 Circuit Church: Greater Bethel and Greater St. James AME Church both in Fairfax, 4 Mission Churches: Ebenezer, Joshua, St. Matthew and St. Paul.

Recommendations: There are no recommendations from this committee at this time.

PRESIDING ELDER'S SALARY/UPKEEP

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Randolph Miller

Members:

Reverends: Eric S. C. Manning, Lawrence Gordon, Clifford Levine, Friendly Gadson, Larry L. Harris, James Mack, Jesse Townsend, Carolyn Fields

Brothers: Joshua Gadson, Frank Rice, Sydney Gray, Clarence

Sisters: Theresa Gibson, Vera Dover, Jeannie Rivers, Christine Gaddist, Patricia Parker, Myrtle Robinson, Theresa Loadholt

Salutations:

Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the (Committee name), beg leave to make this report:

Report: Your Committee on Presiding Elder Salary/Upkeep spoke with the Committee Chairpersons from The Edisto, Charleston and Beaufort Districts after each District Conference.

The Committee reported their recommendations for a Salary Increase.

1. The Edisto District reported at their District Conference, Presiding Elder Dr. Norvel Goff did not want an Increase in Salary.
2. The Charleston District reported at their District Conference, Presiding Elder Dr. Allen Wayne Parrott was voted by The Committee to receive a 4% increase for the next Conference Year.
3. The Beaufort District reported at their District Conference, Presiding Elder Phillip Anderson did not want an Increase in Salary.

Respectfully Submitted,

The committee on Presiding Elder's Salary and Upkeep

Recommendations:

1. We recommend that the Committee on each District continue to monitor the living conditions of each Presiding Elder to make sure that their needs are being met.
2. We recommend that the Presiding Elders communicate with their Districts concerning their needs, if a Crisis should arise and adjustments should be taken into consideration.

ANNUITY AND INVESTMENTS

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend L. Vanessa Johnson

Reverends- Etha J. Milligan, Charles McLamore, Sinclair Frasier, Rufus I Berry, Sr., Henry A. S. Borbor, and Edward Alston.

Brothers- Joshua Gadson, Frank Rice, Sidney L. Gray and Clarence Wiggins; **Sisters-**Tara Simmons, Evelyn Bryant, Lillie Ann Hayward, Barbara Blackwell, Betty Brown, Teresa Hart and Alean Wright.

The Committee on Annuities and Investments wishes to submit the following report:

On March 30, 2022, the Department of Retirement Services issued a statement on its website regarding the discovery of financial irregularities concerning the retirement fund. The statement indicated that the AME Church had secured legal counsel as well as financial forensics experts to assist in the investigation and that the organization was also working diligently with federal authorities to determine the appropriate course of action.

To address additional concerns, the statement included a list of frequently asked questions along with explanations pertaining to process, procedure and the current status of the fund as of that date.

In October of 2022, participants in the AME Church Retirement Fund received an update in the form of a letter which stated that the General Board of the AME Church had voted in favor of partnering with Wespath Benefits and Investments to develop and to become the plan administrator of a new retirement plan. Wespath's experience and credentials were noted, and participants were advised to contact the Department of Retirement Services for further information.

The official launch of the New Life Personal Investment plan occurred in November 2022. Participants were strongly encouraged to engage in educational and discussion sessions with Wespath that were sponsored by the 7th Episcopal District and Bishop Green via zoom.

In March 2023, the Department of Retirement Services issued another letter to all of the participants in the retirement plan. It stated that a formal report regarding the status of operations and procedures would be presented at the June 2023 General Board meeting. Participants were made aware of several ongoing activities such as pending litigation, possible resolutions, the Legacy Plan, audits, financial reviews, and web-based accounting that would allow participants to verify all transactions and balances through their own secure online accounts.

Recommendations:

- 1-Participants continue to be diligent in reading any correspondence received from the Department of Retirement Services of the AME Church.

- 2-Participants should keep abreast of any new developments regarding the retirement plan, past and present.

- 3-Participants to become knowledgeable and informed about every aspect of the Wespath Benefits and Investment group, taking advantage of any opportunities that may be offered through the program.

- 4-Participants access their online accounts as frequently as possible to ensure accuracy of contributions.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Committee on Annuity and Investments, Rev. L. Vanessa Johnson, Chair.

CLASSIFICATION OF PASTORS

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Hope Champaigne-Rivers

Reverends: Lubert Pressley, James Peterson, Jr., LaShaun Flagg, Betty Walker-Collins, Joann Nesbit, Deborah Green

Brothers: Jeffrey P.K. Graham, Carl Love

Sisters: Natalie Green, Victoria James, Genia Wilson, Gail Council, Dorothy Wiley, Margaret Mouzon, Alean Wright

Salutations:

Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the Committee Members of the *Classification of Pastors*, beg leave to make this report:

Report: The 2021, Book of Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, requires that all Pastors be classified in class designations A-E. The classifications are defined as follows:

Class A: Full time pastors having traveled eight consecutive years; and any ordained Elder holding a degree from a college or seminary and shall have traveled at least one year as a fulltime pastor. Full time pastors are Itinerant Elders who wholly and solely give of their time and talents to pastoral duties without any other work, professional or common, interferes with or prevents the performance of the regular ministerial duties of a pastor as negotiated between the pastor and the Board of Stewards.

Class B: Itinerant Elders having traveled four consecutive years as a full-time pastor.

Class C: Full-time pastors who are Itinerant Elders in the AME Church.

Class D: Full-time pastors who have not been ordained itinerant elders.

Class E: Part-time ministers.

Class	Edisto	Beaufort	Charleston	Total
A	25	18	10	53
B	6	3	0	9
C	0	0	0	0
D	0	6	1	7
E	2	1	16	19
Total Pastors	33	29	27	89

The committee surveyed the Presiding Elders of the South Carolina Annual Conference to ascertain the information required to properly assign classification. The Pastors of the South Carolina Annual Conference are in the following categories:

Recommendations:

1. Once the Annual Conference Series Schedule and agenda booklet is released by the Presiding Elders, that the Pastors of each church inform the lay member(s) of his/her church what committee they have been assigned to.
2. That once the members are notified by the Pastor, that the members forward their contact information (cell number and email address) to the chair of the conference committee assigned to.
3. That the Chair for the conference committee contact information (cell telephone number) be listed in Annual Conference Series Schedule and agenda booklet.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Committee on Classification of Pastors

SOCIAL ACTION

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Joseph A. Darby,

Reverends: Patricia Vanderhurst, Lashaun Flagg, Valerie Williams, Barbara Ling-Terry, Edna Dingle Stokes, Tanzala Shanklin, Bernard Brown

Brothers: Ben Wiggins, Larry Simmons

Sisters: Doris Mungin, Megan Doctor, Viola Glover, Kylilea Griffin, Ineather Thompson, Myrtle Robinson, Deloris Bryant

Salutations:

Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the (Committee name), beg leave to make this report:

Report:

As a liberating and reconciling people, the African Methodist Episcopal Church should take note of the following Social Action concerns:

- 1. National Security.** The pending criminal and civil trials of the former President of the United States and the possibility of acts of domestic terrorism by his supporters.
- 2. Dangers to Public Education** from politicians and their supporters who try to ban books that tell the true history of our nation and change curricula to say that things like slavery were beneficial to the enslaved.
- 3. Governmental Confusion** created by some elected officials who choose not to make public policy, but to stoke the racial and fears of there voting base.

Recommendations:

We recommend that the clergy and laity of the South Carolina Annual Conference:

- 1.** continue to be proactive in speaking truth to power,
- 2.** see that our children know the truth of American history, and
- 3.** continue to register, educate and mobilize voters.

Respectfully submitted

CHURCH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend William R. Jones

Members:

Reverends: Rhonda Heyward, Krystal Campbell, Ashanti Brown, Patricia Vanderhurst, Angela McGhee, Tremayne Bowman, Keith Parker, Pamela Smalls

Brothers: Frank Rice, Jeffery P.K. Graham, Cleveland Holmes

Sisters: Denise Ravenel, Christina McNeil, Martina Jacobs, Dorothy Wiley, Genia Wilson, Lenora Jenkins

Report:

Durning the last year we thought that the Church would be back on track.

But in checking our record more people are staying home. It's not that the church can't grow, but what is church growth? Not membership, but it should be about people learning more about Christ, it should be to bring people to Christ, you can't train them until you get them in, at the time social media was great, now it's time to bring them back into the fold.

There are no recommendations at this time

Humbly Submitted,

The Committee on Church Growth and Development

CHURCH PLANTING

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Rev. Dr. Jon R. Black

Members:

Presiding Elders: Norvel Goff, Sr., Allen W. Parrott, Phillip C. Anderson

Reverends: Jon Black, Myra Meggett, Etha J. Milligan, Toney Slater, Sinclar Frasier, LaShaun Flagg, Jackie Jamison, Tremayne Bowman, Synetria Hawkins

Brothers: Jeffrey P. K. Graham

Sisters: Velma Brown, Genia Wilson, Sylvia Summers, Sharon Blake, Gail Council, Kyilea Griffin, Jacqueline Green, Margaret Whit

Salutations:

Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the Committee on Church Planting, beg leave to make this report:

Report:

The newest initiative in the South Carolina Conference is the Cane Bay Fellowship, in the Charleston District, where Rev. Allen W. Parrott is the Presiding Elder. Rev. Tremayne Bowman is the founding pastor and currently Licentiate Jeffrey and Leslie Graham serve as the supply co-pastors. The motto of this fellowship is “The church without walls.” It is an important example of post pandemic worship. Social media including Facebook is used to conduct worship and Bible Studies and to keep the congregation informed. Because of this unique platform, sermon engagements by the supply co-pastors are also shared via social media. Cane Bay Fellowship has partnered with Mt Zion AME Church, 5 Glebe Street, Charleston, SC, where Rev. Dr. Kylon Middleton serves as pastor. Mt Zion’s weekly Bible Studies are a prominent ministry of the Cane Bay Fellowship.

This new initiative serves as a paradigm for establishing new congregations in the post pandemic world. Here are a few of its strengths.

First, Cane Bay is located in Dorchester County and is one of the fastest growing communities in the state. More importantly, it is expected to continue to grow for the foreseeable future.

Second, the Cane Bay Fellowship has taken advantage of social media and modern technology. Consistent with its motto, this fellowship is truly a church without walls.

Third, senior leaders have partnered with junior leaders to take advantage of their unique generational knowledge and skill sets.

Recommendation:

1. It is recommended that the South Carolina Annual Conference offer high praise and commendation to Presiding Elder Allen W. Parrot, Rev. Dr. Kylon Middleton, Licentiate Jeffrey Graham and Licentiate Leslie Graham for a job well done.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Dr. Jon R. Black and the Committee on Church Planting

STATE OF THE CHURCH

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Dr. Courtney Colleton

Members:

Reverends: William Jones, Spavarie Taylor, Joseph A. Darby, Nathaniel Brown,

Angela McGhee, Kortez Chisolm, Cora Singleton

Brothers: Gentry Jamison, Thaddeus Smith, Cleveland Holmes

Sisters: Marie Simmons, Chelsey Peterson, Marjorie White, Kimberley Smith, Albertha Walker, Ineatha Thompson, Teresa Loadholt, Annette Story

Salutations:

Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the State of The Church Committee, beg leave to make this report:

Report:

Economic depravity, human trafficking, political corruption, police brutality, global warming, high suicide rates among clergy and a steady membership decline among mainline denominations are just some of the rising issues that our Zion faces daily. In this new era of cultural challenges, one must ask a vital question how can we lead God's people to spaces of flourishing transformation in times of crisis and moments of increased complexity? Simply over the last 12 to 15 months the church has chosen to use its various distresses as purposeful challenges to rediscover its foundational mission through recalibration, re-structuring, and rebirth.

Recalibration calls us to visualize the church's mission from its initial stages in comparison to our present realities. Today our mission as the church of Allen is to minister to the social, spiritual, and physical development of all people. Initially this divine assignment was set to expand Gods liberation to those bound in slavery, bring justice to marginalized persons that were denied basic human rights in all areas of their lives and build a church welcoming for all of Gods children.

As time progressed the church has realized that our ancestors' unresolved issues from the past currently have been given new faces and spaces, striving every day to trade a more progressive society for negatively retroactive cognitive social behaviors. The church has strategically used value-based conversations, in order to bring resolve to some of our key issues with educated practitioners in their respective fields. Value based conversations allowed our church to see that our mission was still needed but our priorities needed to be adjusted. This can be seen in our Zions print and digital media through the Christian Recorder and virtual TCR dialogues where no topic yet remains to be off limits to show the world the authentic significance of creative engagement with Christ beloved communities with relevancy, transparency, accountability, consistency, and sustainability.

Re-structuring develops the church's vital conversations into an action plan that's keeps our vision in full visibility and viability. This process helps everyone strengthen what remains instead of focusing on what has been lost in the past. Our church has used various tools that drive the heart of operational change in every local congregation within our Zion. In September of 2002, the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AMEC) initiated the Strategic Church Planning a two-year effort to develop a vibrant, growing denomination that accomplishes the Great Commission that is currently being implemented today. To keep our church thriving, healthy, and full of life we have initiated creative membership drives where everyone can reach the masses through evangelism. Vibrantly stronger churches have rapidly increased youth and young adult programming has with a flair of excitement due to the rising attendance of millennials and gen z in worship services.

According to the Barna group since 2019, the percentage of Millennials reporting weekly church attendance has increased from 21 percent to 39 percent. Among Gen X, attendance has increased 8 percentage points (24% to 32%). Also the church remains to be steadfast in its march towards racial justice, equity, and freedom instead of taking a backseat to daily injustices happening in the lives of African Americans. It has been documented by the Barna group that based upon recent data from June 4-15, 2020 show that just three out of five pastors (62%) said their church denomination made a statement on the recent protest happening across the nation; with a belief that the Church has a responsibility to publicly denounce racial discrimination and publicly show support for people of color.

Purposeful rebirthing ensures the church lives up to its mission through its work that is led by extraordinary servant leadership of clergy and laity. Rebirthing gives new light for the world to see a unified body of believers that constantly strives to enhance church growth, constitute a delegated body that is representative of our diverse membership, support Christian character, and enhance spiritual growth & development. The church overall manifests a clean start that chooses to embrace and instill in the membership of the Church, history, traditions, and principles of African Methodism, while being open to the changes and challenges of contemporary society.

Respectfully Submitted,

The State of the Church Committee

Recommendations:

1. Remain radically focused to exemplify our mission to minister to the social, spiritual, and physical development of all people regardless of our societal challenges.
2. Become more vigilant servant leaders as clergy and lay ready to avail themselves to political and community leaders who call for gatherings and/or meetings to discuss or act on political issues that affect community and members of the local church.
3. Become more physically and fiscally resourceful in business and economic empowerment
4. Continue to modernize worship opportunities for youth and young adults for a sense of belonging

STATE OF THE COUNTRY

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Joseph A. Darby

Reverends: William Jones, Spavarie Taylor, Nathan Brown, Valerie Williams, Michael Clark, Betty Walker-Collins, James Mack, Tradd Williams

Brothers: Gentry Jamison, Roosevelt Quarterman

Sisters: Dorothy Wiley, Denise Major, Lillie Ann Heyward, Martha Graham, Lenora Jenkins

Salutations:

Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the (Committee name), beg leave to make this report:

Report:

The State of The Country gives us ample reasons to be both optimistic and vigilant. We have reason to be optimistic because while COVID is still a concern, the pandemic stage has ended and life for many has returned to normal. We can be optimistic because under President Joe Biden, the economy is improving and policies have been passed to benefit not just the privileged few, but all Americans.

We can be optimistic, but we must also be vigilant. We must be vigilant because there are still deep racial and social divisions in our country – some of them driven by people who call themselves “Evangelicals” but place their politics over God’s will. We must be vigilant because a Supreme Court that used to uphold civil liberties now issues rulings that take them away.

Recommendations:

If we are to be both optimistic and vigilant, we **recommend** that the clergy and laity of the South Carolina Annual Conference:

1. uphold God’s instructions through the Prophet Micah to do justly, love mercy, and,
2. walk in the footsteps of the authentic Jesus and work to make our country “One Nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Committee on the State of the Country

TEMPERANCE

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Keith A. Parker I

Reverends: Robert Gordon, Bernard Brown, James Peterson, James Nelson, Rufus Berry Sr., Angela McGhee, Tremayne Bowman, Carolyn Fields, Pamela Smalls

Brothers: Gentry Jamison, Lawrence Bryan

Sisters: Esther Freeman, Rebecca Seabrook, Kimberly Smith, Vylaria James, Albertha Scott-Walker, Alvenia Smalls, Margaret Mouzon, Delores Bryant

Salutations:

Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the (Committee name), beg leave to make this report:

Report:

The Apostle Paul quotes nine specific traits that are found in Galatians 5: 22-23. They are identified as the “fruit of the Spirit”, that is the results of the Holy Spirit operating in a Christian’s life. The scripture text states, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” This list describes what those in Christ should see flowing from their lives when they are engulfed by the Holy Spirit. In this report temperance will be our focus. Temperance is defined as moderation in thought, word, or action. Those who practice temperance are self-controlled and show restraint in their passions and behaviors. Another word that often defines temperance is self-control. Temperance or self-control plays a vital role in our daily conduct and can be anything from gluttony to gambling. The Holy Bible includes numerous scriptures regarding temperance, a few examples are Titus 2:12, 1st Corinthians 9:27, 2 Peter 1:5-6, Proverbs 25:28, Philippians 4:5, 1 Timothy 3:8-9, and Proverbs 20:1. In order to put our faith into action, we need the Holy Spirit to help us live a life of temperance. This life is demonstrated by self-control, self-discipline, moderation, and restraint if we are to live a victorious Christian life. We are living in unprecedented times and the current situation, finds us in a predicament to navigate through what is deemed as our “new normal.” We will address four areas that are very pressing issues that we believe are pertinent to our focus on temperance. If we are to achieve positive outcomes these should be our focus.

- 1) **Black on Black Violence-** Our communities are experiencing increased numbers of black on black, crime and deaths. Senseless deaths are occurring because those involved appear to think that using a gun to solve disagreements is necessary instead of using conflict resolutions to resolve the matter. Some of our people seem to have no regard for taking a human being’s life and the consequences of their actions. We need to educate our people and let them know that self-control and self-discipline are vital in all aspects of life. We also need to focus on the village of the family and community to help prevent the negative conditions that draw our people into violent and criminal behaviors.

- 2) **Social Justice-** We continue to be the victims of senseless murders by the hands of police officers, who have been sworn to protect us, because of the color of our skin. Some of the victims for 2022 are: Patrick Lyoya- April 4, 2022, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Christopher Kelley - June 24,2022, Topeka, Kansas, Donnell Rochester, 18, February 19, 2022, Baltimore, Maryland, Amir Locke,22, Minneapolis. Minnesota, Isaiah Tyree Williams, 19, Las Vegas, Nevada, January 10, 2022, and Jason Walker, 37, Fayetteville, North Carolina, January 8, 2022, just to site a few. Our struggle against America’s century long legacy of institutionalized racism continues daily. We are working together, uniting our voices, and taking various social actions including peaceful protests intended to initiate change. Voting in upcoming elections is pertinent to our success.
- 3) **COVID 19 Endemic-** COVID- 19 continues to ravage our communities at alarming rates. Statistics show that worldwide we have a total of 199,673,017 cases and 4,249,118 deaths. In the United States of America there are 35,325,243 cases and over a million deaths as of July 28, 2022. In the state of South Carolina there have been 1,573,585 cases and over 18, 055 deaths. There are three vaccines that are presently available to combat the virus. They are Pfizer, Johnson, and Johnson and Moderna. They are all authorized by the FDA and recommended by the CDC to be used in the US for a limited population. As of July 28, 2022, 59.34 percent of the people in the United States of America are fully vaccinated. In South Carolina only about 20 percent of the African Americans are fully vaccinated. There same to be many myths that are negatively affecting the rate of the vaccines. The best way to prevent the illness or contracting the disease is to avoid being exposed to the virus and taking the vaccines, and boosters. Temperance and self-discipline are needed for such a time as these. The Centers for Disease Control have established strict guidelines that everyone needs to adhere to, to limit the spread of this deadly disease. Get vaccinated, it can help save your life.
- 4) **Alcoholism-** Another issue that we are presently engaged in is the war on Alcoholism. In a recent publication produced by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) in the US follows: 14.4 million adults age17 and older have an AUD. This includes 9.2 million men and 5.3 million women. The same study looked at youth ages 12 to 17. An estimated 401,000 adolescents ages 12-17 have AUD. This number includes 173,000 males and 227,000 females. Alcohol related deaths total 88,000 persons and 1 person dies every 50 minutes in drunk driving fatalities in the US. For these reasons and more, temperance is needed to limit alcohol consumption. Recent data indicated that alcohol consumption has increased with the advent of COVID 19.

Our Recommendations include:

- 1) **Black on Black Violence** —Churches are encouraged to identify Christian Apps to share with their youth and adults on God’s love, conflict resolution, and anger management. Bible studies on Christian tenets and scriptures relative to demonstrating self-control in one’s behavior should be considered and is recommended.
- 2) **Social Action/Justice** -The church should encourage all congregants and members of the local community to vote. Use of AME Voter Alert Toolkit to help register, educate, and organize, etc. is recommended.
- 3) **The Corona Virus Pandemic/Endemic** -We encourage all churches to use online group calls, digital and virtual media options to reach their congregations with prevention messages to adhere to CDC guidelines. We also encourage churches to become sites for testing and vaccine sites to cut down on the spread of the virus. We should also encourage all eligible individuals to get vaccinated. Vaccines have been implemented for centuries and has assisted in the control and spread of diseases.
- 4) **Alcoholism**—We encourage all churches to prepare a directory of information for support groups or counselors and recovery programs that are available to help anyone in need. Also conduct a Bible Study series on Temperance using virtual webinars and or any other avenues that may be suitable to help eliminate this addiction.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Temperance Committee

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Dr. Lawrence Gordon

Members: Reverends Lawrence Gordon, Charles Watkins, Jr. Hope Rivers, Archie Fair, Kathy Shider, Emmy Williams Alvin Larke Jr. John P Harrison. Sisters Carla Jones, Harriett Smalls, Angela Baptiste, Juanita Hill, Scarlette Reid, Alvenia Smalls, Margie Washington, Yolanda Aiken. Brothers Ralph James, and Carl Love.

Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the Christian Education Department, beg leave to make this report:

The purpose of Christian Education is to provide biblically based programs, resources, and support within the church and community that will meet needs, transform lives, and prepare individuals for Christian service. Christian Education is a process that helps believers understand theology, learn Christian history, and make commitments to the internal and outreach ministries of the local church.

This year, the South Carolina Annual Conference Christian Education Department humbly reports the following:

- Our youth participated in the SED Annual YPD Retreat, March 3-5, 2023.
- We participated in District Founder's Day Celebrations
- Conducted Christian Education Days, throughout the Conference sharing relevant information for growth and development, financial literacy, *What AME's Believe* review and training, Review of AME Polity, Best Practices for Outreach, Discipleship and Evangelism.
- Participated in the Connectional Church School Quarterly Overviews
- Provided and participated in various workshops and panel discussions such as: Lay—Clergy and the role of Class Leaders.
- Presented Zoom panel presentations on Grief response and counseling (ongoing).
- Conducted Holy Week Services throughout the Conference
- Participated in the Spirit-filled Seventh Episcopal District God First Holy Convocation on April 20-22, 2023, in Florence, SC
- Attended the Aspire 2023 Christian Education-Leadership Congress and Theological Institute in Greenville, SC July 5-8, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Reverend Dr. Lawrence Gordon, Chair

Members: Reverends Lawrence Gordon, Charles Watkins, Jr. Hope Rivers, Archie Fair, Kathy Shider, Emmy Williams Alvin Larke Jr. John P Harrison. Sisters Carla Jones, Harriett Smalls, Angela Baptiste, Juanita Hill, Scarlette Reid, Alvenia Smalls, Margie Washington, Yolanda Aiken. Brothers Ralph James, and Carl Love.

Recommendations: All Christian Education Directors, plan activities which will keep the history of our Zion alive in the hearts and minds of our youth and young adult members, i.e., hymn lining, common meter, long meter, AME Polity, AME History, and the relevance of the AME Church for the teaching of the Word of God, growth, development, justice, and evangelism.

FAMILY LIFE

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Spavarie Taylor

Reverends:

Shantay Fludd-Bowers, Carol Berry, Jerome Wilson, Synetria Hawkins, Rose Kitty, Biner Lawyer-Green

Brothers:

Frank Rice, Sydney Gray, Ben Mitchell

Sisters:

Denise Ravenel, Angela Baptiste, Julie Sanders, Christine Gaddist, Albertha Walker, Delores Olin, Majorie W. White, Aaliyah Gethers, Natalie Williams, Margaret White

Salutations:

Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders, and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference. We, the Family Life committee, beg leave to make this report:

Report:

Ephesians 4:2-3

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

From Genesis to Revelations, the bible speaks about the importance of family. We learn the importance of the husband and wife becoming one, Genesis 2:24, and how men are to love their wives, Ephesians 5:25-30. Ephesians 6:1-4 also gives us a reflection of a healthy parent-child relationship. These are only a few examples of how the Lord has provided practical guidelines for laying the foundation of families.

What is a family? A family is a group of people who love and care for each other. It is the fundamental building block of society, and the Lord places great importance on relationships, which is critical to family unity. Unity in the family is essential for fostering a loving and supportive environment where individuals can thrive emotionally, spiritually, and socially. God’s desire is for families to be a source of strength, love, and encouragement for one another.

When the storms of life come, we are never alone, as the family bond is strong, and it allows us to face these challenges as a unit, together, supporting each other and celebrating joys and triumphs.

Family bonds and relationships are like oxygen to the human body; it is impossible to function without them. God must be the family's foundation and shared through the family bond to rejuvenate, bring laughter and comfort, and provide a nurturing space for each member to thrive and experience God's love.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Committee on The Family Life

Recommendations:

1. Continue in Prayer, for prayer is a powerful tool for seeking God's guidance and bringing the family closer together.
2. 1 Peter 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply because love covers over a multitude of sins.
3. Let us strive to create an environment where love, forgiveness, prayer, and respect thrive, guided by the wisdom and grace found in God's Word.

LAY ACTIVITIES

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Sister Jeannie L. Rivers

Brothers: Leroy Linen, Cleveland Holmes, Sidney Gray, and Anthony Blake

Sisters: Darlene Ravenel, Wilhelmena Green, Jackie Williams, Josephine Freeman, Patty Britt-Pooser, Willie Mae Gibbs, Barbara Blackwell, Joanne Johnson, Mary Glenn, Marie Ladson, Patricia Gabe, and Lucille Kannick

Salutations: Greetings to Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Supervisor Phyllis N. Green, Presiding Elders; The Reverend Dr. Allen W. Parrott, The Reverend Dr. Norvel Goff, Sr., The Reverend Phillip C. Anderson, and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the Committee on Lay Activities are pleased to make this report:

Connectional Lay Organization Theme:
“Living A Global Witness Ministry That Transforms, Transcends and Liberates”
Luke 4:18-19

The South Carolina Conference Lay Organization (SCCLO) embraced the theme *“Laity and Clergy Working Together to do Great Things”* Romans 8:28, because the Church’s mission cannot be fulfilled without the Laity and Clergy working together.

God allowed the SCCLO to stay connected through a Hybrid method of meetings. The Lay meetings were held bi-monthly with a Training Session at each meeting because training is the core mandate of the Lay Organization. *“Laity and Clergy Recharged”* was the theme of the annual Lay and Clergy Training Institute. There were over three hundred persons in attendance. The areas of focus were Class Leaders, Young Adults Recharged, and the Electoral College Process.

There is a renewed commitment to increase the membership in the SCCLO by the recruitment efforts made by the First Vice-Presidents on the Conference, Districts of the Annual Conference, and Local Church levels. Also, the Historiographers are constantly doing research to preserve the Conference’s rich history.

SCCLO members have participated in the Connectional Lay Organization (CLO) various trainings and Executive Board Meetings. The 38th Biennial Session of the CLO was held in Chicago, IL. The South Carolina Conference was well represented by both Lay and Clergy. We are proud to be a part of the winning team of “Britton, Ravenel, and Rush” as the Seventh Episcopal District won the first ever, Connectional Lay Organization *“Outstanding Episcopal District Award.”*

Young Adults from the South Carolina Conference participated in the CLO “Young Adult Retreat.” There was an enjoyment of the fellowship with other young adults from across the Connectional Church. Young Adults are an integral part of the SCCLO and are members on all standing committees.

The SCCLO Oratorical Elimination was held and hats off to the high school seniors that participated, for a job well done. The Edisto District was represented by Ms. Madison Brown and the Charleston District was represented by Ms. Keyana Gaddist.

The Seventh Episcopal District Lay Organization (SEDLO) had our full support as we attended the Lay Retreat in Columbia, SC. Each District of the South Carolina Annual Conference was well represented at the Allen Little Stars Parade of Talent. The 2023 Lay Convention was held on the Campus of Allen University and the SCCLO was the Host. The South Carolina Conference pride was on full display as we demonstrated our “*WE ARE ONE*” togetherness, with Lay and Clergy participation. Congratulations to the SCCLO members who were elected to serve as Officers of the SEDLO.

Our Oratorical Contestant, Ms. Madison Brown, was the third-place winner at the SEDLO Oratorical Contest. Sis. Denise Ravenel (Edisto District) was the 1st Runner Up in the Adult Madame 7th Pageant and Sis. Erika Brown (Beaufort District) was the 3rd Runner Up in the Young Adult Madame 7th Pageant. Sis. Samantha Ervin (Charleston District) was also a Madame 7th Queen.

We engaged in the support of Allen University by providing a \$1500 scholarship to a freshman who is a member of the South Carolina Conference and presented financial support to Allen University.

We supported outreach efforts by presenting a financial gift to the following Mission Churches: *Edisto District* - Greater Bethel AME Church, Edisto, The Reverend Krystal Campbell, Pastor. *Charleston District* - New Hope AME Church, St. George, The Reverend Clinton Hall, Pastor. *Beaufort District* - Ebenezer AME Church, Point South, The Reverend Rose Kitty, Pastor.

To the Presidents of the Districts of the South Carolina Annual Conference: *Edisto District* - Sister Jackie Williams, *Charleston District* - Sister Patty Britt-Pooser, *Beaufort District* - Sister Patricia Gabe, and in the Sweet Spirit of Sister Betty White, thank you for your leadership and your followship.

We will continue to partner with the other Components of the South Carolina Conference by working together and supporting one another.

It is our prayer that God will continue to guide, lead, and order our steps in the way *He* want the South Carolina Conference Lay Ministry to go.

May God richly bless you as we continue living a global witness ministry that transforms, transcends, and liberates.

Respectfully submitted,

The South Carolina Conference Committee on Lay Activities

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Dr. Myra Haney Singleton, President

Sisters: Sandra A. Anderson, A. Marie Goff (in memory), Barbara Parrott, Barbara Taylor, Jacqueline Green, Kyilea Griffin, Tara Simmons, Dorothy Simmons Smalls, Vennie Mitchell, Scarlett Reid, Antionette Kinsey, Beverly Brown, Brenda Bennett, Lottie Barnes Witherspoon, Chassidy Terry, Faye S. Simmons, Hazel Parson Starks, Barbara Laurie, Francine Morrison, Sandra Glanton, DeMia Carson, and Samantha Ervin.

Salutations: Greetings to Bishop Samuel L. Green Sr., Seventh Episcopal District Presiding Bishop, Episcopal Supervisor Phyllis N. Green, and the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we the South Carolina Conference Branch Women's Missionary Society beg leave to make this report:

Report: At the direction of the Episcopal leadership, we placed emphasis on expanding the Sustainable Development Goals. The leaders of the SCCB WMS attended Episcopal meetings to receive communication about policies, programs, and recommendations.

The theme, *Called to Serve*, was used to frame our annual goals as the cabinet of conference officers renewed their passion for the work. We collaborated to develop plans, and activities for the continuance of the work of Missions. In keeping with the SCCB WMS Operation Touch a Life initiative, we sought to expand our witness for Christ through community partnerships. We established a new partnership with the Charleston County McKinney-Vento program to provide support for students and their families, inside and outside the school walls. Because Heart Disease is prevalent in African American women, the SCCB WMS continued our partnership with the American Heart Association to create opportunities for awareness. The SCCB WMS also participated in HeartWalk and promoted the Move More and Water Challenge. We also partnered with the Lowcountry Orphan Relief, My Sister's House and the Mom Demand Action (MDA) and promoted the Moms in Prayer (MIP) Initiative. What follows are some additional highlights and accomplishments of the 2022-2023 conference year: Refocusing, Repositioning, and Equipping Ourselves to Serve the Present Age was the theme of the annual training institute.

To enhance communication, the official SCCB WMS Newsletter, Mission Matters, was utilized to disseminate pertinent details, updates, and announcements. As Social Action is a vital component of the WMS, we have been highly engaged with efforts to promote voter registration and we promoted the Connectional WMS topics of focus and special initiatives. Considering the unprecedented reports of gun violence and racial injustices that have plagued the nation, we created opportunities for engagement through utilizing virtual platforms for sharing sessions, conference calls, emails and other forms to communication. The SCCB WMS weekly prayer calls have continued because the best position to assume is prayer. We embraced the next generation to allow the Young Adult Missionaries to be involved in the work. They are influential in supporting the WMS by lending their technological skills, voices, and gifts in producing programming, services, activities, and special events. To affirm our efforts, the SCCB WMS was awarded two awards at the Seventh Episcopal WMS Retreat: Highest number of New WMS Members and the highest number new Young Adult Members recruited. We also represented the SCCB WMS at the 20th Connectional WMS Quadrennial Convention in support of our Episcopal WMS/YPD leadership.

We were also engaged in supporting the mission of education through the adoption of schools, mentoring students, volunteering to support our youth in accord with the BIG MAK program. We visited the sick, elderly, bereaved, and those who are challenged with issues of life. We supported outreach efforts, including mission churches, March of Dimes, Relay for Life, Komen Race for the Cure, Toys for Tots, Lowcountry Food Bank, WMS Foundation, Adopt a Senior Program, Allen University, Jones-Goff homeless ministry support, the Period

Project, SCCB YPD Sneaker Ball, and various youth empowerment initiatives. On behalf of the SCCB WMS, I am pleased to give an account of our efforts and report that, because of the grace of God, we have continued the rich legacy of missions in keeping with the Connectional WMS Theme: *God's Commission, Our Mission, Our Calling*. To God be the Glory for the great things he has done! As we are called to strengthen our faith and sent to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ by service and witness in the world, thank you for the opportunity to serve the South Carolina Conference Branch Women's Missionary Society for such a time as this.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Myra Haney Singleton
South Carolina Conference Branch Women's Missionary Society

Recommendations:

1. Promote the formation of partnerships with agencies involved in addressing domestic violence, eradicating poverty, gender equality, health disparities, hunger, gun violence, and quality education as well voter registration.
2. Participate in intentional outreach efforts through the Operation Touch a Life and the Adopt a Senior initiatives.
3. Engage and support the Social Action initiatives to address gun violence, racial inequality, and discrimination.
4. Recruit and mentor the next generation, the Young Adult Missionaries (YAMs).

YOUTH MINISTRIES

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chairperson: Sis. Tara Simmons

Members: Loretta Gadsden, Barbara Stanley, Megan Doctor, Sebrena Smalls, Alisa Allen, Evelyn Bryant, Sylvia Summers, Timothy Summers, Donna Black, Chassidy Terry, Rontrell Matthews.

Salutations: Greetings to Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate, Sis. Phyllis N. Green, Supervisor, and all the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, “And are we yet alive to see each other’s face!”

Report:

Great is thy Faithfulness! We the SCCB YPD continue to “Power up” (Romans 9:17) while doing God’s work. We started our conference year with our planning meeting in conjunction with the WMS. Vonda Evans from the American Heart Association spoke to our young people about the dangers of vaping. Our YPDers were so inspired, they made a video to share with the American Heart association to help spread awareness about the dangerous effects of vaping.

The young people have participated in numerous activities this conference year.

We held a Night of Thanks during Thanksgiving where our young people and directors were able to talk about the things they are thankful for as we reflected on the scripture 1Thessalonians 5:18, “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

During Christmas, we went Caroling to the Heartland Rehabilitation Center and donated fruit baskets, toiletries, and goodies to the residents and staff. We donated blankets to the less fortunate, donated toys to the Charles Webb center, adopted an Angel Tree family, volunteered at the Lowcountry Orphan Relief and mailed cards to recovering soldiers at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland.

We held a “Home for the holidays” via zoom and our Facebook page for our YPDers to spread Christmas cheer and fellowship through God’s word.

The South Carolina Conference held our annual training for our directors and young people. For the Martin Luther King Day of Service, the young people volunteered at the Sandalwood Food pantry, fed the community, cleaned the church, read to the seniors, cleaned the grounds at the Jenkins Institute and planted flowers. During the Souper Bowl of Caring, we were able to donate 2,000 lbs of nonperishable food items and \$2,000 in monetary donations to organizations in need. Our young people participated in the Connectional Self-Denial week entitled “Speak Life” and made videos for each day addressing the self-denial topics.

We were elated to be able to attend the 30th Annual YPD retreat in person. South Carolina conference was recognized for having the highest number of registrants along with the highest amount of food items donated. Our very own Makayla Wilson received the Unsung hero award for her hard work and commitment to the 7th Episcopal YPD.

The SCCB YPD participated in the Aspire 2023 Leadership Congress. Several of our YPDers participated in the Fashion/ talent show and the basketball tournament.

We held a “Saturday Night Live; Green Table Talk” and provided a platform for our young people to talk and ask questions about YPD, the AME church, school or whatever was on their mind. We were blessed to have some of our OPDerS and conference presidents interact with our YPDers. Our young people enjoyed game nights, prayer calls and several “Bible Talk” series with Rev. Dante Kenley, and Rev. Dr. Courtney Colleton.

With God’s amazing grace, we were able to register 52 persons to attend the 20th YPD Quadrennial Convention in Orlando Florida. Our YPDers participated in the Bible Bowl, Know Your Church, and Growing Green competition. We thank Bishop Samuel L Green, Sr., for making it possible for our YPDers to attend Disney while in Orlando. What an incredible experience it was for our young people!

The young people have been very busy this conference year and we pray that we have left an impact on our communities and those we have served. We have had an amazing year and we can truly say “All we have needed thy hands have provided!” We will continue to “Grow, Glow, and Go for Christ” as we continue to follow God’s Plan.

We would like to thank the Beaufort, Charleston, and Edisto Area Presiding Elders, Pastors, WMS chairpersons, Laity and all components of the AME Church for their support and love throughout this conference year. We especially thank the SCCB YPD officers and Area Directors for a prodigious job this conference year.

Recommendations:

1. Each local church in the SC Conference to create a mental health ministry for youth that would serve as an avenue for our young people to have a safe place for comfort and reassurance. Promote health ministry to help with childhood obesity and diabetes, as well as promote healthy eating and exercise.
2. Each local church to create a reading/literacy program to help children with reading deficiencies.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Simmons, Chairperson

CHRISTIAN DEBUTANTE AND MASTERS COMMISSION

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Sister Sebreana S. Smalls, Conference Commissioner
Reverend Leon R. Maxwell, Associate Conference Commissioner

Members: Sisters Aleatha Brown, Edisto Area Chairperson; Norma Cureton, Charleston Area Chairperson, Mary J. Johnson – Beaufort Area Chairperson, Vivian Porter, Gerinda Doctor, Barbara Stanley, Ruth Grant, and Scarlette Reid

Salutations: To the Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church – The Right Reverend Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr., to Sister Phyllis N. Green – Supervisor of the Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, to Sister Latoya Dennison, Episcopal CDMC Commissioner, to the Presiding Elders of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference: Rev. Dr. Norvel Goff Sr., Rev Dr. Allen W. Parrott, and Rev Phillip C. Anderson and their Spouses. To Connectional and Episcopal Officers on all Levels, Clergy, and their spouses and the Pastors and Laity of the South Carolina Conference: We, the Committee Members of the *Christian Debutante and Masters Commission*, greet each of you in the joy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Through much deliberation, we beg leave to make this report:

Report: *“O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together” Psalm 34:3*

Reverend Maxwell and I thank God for the opportunity to serve as the Christian Debutante Master Commissioner and Co-Commissioner along with a great team of commissioners of the South Carolina Conference. Our first virtual session with the young people was held on Saturday, April 1, 2023, via Zoom. Despite the challenges of this year, the CDMC continues to do what God has called us to do.

This year we continued teaching principles and doctrines of Christian Education as outlined in the guidelines of this ministry. We held monthly virtual sessions. We created an environment for the spiritual growth and development of our youth through the exploration of “spiritual gifts,” available resources and remembrances that will guide, instruct, and instill Christ-like attributes in them. Furthermore, we resolved to work collaboratively and diligently in fulfilling our commitment to *“creating a future worthy of our past.”*

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 8:20
Although participation has been low, we continued to encourage Pastors, Commissioners, and Parents to allow the children to participate in the CDMC ministry. In doing so, they will become more knowledgeable about who Jesus Christ is, encourage others to become a part of God's family and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As our Debutantes and Masters completed the **Rites of Passage** and prepared to enter another chapter in their lives, we want to say Congratulations and for them to continue to put God first in all their endeavors.

Reverend Leon Maxwell and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., and Supervisor Phyllis N. Green, for their continuous love and support to the South Carolina Conference Ministry of CDMC.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sister Sebreana S. Smalls, South Carolina Conference CDMC Commissioner
Reverend Leon R. Maxwell, South Carolina Conference Co-Commissioner

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. We recommend that we continue to support the mission and goals of the Christian Debutant Master Commission.
2. All Young People **should** consider getting vaccinated before participating.
3. Have Parents sign a **Liability Form** before young people participate in the CDMC.
4. To have an increase in Youth participation in the conference.
5. Debutantes and Masters should participate as a Sub-Debutante or Sub-Master for at least one year prior to becoming a Debutante or Master.
6. Local Commissioners must take a more active role in preparing all participants with the assigned course materials listed in the CDMC Study Guide (*The Lord's Prayer, Psalm 23, Beatitudes, Pledge, Dedication, Parts of the Sanctuary, etc.*); and,
7. To have parents work along with the Local Commissioners in preparing their child(ren) with the assigned materials in the CDMC Study Guide.

SONS OF ALLEN

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Arnold A. Gordon

Members: Brothers: Robert Campbell, Clarence Wiggins, William McCoy, Leroy Linen Jr., Sidney Grey, Clarence Jackson, Richard Brownlee, Ben Mitchell, Jerome Goode

Salutations:

Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the South Carolina Conference Sons of Allen, beg leave to make this report:

Report: It is with great pleasure that we the South Carolina Conference Sons of Allen wish to thank you for the opportunity to serve the South Carolina Conference for the 2022-2023 Conference Year.

We, proudly share the following stewardship of the South Carolina Conference Sons of Allen Ministry:

We were blessed to host the 2023 Annual Sons of Allen Retreat at Greater Macedonia AME Church where Bishop Green was the keynote speaker, established an ongoing scholarship earmarked for Burke High School male students that achieve the Scholastic Requirements, establish a peer mentoring program for young men, host and sponsored a Holiday food & cloth giveaway. Establish a male lead Worship & Fellowship service, revise and establish new security protocols to ensure safe sanctuary environment and assist citizens with home repair and improvements.

We have been able to assist schools within the Beaufort County with school supplies and mentoring services. We have continued our Adopt-a-Highway Initiative. The SCCSOA participated in food drives and other distributions.

It is with our deepest Sympathy and Heartfelt sorrow that the South Carolina Conference mourned the loss of the Beaufort District Chapter Coordinator Bro. Lloyd Jones.

The Sons of Allen are going beyond the four walls of the church to do Ministry. We are taking on the notion of building a community of men one at a time.

Recommendations:

1. Continue to find avenues to bring males to Christ.
2. To increase participates in local units and district chapters.
4. Continue outreach ministries that goes beyond the four walls of the church.
5. Establish a scholarship to provide a college education for young black men.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. Arnold A. Gordon, SCCSOA Branch Coordinator

Bro. Richard Brownlee, SCCSOA Branch President

Bro. Kevin Simmons, SCCSOA Vice-President

Bro. Thaddeus D. Smith, SCCSOA Branch Secretary

Bro. Robert L. Campbell, SCCSOA Treasurer

WOMEN IN MINISTRY

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Rev. Yvonne B. Gregg, M.Div. Soth Conference WIM Coordinator,

Members: Reverends: Lorraine Bradley, Albertha Brown, LaShaun Flagg, Shantay N. Fludd-Bowers, E. J. Milligan, Hope C. Rivers, Rose Goodwater-Richardson, Cora L. Singleton, Spavarie Taylor.

Salutations: Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the SCCWIM, beg leave to make this report.

Report: The South Carolina Annual Conference Women in Ministry continued to meet the call to ministry in and outside of the walls of the local churches. On our three districts these ministries include but are not limited to, afterschool programs, the ministry of Saving African American Males or SAAM, between the ages of six and fifteen through mentoring and developing leadership skills. We have also provided CPR training, support to children whose parents are incarcerated and donated needed items to the Florence Crittenton home for unwed mothers. There was also outstanding support given to Senior Ministry for meetings, events, etc.. Our outreach Food Banks and/or Health ministries are resources that have well served our surrounding communities. We have been steadfast in praying for, making visits, giving cards and monetary gifts to the sick, homebound, and those hospitalized. Some of our churches have undergone renovations and two mortgages have been paid off. On the Conference level condolences and financial gifts were sent to those who lost Mother or Father. Financial Retirement gifts were given to our retiring female pastor Rev. Cora L. Singleton.

Rev. Irene Denson Local Elder at Emanuel AME West Ashley received the SCAC Jarena Lee award for 2022. Our SEDWIM Conference/Retreat was held this year May 19-20, 2023, at Bishop Memorial AME. Columbia, SC. Rev. Rodella Burns, pastor.

We thank God for the leadership of Dr. Mary Rhodes and the Episcopal officers, our conference officers and the exemplary work of our female pastors who diligently seized the opportunities to serve, to save souls and to lift the name of Jesus in all that we say and do.

Recommendations:

1. Recognize and support women in ministry as an integral part of the AME Church
2. Reach out to all women and men to join us as associate members of WIM.
3. Continued support of Allen University and the White Oak Conference center.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Committee on Women In Ministry

Rev. Yvonne B. Gregg, M.Div., SCACWIM Coordinator

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Dr Herbert L. Jenkins Sr.

Members: Reverends: Ashanti Brown, Andre Thornhill, Tremayne Bowman, Sinclair Frasier, Lashaun Flagg, Tremayne Bowman Sr., Tradd Williams

Sisters: Megan Doctor, Vernelle Lee, Kyilea Griffin, Lakesha Price, Aaliyah Gethers

Salutations: Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders, and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the Committee on **Young Adult Ministry**, beg leave to make this report:

Report: All over, young adults are striving to serve in greater capacity. Our desires for service to the Lord are deepening, and many across this Conference and many other Conferences desire to create lasting, impacting ministries for the sake of Kingdom Building. Both the Beaufort and Charleston Districts are preparing to reorganize and engage our communities in community service. They recognize the importance of the work of Young Adults and will strive for a rebranding that will make their organizations even stronger than before. The Chair of the Young Adult Ministry will work alongside both districts to further organize, and all three will collaborate on greater efforts of ministry and service. This year, the YAM will meet on the Saturday of the South Carolina Annual Conference and donate needed items to a fellow Young Adult who has a ministry that supports women who have been abused and traumatized. Also, in this meeting, we will collect all pertinent information from young adults in the South Carolina Conference.

Edisto District Report is as follows:

1. We linked with Jones-Goff street Ministry to feed the community
2. Worked Edisto District YPD Thanksgiving porch ministry
3. Donated Packed shoeboxes for Charles Webb Development Center with YPD
4. Each of our active YAMs now hold local positions within their church/ District
5. Partnered with Alcohol Anonymous Support System
6. Traveled with the Bishop to Philadelphia and VA
7. More YAMs were able to attend Aspire with the help of our Presiding Elder and local church
8. Sponsored food and drinks (Grill) for the Women in Ministry Community Wide Yard sale
9. Worked along with Lay on every level of the AME
10. Rev. Dr. Herbert Jenkins, holistic virtual ministry, The Journey to Wholeness, provides weekly inspirational real-life conversations with everyone in every age range, bridging the gap and seeking healing
11. Young Adult representation to the YPD Quadrennial
12. One of our YAMs is the District Bible study coordinator

Respectfully Submitted,

Recommendations:

1. Collaborate as a Conference YAM for worship, Bible Study, and Outreach
2. Request that Young Adults serve in leadership capacities in their local church and Presiding Elder Districts.
3. Seek avenues to create a young adult and youth-focused AME Church
4. Create a safe space for men to converse about family life, children, and their unique challenges

CHURCH SCHOOL

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Shirley W. Pinckney

Members: The Reverends: John Smalls, Jerome Wilson, Patricia Vanderhurst, Eugene Collins, Latanya Smalls, Robert Gordon, Cecelia Jenkins, Emmie Williams

Brother: Carl Love

Sisters: Sandra Middleton, Carla Jones, Lillie Heyward, Dorothy Wiley, Zelphair Grant, Lottie Witherspoon, Blanche Fowler, Annette Story, Yolaunda Aiken

District Superintendents: Brother Wayne Shider, Beaufort; Sister Blanche Fowler, Charleston; Sister Marilyn Lee, Edisto

Salutation:

Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference; we, the **SC Church School**, beg leave to make this report:

Report

The Beaufort, Charleston, and Edisto districts' church schools of the South Carolina Annual Conference provide individuals with opportunities and resources to enhance the life of the whole person. The mission is to continue to develop, monitor, and enhance frameworks for teaching, training, and nurturing of all age groups through the study of God's Word, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and educational strategies and goals.

The 2022-23 highlights of the church school are as follows:

1. Conference and district superintendents and personnel provided encouragement, training, teaching, and service for intentional and organic ministry.
2. Emphasis:
 - a. Christian teachings and principles for all ages applicable and relevant toward personal and spiritual growth and development
 - b. Attendance and active participation in church school and other SED, district, and local CED events.
 - c. Reporting and encouraging Superintendents and teachers to enlighten students of the lessons' expectations and importance. Churches recognized or awarded accomplishments of persons of all ages. Suggestions for improving lesson delivery with the use of technology, role playing, and creativity.

Each district presented a unique Church School or Christian Education Convention:

The Beaufort District – Church School Convention was held on June 24, 2023, Hendersonville Elementary School, Walterboro, SC; Theme: “Following the Path of Jesus to Deal with Satan: Inner Strength from the Word, Knowledge of Self, and

One's Destiny," Matthew 4:1-10. The Elder's Challenge, Rev. Phillip Anderson, Presiding Elder of Beaufort District, and The Celebration of the Preached Word: The Rev. Edward Alston, Pastor of Queen's Chapel, Hilton Head, SC. Other activities, including workshops, games, food, and fun, were all aimed at understanding what to do when confronted by Satan and applying the Word of God when being tempted to sin: "What Color is Temptation?" "Jesus' Battles with the Devil." "Temptation Challenges." "When Am I Most Vulnerable to Temptation?" "Playing Russian Roulette with your Health," and "The Kahoot Challenge."

The Charleston District – Church School Convention was held on June 23, 2023, Holly Hill Elementary School, Holly Hill, SC, with 209 children and adults in attendance. Theme: "That's C. A. P. (Christ Always Providing)," Philippians 4:19.

Workshop Sessions: "CAP through Technology - Closing the generational gap in technology for Grandparents and grandchildren;" "CAP through Church School Lessons - Creative ways to teach Church School;" "CAP through Crafts - Learning scriptures and making 'scripturelopes';" "CAP Mental and Spiritual Health;" "CAP STEM" – (Science, Technology, Environment, and Math): young people hands on training with actual working robots through the Berkeley County School District STEM'S program. The Elder's Challenge, Rev. Dr. Allen W. Parrott, Presiding Elder of Charleston District. The convention concluded with "CAP through Knowledge of God's Word" - Bible Bowl Trivia.

The Edisto District – Christian Education Convention, held on June 23, 2023.

Theme: "Know, Grow, Sow," Colossians 1:10. Persons of all ages and components participated. Inspiring Words: "The Elder Speaks" by Rev Dr. Norvel Goff, Sr., Presiding Elder of Edisto District, focusing on the district's physical and spiritual growth and development. The model church school was highlighted and the workshops centered on participants' safety: "Safety First," "Personal Safety," "Driving While Black," and "Let's Talk: Enhancing our Church School and Worship Experience Since Returning to our Churches." The convention closed with "Remembering the Emanuel Nine/and Survivors," "Blessings of the Youth," and the 8th Annual Carolyn W. Singleton Spelling Bee Awards Ceremony (Awards presented from May 27th Spelling Bee)

Recommendations:

- District level church school continues to create, develop, and implement strategies for increased students' participation
- All local church school to implement alternative learning opportunities for all ages, including training for new teachers and those who are uncomfortable using social media platforms
- Local church to create or utilize, as an investment, the services of the technical team to enhance the church school programs

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Shirley W. Pinckney, Chair, and the Church School Committee

PRISON MINISTRY

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Eugene Collins, Sr.

The Reverends: Samuel J Haney, Jr. Melvin Hunter, Thornell Thompson, Debra Green, Patricia Vanderhurst, Joanne Nesbitt

Brothers: Cleveland Holmes

Sisters: Zelphair Grant, Christine Gaddist, Vylaria James, Jeannie Rivers, Delores McCants, and Nancy Deveaux

Salutations: Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the Prison Ministry, beg leave to make this report:

Report

Covid 19 pandemic, prison visitations are still enforced for visitors in both state and federal facilities. In spite of the Covid restrictions the Prison Ministry is still working as much as possible in 2022-2023.

Donations were made to the youth at CCEC at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. Books, composition, tablets, postage stamps, and envelopes were donated by various churches.

CCEC Chaplin, Rev. Malcolm Simpson, position has not changed due to Covid restrictions, he informed us previously due to protocol and Covid restrictions we are still not allowed to enter the facilities and volunteer. The Chaplin stated that as soon as restrictions are lifted, we will be able to resume activities with the youth.

Recommendations: The following recommendations are suggested for the 2022-2023 Conference year:

1. To implement “Re – Entry Program “in designated AME churches throughout the SC Annual Conference, to help reduce the recidivism rates of inmates returning from prison without adequate skills to become a productive member of society.
2. To explore possible options and resources available within our own AME church families to create a working program that can help released inmates achieve being a productive member of society.
3. To produce a record of persons certified and which prisons throughout the SC Annual Conference. To provide information about the differences in state and federal prisons ultimately transforming this information into becoming an AME handbook.
4. Establish meetings with Chair and Dean of the SC Conference Board of Examiners to meet with interested Ordained candidates and the Sons of Allen’s Presidents for members who are interested in partnering with Prison Ministry.
5. Continue to reach out to the local churches in the conference for members who would like to be a volunteer for the Prison Ministry.

Respectfully Submitted, Prison Ministry

HOSPITAL MINISTRY

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Jerome Wilson

Reverends: Charles Watkins, Jr., Brenda Thornhill, Mary Washington, Angela McGhee, John Smalls, LaShaun Flagg, Benjamin Dwight, Tradd Williams, Biner Lawyer-Green

Brothers: Lawrence Bryan

Sisters: Ophelia Williams, Barbara Robinson, Scarlett Reid, Dorothy Wiley, Marjorie White, Ineather Thompson, Teresa Hart, Kathleen Snooks

Salutations:

Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, we, the Hospital Ministry, beg leave to make this report:

Report:

The Hospital Ministry strives to provide encouragement to patients who have been admitted to a hospital, rehab center, and other healthcare facilities through in-person visitation or utilizing other communication platforms. During the past several years, in-person visits were limited due to the COVID-19 virus protocols. However, the Lord has blessed us that the infection rate has declined so that we are no longer classified as being in a pandemic, but an endemic, and we are currently able to resume in-person visits.

We should take precaution, however, that even though South Carolina's infection and hospital admission rate is low, according to the CDC, the trend shows that there is a slight increase in the hospital and death rate, [CDC COVID Data Tracker: Vaccinations in the US](#).

We therefore make the following recommendations:

Respectfully Submitted, committee on Hospital Ministry

Recommendations:

1. Continue to follow CDC and facility's posted policy.
2. Facilities that do not require wearing a face covering, use godly judgment.
3. Consult your healthcare provider about COVID-19 and other vaccines.

MINISTERS' SPOUSES, WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS ORGANIZATION + PK'S

South Carolina Annual Conference

Mrs. Viola E. Brown, President

Members include Spouses of Ordained Clergy

To: The Right Reverend Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr.

Presiding Prelate

Seventh Episcopal District

Mrs. Phyllis N. Green

Episcopal Supervisor

Reverend Phillip Anderson and Mrs. Sandra Anderson of the Beaufort District; Reverend Dr. Allen Wayne

Parrott and Mrs. Barbara Parrott of the Charleston District; Reverend Dr. Norvel Goff, Sr., of the Edisto District; Reverend Archie and Mrs. Linda Fair, host pastor and spouse of Greater St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church; Episcopal, Conference, and Local Leadership on all levels; Clergy, Spouses and Laity of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28 NKJV

Greetings!

The members of the South Carolina Conference Ministers' Spouses Widows and Widowers Organization Plus PK's, humbly submit this report.

We certainly thank God for our most gracious and innovative leadership in the persons of Bishop Green and Mrs. Phyllis N. Green. We continue to appreciate and admire your untiring leadership. Our hearts will forever be grateful for such selfless exemplary leaders.

We give special thanks to our Presiding Elders, our Area Consultants and Clergy families for your unwavering support the entire conference year as we continue to be vigilant knowing that Covid-19 still exist. We appreciate your continued support of our organization. The lingering effects of Covid and its variants are still causing us to do things very differently; however, we are striving towards a more functional reality for our organization.

Our members have continuously been involved in our various communities by individually and collectively volunteering our time and funds to the schools and various organizations. Our presence in the schools as volunteers, mentors and substitute teachers continue to have a very positive impact on the staffs and students.

We continue to support the 7th District in all its endeavors. We've concentrated our efforts in supporting one of our own members with monetary and clothing donations to the Mary Jones/A. Marie Goff Street Ministry to assist with helping homelessness. Our PK's have been recognized with monetary gifts for various milestones in their educational pursuits.

We've continued our quarterly meetings. During Black History Month, members highlighted our PK's of varying ages by recognizing their awesome accomplishments. We stay in touch by having innovative and meaningful monthly Prayer & Meditation conference calls. Our calls encourage male as well as female spouses to be involved. Implementation of Jubilee Pals, where spouses volunteer to stay in touch with our widows and Jubilee spouses is still ongoing. We extended support, comfort and compassion during our spouses and their families times of bereavement. Finally, we've participated in conferences and retreats on the Episcopal and Connectional levels.

Recommendations:

1. We recommend that we continue to support the mission and goals of the SED MSWAWO Plus PK's.
2. We recommend that we continue to impact our communities through outreach projects.
3. We recommend that we continue to promote activities to foster unity in the Clergy Family.
4. We recommend that we continue to strengthen our bonds with our widows.

Humbly Submitted,

South Carolina Conference MSWAWO Plus PK's

Mrs. Viola E. Brown (President), Mrs. Thelma Alston (1st Vice President), Mrs. Linda G. Fair (2nd Vice President),

Mrs. Linda Brown (Recording Secretary), Mrs. Evelyn Smith (Asst. Recording Secretary), Mrs. Kelli A. Jenkins (Corresponding Secretary), Mrs. Ida Berry (Treasurer), Mrs. Norma J. Felder (Financial Secretary), Mrs. Gloria Robinson (Parliamentarian), Mrs. Vivian Thompson (Historian), Mrs. Frances Young (Worship Director), Mrs. Andretta Manning (PK Coordinator), Mrs. Sandra Anderson (Beaufort District) and Mrs. Barbara Parrott (Charleston District) Consultants.

MEMORIALS

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Harold Jefferson

Reverends: James Peterson, Bernard Brown, Cora Singleton, Michael Clark, Barbara Ling-Terry, Tanzala Shanklin

Brother: Randy Simmons

Sisters: Viola Smalls, Zina Leftenant, Viola Glover, Sylvia Summers, Genia Wilson, Mary Glenn, Margie Washington

Salutations:

To: The Right Reverend Samuel Lawrence Green Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District, Supervisor Phyllis Nadine Green, Presiding Elders, Delegates and members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

We, the members of the Memorial Committee beg leave to make this report. We pause to memorialize our fallen comrades, those who have been called from labor to reward. They have placed their swords in the sands of time to study war no more. They have moved their membership from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant where they will abide with Jesus forevermore.

Deceased Members

Bishop Richard Franklin Norris

Episcopal Supervisor Sylvia Ross Talbot

Sister Lula Shaw Cleckley

Reverend Eugene Lebby

Reverend Clarence Rivers

Humbly Submitted,

The Committee on Memorials

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

South Carolina Annual Conference

Chair: Reverend Eric S.C. Manning

Reverends: Presiding Elders: Norvel Goff, Sr., Allen W. Parrott, Phillip C. Anderson

Reverends: Dr. Myra Meggett, Archie Fair, Lorraine Bradley, Dr. Jon R. Black, Jeannine Smalls

Salutations:

Greetings to Bishop Green, Supervisor Green, Presiding Elders, and the members of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference. We, the Disaster Preparedness, beg leave to make this report:

Report:

What is a Disaster?

Disasters can have varying scopes and causes, ranging from those caused by human actions to those triggered by natural events. These can include floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and epidemics. It's important to remember the impact of disasters can result in positive and negative changes for affected communities. Each congregation must take the time to understand the potential risks their congregation may face and plan accordingly.

The impact of any event depends not only on the cause of the crisis but also on the environment in which the crisis comes. Many variables affect the community's ability to return quickly to everyday life: population density, time of year, the frequency with which such events occur, lead time before the crisis strikes, and whether the event affected neighboring communities.

The assumption is that disasters will occur. There will always be devastating events that catch us off-guard and overwhelm the resources of churches, families, communities, and economic and governmental systems.

Understanding the Disaster Cycle

Disasters are often preceded by anticipatory periods, which are not characterized by clear starting or ending points. After a disaster, those involved tend to go through predictable stages. These stages are best understood as a continual cycle:

1. Critical incidents will vary in length and severity.
2. Emergency response occurs immediately after a disaster and can last minutes, hours, or days. This stage includes search and rescue, emergency shelters and feeding programs, grief counseling, pastoral care, volunteer services, and reestablishing contact with family and friends.

3. Relief starts 12 to 72 hours after a disaster. It is characterized by debris removal and clean up, damage assessments, temporary repairs, applications for assistance, community needs assessment, decisions, and organization for recovery.
4. Long-term recovery begins three to five days after a disaster and can last months to years. This stage comprises permanent repairs and rebuilding, bureaucratic complications, volunteer projects, and agency coordination.
5. Mitigation and preparedness can help to lessen the severity of the impact of future events, increasing the speed and efficiency of rescue, assessment, and relief.

Respectfully Submitted,

Presiding Elders: Norvel Goff, Sr., Allen W. Parrott, Phillip C. Anderson

Reverends: Eric S. C. Manning, Myra Meggett, Archie Fair, Lorraine Bradley, Jon R. Black, Jeannine Smalls

Recommendations:

1. Each church should consider creating/developing a Congregational Preparedness Plan –
 - Creating a plan for congregational preparedness is a gradual and evolving process. It may not always be straightforward, but it develops naturally as the church and community explore its strengths and commitment to preparedness. The ideal outcome is for each congregation to have a thorough plan embraced, taught, and practiced by all members. The tasks below represent a suggested model a church community can follow to complete its unique preparedness plan.
 - Task #1: Team, Purpose, Vision, and Goals.
 - Task #2: Designate Members for the Response Team.
 - Task #3: Conduct a Disaster Risk Assessment with your insurance company.
 - Task #4: Inventory and document all assets of the church.
 - Task #5: Assess the current vulnerabilities of the plan and look for methods to reduce the identified risks.
 - Task #6: Identify partners, agreements, and other resources. Once they are identified, document them, keeping a copy on and off-site in case of disaster.
 - Task #7: Document your decision-making process. A well-documented decision-making process will ensure no critical time is lost during a disaster.
 - Task #8: Create a communication plan to inform members and church leadership of the status and next steps.
 - Task #9: Identify how the church will continue to operate during the recovery.
 - Task #10: Obtain congregational approval.
 - Task #11: Educate, practice, and review regularly.