

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District; **Mrs. Phyllis N. Green**, Episcopal Supervisor; **Presiding Elder Norvel Goff, Sr.** of the Edisto District; **Presiding Elder Allen W. Parrott** of the Charleston District; and **Presiding Elder Phillip Anderson** of the Beaufort District; Conference, Area and Local Leadership on all levels; **Pastors, Clergy and Lay people of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference.**

MINUTES OF THE 160TH SESSION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2023 OPENING BUSINESS SESSION

The opening of the 160th session of the South Carolina Annual Conference began with praise and worship brought by the South Carolina Annual Conference Praise Team. They encouraged the souls of the Mother Conference with songs of glory such as, *He's Worthy To Be Praised* and *Cant Nobody Do Me Like Jesus*. **First the first time since the Covid 19 Pandemic, the South Carolina Annual Conference, the Mother Conference, met within the walls of the church!** The conference congregated with joy at the site of **Greater St James AME Church** where the **Reverend Archie Fair** serves as pastor. To God be the Glory for all He has done!

At 8:00 am, the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference, under the leadership of the 125th Elected and Consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr. and Mrs. Phyllis N. Green, Episcopal Supervisor, was called to order.

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr. prayed at the altar, and stood to greet the members and guests of the South Carolina Conference. **Bishop Green** called for the **Organization of the Conference**. **Presiding Elder Norvel Goff** presented the following:

President of the Conference

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr.

Secretarial Staff

Reverend Dr. Herbert L. Jenkins Secretary

Reverend Leon Maxwell, Assistant Secretary

Reverend Lashaun Flagg, Assistant Secretary

A motion was made to approve the election of the secretarial staff by Reverend Dr Norvel Goff Sr. and seconded by Reverend Dr. Lawrence Gordon. The motion carried.

Statistician

Rev Dr Myra Meggett, Engrossing Secretary

Reverend L Vanessa Johnson, Assistant Statistician

Reverend Debra Green, Assistant Statistician

Conference Reporter

Reverend Emmy Williams

A motion was made to approve the election of statistician, and Conference Reporter by Presiding Elder Parrott and seconded by Reverend Dr. Kylon Middleton: the motion carried

Bishop Green appointed Rev Dr Lawrence Gordon as the Conference Dean of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference.

Presiding Elder Allen Parrott proposed the following:

Finance Committee:

Reverend Eric S.C. Manning, Chair

Presiding Elder Norvel Goff Sr. -Treasurer
Presiding Elder Phillip Anderson
Reverend Dr. Jon Black
Reverend Edward Alston
Reverend Dr. Kylon Middleton
Reverend Dr Myra Meggett
Sister Dorothy Haynes
Sister Lucille Kannick
Brother Leroy Linen

Presiding Elder Allen W. Parrott
Reverend Randolph Miller
Reverend Dr. Friendly J Gadson
Reverend Archie Fair
Reverend Dr Lawrence Gordon
Sister Jeannie Rivers
Sister Antonette Jamison
sister Patricia Parker
Brother Clarence Wiggins

A motion was made for approval of the Finance Committee by Presiding Elder Norvel Goff. It was seconded by Presiding Elder Phillip Anderson. The motion carried.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE:

Presiding Elder Phillip C. Anderson (Chair)

Edisto: Rev Dr Herbert L. Jenkins Sr, Rev Dr Myra Meggett

Charleston: Rev Yvonne Gregg

Beaufort: Rev Dr Jon Black, Rev Archie Fair

A Motion was made for the approval of the Judicial Committee by Presiding Elder Norvel Goff. It was seconded by Reverend Dr. Lawrence Gordon. The motion carried.

Ministerial Efficiency:

Reverend Eric S.C. Manning, Chair

Reverend Randolph Miller
Reverend Dr Kylon Middleton

Reverend Hope C. Rivers
Reverend Barbara L. Terry

***A Motion was made for the approval of the Ministerial Efficiency Committee by Presiding Elder Goff. It was Seconded by Presiding Elder Anderson. The motion carried.**

Once organized, **Bishop Green** immediately submitted the following names to the **Ministerial Efficiency Committee for retirement: The Reverends: Edward Alston, Eugene Collins Sr, Cora Singleton, Dr Charles Watkins, and Harold Jefferson.**

Presiding Elder Anderson presented the following names for Triers of Appeals*

Triers of Appeals:

Reverend Dr Allen W. Parrott,
Reverend Dr Lawrence Gordon
Reverend Shirley Pinckney

Reverend Leon Maxwell
Reverend Friendly Gadson

***A motion was made to approve said names for Triers of Appeals. The motion was made by Presiding Elder Anderson and seconded by Presiding Elder Parrott. the motion carried.**

Bishop Green shared with the South Carolina Conference what the Triers of Appeals does:

When clergy goes through the judicial process where they are referred due to charges against them, they go the Ministerial Efficiency Committee (except for sexual misconduct or harassment). If the charges are sustained, the accused will go Through the judicial committee to determine if a trial needs to be conducted. If the judicial Committee sustains and calls for a trial, the committee, made up of Itinerant Elders, will be prepared to serve during the trial. Their names are placed in a box and the accused, and the chair of the trial committee pull names until there are 12 jurors. Once they are identified then a trial is held. The accused can have legal counsel to defend them. The trial date will then be set. If the trial results in a guilty charge, the accused has the right to appeal the results. This moment is when Triers of appeals comes to action. The Discipline requires that the members of triers of appeals and two adjacent conferences (For South Carolina it will be the Palmetto and Northeast Conferences) committees would be impaneled and six triers would be selected from the three Annual Conferences, and they hear the appeal. You can only appeal what was discussed in the trial. You cannot bring in new evidence. If the triers of appeals sustain the verdict, the guilty party would next appeal would be through the judicial council. If the council sustains the guilty verdict, the guilty party can then appeal to the General conference and air out their dirty laundry there (conference laughter). The organization of conference continued:

Conference Trustees:

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Chair

Presiding Elder Norvel Goff Sr
Presiding Elder Phillip Anderson
Reverend Lawrence Gordon
Reverend William R. Jones
Reverend Toney Slater, Jr.
Reverend Randolph Miller
Referend Lorraine Bradley
Reverend Jon R. Black
Reverend James Mack
Brother Leon Alston

Presiding Elder Allen W. Parrott
Reverend Eric S.C. Manning
Reverend Herbert L. Jenkins, Sr.
Revered Myra Meggett
Reverend Kylon Middleton
Reverend Thornell Thompson
Reverend Friendly Gadson
Reverend Jeannine Smalls
Brother Clifford Jones
Brother Leroy Linen

Brother Charles Miller
Sister Ruby Martin
Sister Juanita Hill
Sister Lucille Kannick

Brother Clarence Wiggins
Sister Theresa Gibson
Sister Jeannie Rivers
Sister Patricia Parker

A motion was made to accept the names of the Conference Trustees by Presiding Elder Anderson and seconded by Presiding Elder Parrott. The motion carried.

Marshalls:

1. Rev Carolyn Fields,-Chief Marshall

3. Rev James Peterson

5. Rev Tradd Corinthian Williams

7. Rev Lubert Pressley

9. Rev Stanley Nelson

11. Sister Arletta Sumter

2. Rev Andre Thornhill

4. Rev Kortez Chisolm

6. Rev Melvin Hunter

8. Rev Samuel Haney Jr

10. Sister Kylea Griffin

12. Brother Jerome McGill

A Motion was made for the acceptance of the Marshalls by Presiding Elder Goff and seconded by Presiding Elder Parrott. The motion carried.

A motion was made to have all literary reports to be placed and made available online by Presiding Elder Goff. It was seconded by Presiding Elder Parrott. The motion carried.

Presiding Elder Goff made a motion for the Annual Conference Guide to Constitute the agenda and serve as a guide for the conference. It was seconded by Presiding Elder Parrott. The Motion carried.

Bishop Green gave the Boundaries of Conference: Bishop Green called us to work within the boundaries and don't get out of bounds (conference laughter). The entire church will serve as the boundaries of the conference.

The Presiding Elders through Reverend **Dr Allen Parrott** thanked **Bishop Green** for the guide book "**Releasing the Power Within**". The guide will serve us today and will be an historic piece for years to come. The Elders expressed their appreciation of his creativity and leadership. This guide is our final annual conference booklet with Bishop Green. Bishop Green replied in hopes that we will keep the guidebook on our shelves and will be reminded that he came this way. It was also printed in house from the 7th district office (conference applause). He is holding his tears until General Conference and will try not to get too sentimental.

Bishop Green called for transfers to the South Carolina conference, they are as follows:

The Reverend Rubin smalls from Palmetto Conference to South Carolina Conference

The Reverend Timmie Curry from the Georgia Annual conference 6th District to the South Carolina conference

The Reverend Dr Courtney Colleton from the Piedmont Conference to The South Carolina Annual Conference

The Reverend Dr Phil Flowers from the Central Conference to the South Carolina Conference

The Reverend Larry Harris from the Northeast Conference to the South Carolina Conference

The Reverend Henry Gabe from the Central Conference to the South Carolina Conference

The Reverend Sinclair Fraiser from the Palmetto Conference to the South Carolina Conference

Bishop Green called for the South Carolina Conference Praise Team to Sing. They sang melodiously: *He's Already Done What He Said He Would Do*. After the selection, **Bishop Green then Called for the summary reports of the presiding Elders:**

Edisto District, Presiding Elder Norvel Goff Sr.

Amount brought to conference: \$221,374.00.

Elder Goff greeted the Conference after his report and called on the Edisto District to stand. The year was exciting both spiritually, financially, and physically due to growth. Churches have grown and gained in ministry and souls for Christ. **Elder Goff** thanked **Bishop Green** for the appointment to the Edisto district and for his leadership. Because of him, he has mastered the technology of the day. because of the leadership Bishop Green, the Seventh District is creating our very own Convention center. He celebrated in the fact that because of his leadership, Allen University is operating in the black. He thanked **Bishop Green** for his diligence in the challenges we face with our annuity and how he has worked to make us all whole again. He commended him for all that he has done through the years. He thanked Bishop Green for his work on the Democratic National Committee and how his life is a testament to the work of the church. With a full heart, he thanked God for the love of his life, **Sister A. Marie Goff**, and for the love of God that dwell within our Bishop, conference applause.

Bishop Green thanked Edler Goff for his leadership on the Edisto District. he never thought he would end his tenure here with the physical presence of **Sister A. Marie Goff** not among us. He expressed that he stands with and supports **Elder Goff** and all he does. On March 9th, we celebrate the retirement of Presiding Elder Goff. At the next annual conference, he will be requesting retirement from active ministry. We want to be there to celebrate him, and all God has done with him. Also, February 15th, 2024, we will celebrate the ministry of **Reverend Dr George Flowers** who retired as the Executive director of Global witness of the AME church. we have not celebrated his successful ministry. We will do so as a district and it will be in Charleston. We will have Founder's Day in Charleston this year. if the present pastor of Mother Emanuel will host us, we will be there. If he says no, the new pastor will say yes (conference laughter). We will be at

Mother Emanuel on the 16th and 17th. Bishop is looking forward to hearing the pipe organ and **Dr Wayne Singleton** playing it.

Charleston District: Presiding Elder Allen W. Parrott

Amount Brought to Conference: \$162,292.00

Elder Parrott spoke on behalf of his wife, **Sister Barbara Parrott**, and the pastors, officers, leaders, and members of the Charleston District. He thanked God for all that God has been doing on the district, and for the opportunity to serve. There will be some weeping and wailing at this Conference because of the love we have for God. He thanked the Presiding elders of the South Carolina Conference. He then thanked **Bishop Green** for his leadership and faithfulness. The Charleston district proclaims that we have a bishop that cares about the people, puts, God first, and loves us. we know it will be a long time before another Bishop comes with the love, concern, compassion, regard, and care for every member of this Episcopal District. You lift us when we fall and give us encouragement along the way. We are glad to be in the 160th session of the Mother Conference, our hearts are heavy because this will be the last annual conference with **Bishop Samuel L. Green Sr.** thank you for the untold hours you spend serving the lord. It does not yet appear what **Bishop Green's** future will be. There is no other Episcopal District like the 7th District, and we owe it to God and Bishop Samuel L. Green Sr. Wherever you are, you are our leader (Conference Applause)

Bishop Green thanked him for all he has done. He and **Presiding Elder Parrott** used to travel the church together. They are great friends for a long time. They even ran for Bishop at the same time. **Bishop Green** proclaimed that we missed a jewel because **Presiding Elder Parrott** should have become a Bishop when he ran.

Bishop Green encouraged the conference to come to Allen University's homecoming against Edward Waters. Every year they've been beating us, and we want to change that. **Bishop Frank Reid III** has already been talking noise. This year is a different year and our coaches are geared up to win. Those who come to the homecoming will be fed at the tailgate party.

Bishop Green welcomed **Dr Michael K, Bowie, candidate for Bishop and Revered Jimmie Williams III, candidate for the Judicial Council.** We will hear from them and others later on this afternoon.

Beaufort District: Presiding Elder Phillip Anderson

Amount brought to Conference: \$138,997.00

Presiding Elder Anderson for his wife, **Sister Anderson** and all of the Beaufort District to stand as he gave his greetings and report. He emphasized the joy he has because of the very fine pastors that serve with him. He thanked **Bishop Green** for the opportunity to serve, and they have been blessed by the membership of the Beaufort District. **Presiding Elder Anderson** spoke personally expressing how our Bishop has impacted greatly his spiritual life. He means more to **Presiding Elder Anderson and Sister Anderson** than he will ever know.

Bishop Green thanked **Presiding Elder Anderson and Sister Anderson** for their leadership, compassion, and love. Recently, he preached at his end of year celebration, and it was evident that he and his wife are loved (conference applause). He thanked them for their friendship, and he thoroughly enjoyed spending time with them.

Bishop Green reminded the conference that as soon as you submit your annuity, it goes to your account *immediately*. If you look at your account, you should already see the annual conference deposit to your account. In Beaufort you will see two: one in august 30th one on sept 5th. Don't get happy, the second deposit was an error (conference laughter). The office submitted funds to the Beaufort District accounts twice, it will be corrected, so there's no need to worry when you see the subtraction from your account.

Bishop told the Conference how much he loves the praise and worship of the South Carolina Conference. He encouraged us to worship with joy and expectation for what the Lord will do!

Bishop Green called for the **Report of the Board of Examiners** which was read by **Reverend Rev Dr Jon Black**. The report is as follows:

THE REPORT FOR THE CLASS ON ADMISSIONS

CLASS ON ADMISSION - ITINERANT ORDERS RECOMMENDATIONS:

We have examined these Licentiates as per Discipline, and respectfully recommend the following:

Brother Arkie Jamal Freeman, be admitted on trial and advance to class on first year studies in pursuit of Itinerant Orders. Bishop questioned Arkie freeman regarding the wastewater treatment center at our Convention Center, as brother Freeman is qualified and capable of managing and maintaining our water treatment facility. He offered him an opportunity to work on the grounds for and with the 7th district (conference applause). **The motion to approve Brother Arkie Freeman to be admitted on trial and advanced to the class on first year studies was made by Reverend Dr. Jon Black and seconded by Reverend Dr Lawrence Gordon. The motion carried.**

Sister Bertha J. Dantzler, be admitted on trial and advance to class on first year studies in pursuit of Itinerant Orders. Bishop Green asked her regarding her understanding of the educational requirements necessary to continue matriculating through the Board of Examiners and ordination. **The motion to approve Sister Bertha J. Dantzler to be admitted on trial and advanced to the class on first year studies was moved by Reverend Dr Jon Black, Seconded by Reverend Dr Lawrence Gordon. The motion carried.**

Brother Aaron Roland Washington, be admitted on trial and advance to class on first year studies in pursuit of Itinerant Orders. Bishop Green questioned him regarding the

requirements ensuring he understood what is expected of him in order to move forward and successfully matriculate through the board and be ordained. **The Motion for Brother Aaron Roland Washington be admitted on trial and advance to class on first year studies in pursuit of itinerant orders was made by Reverend Dr Jon black and was seconded by Reverend Eugene Collins. The motion carried.**

CLASS ON ADMISSION – LOCAL ORDERS RECOMMENDATIONS:

We have examined these Licentiatees as per Discipline, and respectfully recommend the following:

SISTER SYPHIO ARNETTA BEVERETT WHACK be admitted on trial and advanced to Class on First year studies in pursuit of Local Orders. Bishop Green asked if she surrendered her ordination papers and asked for a copy of it. He inquired of her time at Bethel and her knowledge of the AME church. **The motion was made by Reverend Dr Jon Black, it was seconded by Reverend Eugene Collins, the motion carried.**

SISTER CHERYL DENISE WIGFALL be admitted on trial and advanced to Class on First year studies in pursuit of Local Orders. The motion was made by Reverend Dr Jon Black and seconded by Reverend Dr Lawrence Gordon. The motion carried.

SISTER SUSAN LUCILLE HEYWARD be admitted on trial and advanced to Class on First year studies in pursuit of Local Orders. Upon receiving her credentials, Bishop Green inquired of her relationship with the AME church and asked about her priestly functions in the church. The motion was moved by Reverend Dr Jon Black and Seconded by Reverend Dr Lawrence Gordon. The motion carried.

BROTHER LATHADDUES LEON WILLIAMS be admitted on trial and advanced to Class on First year studies in pursuit of Local Orders. Bishop Green inquired of his work experience and certification (CDL) as he was looking for bus drivers for Allen University. He recalled when he achieved his CDL while serving as a pastor due to a CDL member of his church that refused to drive the bus and transport church members. Bishop Green taught us that as pastors, we sometimes need to be ready to be in place when others won't. The motion was made by Reverend Dr. Jon Black and seconded by Reverend Dr. Lawrence Gordon. The motion carried.

SISTER PEARL SINGLETON be admitted on trial and advanced to Class on First year studies in pursuit of Local Orders. Bishop Green questioned her regarding the process

and her understanding of it, ensuring she knew what was required and necessary for her to matriculate successfully and eventually be ordained. The motion was made by **Reverend Dr Jon Black** and seconded by **Reverend Dr Lawrence Gordon**. The motion carried.

Bishop Green reminded all candidates not to allow people to put "minister" in front of their name. He also reminded the guests and members of the South Carolina Conference that we, the AME church, usually allow people to enter through the District Conference as opposed to Christian Education Conventions or other meetings.

THE REPORT FOR THE CLASS ON FIRST YEAR STUDIES

CLASS ON FIRST YEAR STUDIES - ITINERANT ORDERS RECOMMENDATIONS:

We have examined these Licentiates as per Discipline, and respectfully recommend the following:

Jeffrey Previn Keith Graham be advanced to the Class on Second Year Studies in pursuit of Itinerant Orders. The motion was moved by Reverend Dr Jon Black, seconded by Reverend Dr Henry Borbor. The motion carried. Bishop Green questioned him extensively regarding the history of the AME church, homiletic preparation and its elements, church organization, and church administration.

Leslie Lenora Alston Graham be advanced to the Class on Second Year Studies in pursuit of Itinerant Orders. The motion was moved by Reverend Dr Jon Black and seconded by Reverend Dr Henry Borbor. The motion carried. Bishop Green questioned her regarding the history of the AME church, the Articles of Religion, the meaning of itinerancy in the AME church, and church administration.

Bishop Green expressed to **Brother Jeffrey and Sister Leslie Graham** that they have been recommended for ordination and to do so, they must show an understanding of both first- and second-year courses in the Board of Examiners. He explained that the questions he asked are filled with imperative knowledge for them. He advised the two of them regarding how to be successful in ministry: to love the congregation, respect the Bishop, Supervisor, Presiding Elder and all leadership, watch your leaders and don't get out of line with your leader. If you know your bishop, you will know what to do and do what is right. As a pastor, you may not like everyone, but you can still love them. This recommendation for their ordination is because the Elders and Board of Examiners see something great in both of them, never forget this.

Martina Jacobs be advanced to the Class on Second Year Studies in pursuit of Itinerant Orders. The motion was moved by Reverend Dr. Jon Black and seconded by Reverend Dr. Henry Borbor. The motion carried.

CLASS ON FIRST YEAR STUDIES – LOCAL ORDERS RECOMMENDATIONS

We have examined this Licentiate as per Discipline, and respectfully recommend the following:

Denise Johnson be advanced to the Class on Second Year Studies in pursuit of Local Orders. The motion was made by Reverend Dr. Jon Black and seconded by Reverend Dr Henry Borbor. The motion carried.

Reverend Dr Lawrence Gordon requested that the remainder of the board reports to be suspended until a later opportunity in the Conference Schedule. Bishop Green agreed to this, and asked the church to prepare for the opening worship service.

Bishop Green called for the participants of the opening worship. He then greeted visitors to the South Carolina Annual Conference:

The Reverend Joseph Hooper, New Jersey Annual Conference

The Reverend Whitney Castine, New Jersey Annual Conference

The Reverend Stephen Green, New York Annual Conference

Bishop Green called for all participants and pastors to change into their white robes and prepare for worship. Meeting adjourned at 10:29am

SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2023

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

The service of word and Sacrement began with the processional of program participants. the mother Conference and guests sang songs of power such as *And Are We Yet Alive* and *The Goodness of God*. our souls were stirred, and the conference exalted the Lord with adoration and love. The South Carolina conference broke out in praise to the lord, each worshipper exalting the lord for bringing us through and making a way for us. The spirit filled the room and our hearts.

Reverend Edward Alston preached the Annual Sermon, drawing homiletical resource from Psalms 94:17 MSG. His title: **Have you Considered How You Made it Through This Past Conference Year.**

Though finances are slim, and prices are rising, though there may be sickness and illness. God has still allowed us to make it this far. The grace of God has surrounded us this Annual Conference Year.

Points:

- 1) He protected the Israelites, and he protects us from our enemies.
- 2) He provides for each of us while in our wilderness.
- 3) God saved us from our own foolishness.

The preached word encouraged the Mother Conference to know that God's grace is sufficient for us and because of God's love, He will carry us through! We did not make it this far because of luck, we made it because the LORD blessed us!

The South Carolina Conference shared in communion together. Afterward, **Bishop Green** gave instruction for all to return for the afternoon session at 3pm. All lay delegates for the electoral college are to be present for instructions for the Election process on tomorrow.

The 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference Afternoon Business Session

The praise team of the South Carolina Annual Conference began promptly at 2:45pm, singing beautiful songs of the church such as *Thank You Lord, How Great is Our God*, and *I Love to Praise His Holy Name*. The Afternoon Business Session was called to order at 3:15 pm by **Bishop Samuel L. Green Sr., the presiding prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.**

Bishop Green called for those elected to serve on the Lay Electoral College of their church to stand. He inquired of the forms they are to receive from their pastor. These are credentials signed by the pastor and Presiding Elder of the church. if you do not have it, please see your Presiding Elder. If the delegate left it home, copies can be printed.

This conference will be electing 20 Delegates: 10 lay and 10 clergy. Persons running for Delegate must understand a few things: this is not an organized lay organization opportunity only. Any person who is lay that is 18 or older can run for delegate. You do not have to be a member of the organized lay to run. You must elect a young adult under the age of 35, and there must be at least one. There is no separate election for young persons. According to positive law, the Conference **MUST** vote for at least one young adult.

To avoid what occurred in the Palmetto Conference, **Bishop Green** called those running for General Conference Delegate to stand at Bishop Green's left. Those desiring to run for Alternate were asked to stand at Bishop Green's Right. Those seeking election were instructed to provide their names to the Secretarial Staff. **The names of those desiring to become a Delegate to the General Conference are as follows:**

Jeannie L. Rivers

Lucille Kannick

Patricia G. Parker

Kiara Brown-Simmons (28)

Nikole Rivers (23)

Sebrena Smalls

Leroy Linen

Patty Britt-Pooser

Jamesha J. Williams (34)

Darlene W. Ravenel

Kevin Simmons

Cleveland Frasier

Chassidy Terry (28)

Mark Johnson

Those running for the position of Alternate to the General Conference are as follows:

Alphonso Brown

Phillip Smith (30)

Tara Simmons

Barbara Blackwell

Deloris Bryant

Rose Myers

Josephine Freeman

Myrtle Robinson

Arletta Holmes-Sumter

Bishop Green instructed them to take their seats and declared that to run for Delegate or Alternate is now closed. The Ballot will be prepared based on the declared names today. These names ONLY will be voted on. The Conference is to vote at least one young Adult. If number 10 and 11 have the same number of votes, you cannot declare a winner based on alphabetical order. You must continue to ballot until one gets elected or one may voluntarily step out. if you are tied at nine and have the same votes then by alphabetical order, one will become number 10 and the election is over. We were all instructed to pray tonight, and elections will be held tomorrow. The floor was opened for questions regarding the Electoral College, there were none.

Bishop Green welcomed Candidates for Bishop and Judicial Council they are as follows:

The Reverend Dr. Micheal K. Bowie, Pastor of Mt Hermon, Miami Gardens, South Annual Conference Candidate for Bishop.

The Reverend Dr. Joseph Nathaniel Cousin, Atlanta North Georgia Annual Conference. Candidate for Bishop.

The Reverend Dr. Keith Donaldson David Lawrence, First AME Church, Atlanta North Georgia Annual Conference, Candidate for Bishop

The Reverend Jimmie Williams, Pastor, St James AME church, Miami Candidate for Judicial Council

Bishop Green encouraged the candidates to listen, look, and learn. Always believe that this is a God thing and not a man thing. If you depend on man, you will not make it. Depend on God. When men say "no", God says "yes". He encouraged them to keep moving forward and whatever he can do at the right time, Bishop Green will be at the door for them.

Bishop Green introduced the South Carolina conference to the 6th District President of RAYAC, Chico Gonzalez. He welcomed him to the conference. Bishop called for transition to the Sons of Allen program, where the Reverend Eugene Collins is the preacher. Bishop Noted that The Electoral College election will begin tomorrow at 2pm.

The 160th Session of the South Carolina Conference Sons of Allen Worship Service

The sons of Allen worship service began at 4:10pm. The musical expression of God's love was felt through the instruments and voices of the Sons of Allen Choir and musicians. Songs such as *Lord Help Me to Hold Out*, *God's Grace*, and *Rise Up O Men of God* blessed the worshippers gathered at Greater St. James AME church. The Annual Sons of Allen Sermon was preached by **the Reverend Eugene Collins, Sr.** His exegetical inspiration drew our attention to the book of Acts 9:1-6. His title: **Getting to Where God Wants You to Be.**

If God is not first in your life, then you need to know you are not where God wants you to be. Many of us come to church when we want to, worshipping when we feel like it. Though all of us are somewhere and may be far from where we used to be, we are still too far away from where God wants us to be. on the other hand, some attend church, and church school each Sunday. Like Saul, they have a certain level of respect and influence in their community, church, and occupations. However, like Saul, they know about God, but they don't really know who Jesus is.

Thoughts:

1) to be in the right place, you must surrender your entire life to the LORD.

- 2) Though we may become spiritually blind, God can still heal and redeem us.
- 3) Be willing to follow Jesus all the way.

Following the sermon, the Conference sang together with Reverend Eugene Colins, *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*. The Sons of Allen report was given via video. Greetings, and words of encouragement were brought by the following: **Brother Richard Brownlee, Conference president, Brother James E. Howell, Episcopal president, the Reverend Merritt Graves Episcopal coordinator and brother Monroe Miller, connectional president.** They also welcomed all visiting Brothers to the South Carolina Conference, and expressed deepest thanks for the work of Bishop Samuel L. Green sr., and Supervisor Green. Lay Witness worship service will begin tonight at 7pm. All are to be in their respective places.

The 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference Lay Worship Service

The Annual Lay worship service began with songs of Zion sung by the melodious choir. Songs such as *The Laymen Hymn, I Will Go To God in Prayer, Get Ready for Your Blessing,* and *I Wanna Thank You*, blessed those in person and online. The preacher for the evening was **the Reverend Harold Jefferson**. He was divinely inspired to draw preaching power from the book of Ezekiel 37: 7. The title of his sermon: **Dry Bones in the Valley**.

God moves in the lives of others during times of personal crisis. But often it is due to our own rebelling against God. When we rebel against Him, we are nothing but dry bones. When we are backsliding and backstabbing, we are dry bones. When we doubt and fear, we are nothing but dry bones. If you are not connected to the other bones, you're just dry bones in the valley. Can these bones live? YES! Our bones certainly can live again, and Reverend Jefferson showed us how:

Points:

- 1) We must hear the word of the Lord
- 2) For the bones to live there must be noise (praises to the Lord)
- 3) Realize that we are involved with mankind (we are all connected)

Before the close of worship, The Conference viewed the Lay report via video submission. **Sister Jeannie Rivers**, the South Carolina Conference Lay President extended greetings and shared the work of the Lay this Annual Conference Year. She honored the lay of the South Carolina Annual Conference with her expression of love and appreciation for all they have done this year.

Brother Keith Britton 7th Episcopal District Lay President thanked Sister Jeannie Rivers for her exemplary leadership and presented her with a check for \$2,000.00 for the work of the Lay of the South Carolina Annual Conference. He also presented her with an additional \$500.00 for the support of Young Adult ministries and events.

Presiding Elder Parrott provided instruction for tomorrow's sessions and services. We begin the Opening business session at 8am.

Humbly Submitted, The South Carolina Conference Secretaries

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District; **Mrs. Phyllis N. Green**, Episcopal Supervisor; **Presiding Elder Norvel Goff, Sr.** of the Edisto District; **Presiding Elder Allen W. Parrott** of the Charleston District; and **Presiding Elder Phillip Anderson** of the Beaufort District; Conference, Area and Local Leadership on all levels; **Pastors, Clergy and Lay people of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference.**

The 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference Friday Morning Business Session

The Praise Team of the South Carolina Annual Conference woke our spirits with songs such as *Yes God is Real, This is the Day, and We've Come This Far*. The Mother Conference of the Seventh District worshipped with energized spirits, ready for the full experience of the day. **Presiding Elder Norvel Goff** called on **Reverend Dr Charles McLamore** to sing a familiar song from our childhood years: *Jesus Loves Me*. The praise and worship team continued singing wonderful selections such as *Everybody Ought to Praise the Lord*. The Conference theme is lived out through our worship and praise of the Lord. Through faith, we are **Releasing the Power Within**.

The Business session was called to order at 8:30 by **Bishop Samuel L Green Sr. Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District**. Bishop Green introduced the Conference to **Brother Clay Middleton, Candidate for Mayor of Charleston**.

Brother Middleton brought greetings to the Conference and expressed that his roots come from Greater Macedonia AME church. he comes from Bayside Manor and people say nothing good comes from there. He is proof that great things do come from there. You can be and do whatever you want as long as God is first, and you treat people right. He is the proud product of our investment, prayer and sacrifice. We are suffering from a lack of vision and need bold servant leadership. We did not come this far just to come this far. If you want a show horse, then he is not your person, but if you want a work horse, **Brother Middleton** has something tangible to offer. When he joined the Army National Guard there's part of the creed that says *I will not leave a fallen soldier behind*. He took it to heart everywhere he went and in everything he does. He will do everything in his

power to not leave any resident, neighborhood behind. He will not be outworked, and he wants to connect with our faith-based community and build our communities better. Our vote matters. When you meet some spiritual leaders, sometimes you are disappointed. Brother Middleton was not disappointed when he met Bishop Green years ago. Several of us know Brother Middleton's mother and grandmother and this is a reminder to us all that no matter how far, we are connected. He expressed that he is only here because we said this is possible. He thanked the Conference for taking the time to hear his vision for the future of Charleston (conference applause).

Bishop Green called for everyone to pause for a moment of silence and bow our heads in remembrance of the **four girls who died in Birmingham Alabama in 1963: The Baptist Street Church Bombing**. Today marks 60 years since that moment happened. 60 years ago, those girls were in church getting ready for church school, and white supremacists wanted to deny the freedoms that the constitution of the United States gave us. they bombed the church and killed the girls. Hatred in American did not start yesterday, nor with Donald Trump, he just exposed it. they finally had someone in the Whitehouse who was just as crazy as they were. For the girls, the parents, and families of the girls. For the city of Birmingham, the nation and even us as we reflect on the bombing on 16th street, we can't help but remember the shootings at Emanuel. The Conference bowed in silence.

Bishop Green expressed that the church must teach our own children our history. Even here in South Carolina, the governor is in line with Desantis. They have decided what should and should not be taught. and what should not be taught has to do with us. we must do what the Jews did. They teach their kids their own history. They don't leave it up to the public-school history in their own schools. We have to teach our children our history. We are going to have to do something. This thing is news daily. Shootings across the country, and violence is prevalent. The attempted shooting at Edward Waters should draw our attention. This is one of our schools! he goes to dollar general and shoots the uber driver then shoots people in the store. The lady in the car was a member of St Stephen AME where my brother pastors. It's getting closer and closer and closer. I had to boost up security on Allen University. Let's be vigilant and lets not let any election cycle pass and we don't participate.

Bishop Green informed us that **Bishop Michael Mitchell, the 134th elected and consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church** will be joining us for the business sessions today. He will allow him to preside as **Bishop Green** is recovering from a cold. **Bishop Mitchell** will join us at a later time today.

Bishop Green called for the report from the Board of Examiners

We have examined this licentiate as per Discipline and respectfully recommend the following:

SISTER SYPHIO ARNETTA BEVERETT WHACK be admitted on trial and advanced to Class on First year studies in pursuit of Local Orders. **Bishop Green** asked if she surrendered her ordination papers and asked for a copy of it from the board. After inspecting it, he

inquired of her time at Bethel and her knowledge of the AME church. **The motion was made by Reverend Dr Jon Black, it was seconded by Reverend Eugene Collins, the motion carried.**

THE REPORT FOR THE CLASS ON SECOND YEAR STUDIES

CLASS ON SECOND YEAR STUDIES – ITINERANT ORDERS

We have examined these Reverends as per Discipline and respectfully recommend the following:

Brother Jeffery Graham be elected and ordained an itinerant deacon and advanced to the class on third year studies. The motion was made by **Reverend Dr Jon Black** and Seconded by **Reverend Dr Kylon Middleton**. The motion carried.

Sister Leslie Graham be elected and ordained an itinerant deacon and advanced to class on third year studies. The motion was Moved by **Reverend Dr Jon Black**. It was seconded by **Reverend Dr Lawrence Gordon**. The motion carried.

Bishop Green inquired of the two candidates for ordination one final time asking the following Question: how many divisions are in the book of Psalms? Answer: 5. There are only 5 divisions of Psalms. This is just for your education. Preachers and pastors need to stop saying things such as “the 150th division of Psalms”. It makes me think that they must not know the Bible at all. The conference agreed wholeheartedly with **Bishop Green** and appreciated the instruction.

CLASS ON SECOND YEAR STUDIES – LOCAL ORDERS

We have examined these Licentiates as per Discipline, and respectfully recommend the following:

Carolyn Lemon Alford be elected and ordained a local deacon at Mount Zion AME Church, Edisto District and advanced to Third Year Studies. **It was moved by Reverend Dr Jon Black seconded by Reverend Dr Kylon Middleton.** the motion carried.

Joyce Anne Williams be elected and ordained a local deacon at Spring Hill AME Church, Beaufort District and advanced to Third Year Studies. **The motion was made by Reverend Dr Jon Black. It was seconded by Reverend Dr Kylon Middleton,** the motion carried.

Suasn Heyward Be elected and ordained a local deacon for St John John's Island, Edisto District and be advanced to third year studies. **The**

motion was made by Reverend Dr Jon Black. it was seconded by Reverend Dr Kylon Middleton. The motion carried.

SISTER SYPHIO ARNETTA BEVERETT WHACK be elected and ordained local deacon for Bethel Summerville and be advanced to the class on third year studies. **The motion was moved by Reverend Dr Jon black, and seconded by Reverend Dr Middleton. The motion carried.**

Myron Carswell Tucker be elected and ordained a local deacon for Greater St James Charleston District and advanced to the class on Third Year Studies. **It was moved by Reverend Dr Jon Black and seconded by Reverend Dr Kylon Middleton The motion carried.**

THE REPORT FOR THE CLASS ON THIRD YEAR STUDIES

CLASS ON THIRD YEAR STUDIES – ITINERANT ORDERS

We have examined these Reverends as per Discipline and respectfully recommend the following:

Reverend Tradd Corinthian Williams. Be elected to be ordained an itinerant Elder at leadership conference, 2024 pending completion of the Masters of Divinity program. Thereby meeting all requirements. **The motion was made by Reverend Dr Jon Black and Seconded by Rev Dr Kylon Middleton. The motion carried.**

CLASS ON THIRD YEAR STUDIES – LOCAL ORDERS

Recommendations: We have examined these Reverends as per Discipline and respectfully recommend the following:

Reverend Myron Foxworth be advanced to the Class on Fourth Year Studies in pursuit of Local Orders. **The motion was made by Reverend Dr Jon Black. It was seconded by Reverend Randolph Miller. The motion carried.**

Reverend Cynthia Elaine Smalls be advanced to the Class on Fourth Year Studies in pursuit of Local Orders. **Motion was made by Reverend Dr Jon Black and seconded by Reverend Randolph Miller. the motion carried.**

THE REPORT FOR THE CLASS ON FOURTH YEAR STUDIES

CLASS ON FOURTH YEAR STUDIES – ITINERANT ORDERS

Recommendations: We have examined these Reverends as per Discipline and respectfully recommend the following:

Reverend Carolyn Fields be elected and ordained Itinerant Elder in the AME church. **The motion was made by Reverend Dr Jon Black and seconded by Reverend Eric Manning. The motion carried.**

Reverend Cecelia Jenkins be elected and ordained Itinerant Elder in the AME church. **The Motion was made by Reverend Dr. Jon Black and seconded by Reverend Dr. Herbert Jenkins, the motion carried.**

Reverend Joann Martin Nesbitt be elected to be ordained an itinerant Elder at Founders Day, 2024 pending the completion of the Master of Divinity Degree. Therefore completing all requirements. **The motion was Moved by Reverend Dr Jon Black and seconded by Reverend Eric Manning. The motion carried.**

CLASS ON FOURTH YEAR STUDIES – LOCAL ORERS

Recommendations: We have examined these Reverends as per Discipline and respectfully recommend the following:

Reverend Janelle Mae Joshua be elected and ordained Local Elder for Mt. Zion, Goose Creek, Charleston District. **It was moved by Reverend Dr Jon Black and it was seconded by Reverend Lashaun Flagg.** Bishop asked about her being the Vice President of WMS. She left this position after going into ministry. **The motion carried.**

Reverend Kawana F. Murray be elected and ordained Local Elder for White Hall, Beaufort District. It was moved by Reverend Dr Jon Black and seconded by Eric Manning. The motion carried.

Reverend Stanley Seabrook Nelson be elected and ordained a Local Elder, Mother Emmanuel, Edisto District. **the motion was made by reverend Dr Jon Black, and seconded by Reverend Debra Green. The motion carried.**

Bishop Green asked this question: once those names where were called became ordained deacons, why are they still serving on steward and trustee boards? As they are

no longer lay, they move from the laity of the church to the clergy. Laity should be the stewards and trustees, not these reverends. Please correct this.

The Board of examiners received the following request:

Reverend Rose Kitty, a Local Elder and Supply Pastor in the Beaufort District, having completed her Master of Divinity Degree **request that her status be changed from Local Elder to Itinerant Elder upon completion of her masters of divinity degree that she be reobligated at that time.**

Bishop Green inquired of her regarding her academic matriculation: how many hours do you have left: answer: 5 hours remain. She is enrolled in two classes equaling a grand total of six hours. **She is enrolled at Dickerson Green Seminary.**

The motion was made by Reverend Dr Lawrence Gordon and seconded by Reverend Dr Jon Black. The motion carried.

Bishop Green told her that should she complete her coursework and graduate in December, she will be reobligated at Founder's Day in February 2024.

Reverend MacKenneth Rivers, a Local Elder at St. Paul AME Church, Edisto District, having a Master of Divinity Degree request that his status be changed from Local Elder to Itinerant Elder. **Bishop Green** carefully inspected his diploma. **The motion was moved by Reverend Dr. Lawrence Gordon and seconded by Reverend Dr Jon Black. The motion Carried.**

Dr Gordon asks to be allowed to return at a later time of the conference to speak with candidates and make their final report at that time. It was granted by Bishop Green.

Bishop Green welcomed **Chief Reggie Burgess, Candidate for mayor of North Charleston**, he was met with conference applause. Bishop has 2 problems with him: he doesn't know how burgess keeps all that hair and he's blinded by the Omega Psi Phi pin on his suit, conference laughter.

Chief Reggie Burgess:

What can I say about the leadership and mentorship of Bishop Green. You have treated me like a son and I thank you. I have wanted to give up but you're there for me. Thank you (conference applause) every time I saw you in church you would look for me and show love not knowing I was going through some things. I'm grateful for you and that God woke me up this morning. I go to Royal Baptist church, and I've never seen anything like this. My cousin, Tanya Dennis always keeps me up at the AME church. What you do is what needs to be done in our communities.

I wish this election was tomorrow. I'm antsy. Coming from Union Heights, Liberty Hill, all I knew was basketball and it has taught me much. Today, I see this as a ballgame. I am here to compete and win. For 34 years I worked in the streets of North Charleston. If you look at the state situation the two departments with the most incident reports are Columbia and north Charleston. We generate the most uniform reports. we have a very diverse community economically. When you break the law, you have to be held accountable. But we can't just look at crime as it happens, we have to look at the root causes of crime. I deal with this every day. I've been doing this my whole career.

4 factors affect our growth and development: economics, employment, education, family, and friend structure. If we follow the wrong people, we will do the same things they do. I want to reduce or eliminate crime, but we need to deal with these four factors. We need after-school programs self-efficacy programs.

I have executive staff meetings weekly and I walked what the Bible says. The Bible says Moses went up to get the word, Joshua said the people were corrupting themselves, when Moses got down there, he says whoever is on the Lord's side, come to me. The people came to him you know what happened to the knuckleheads (laughter)

The only way to stop crime is to get the people to stand up and say we're tired of this problem. I sent a group to Boston; people from all generations and walks of life. They have walks in Boston rebuilding every community around peace. Whalen stats show crime happens between 8 and 1am. So, we need to be walking at that 8pm time. In 2019 I called mayor Summey for the racial audit. We want to know what our weaknesses and strengths were. We received that report, and we are implementing, changing, and dealing with these issues and problems. Our communities have more crime than any other, but its our victims that are calling and need help.

We are teaching our officers cultural and sensitivity training. I love my predecessors, but they never dealt with the question of race. I called Tim Scott and wanted fair and partial police training; he helped me with the program then got racial equity training from the YWCA. You need more than just one level of diversity training. Now I want to do what I've done holistically. I'm the only candidate that has to create a 44-million-dollar budget, evaluate the budget, and disseminate and get it approved. I must know it line item by line item I know how much it costs for each officer to get a pair of shoestrings, 4 dollars. (Conference laughter). Our entry level pay is 50,000 and I'll bring you in regardless of degree. I've never ran for office, but I have the institution of knowledge. I was here when Hugo came, when Walter Scott lost his life, I was standing by mayor Summey. I want to ask you to keep praying for me. Thank you.

The mother conference rose to applaud him and expressed their support of him and his bid for mayor.

Bishop Green thanked **Chief Burgess** and **Brother Middleton** for coming by and asking for support. **Bishop Green** told a story that he was in north Charleston and there was a motorcycle accident. The North Charleston police came, and he got out of his car since he saw the accident (the motorcycle ran a red light) the police came quickly, and he

asked the policemen if they need his name and number as he saw the accident. The officer said if he wasn't in the accident, you need to leave. **Bishop Green** asked the young girl if she needed it. They were claiming she ran into him. But you can't run into him if the dent is in the back of her car. Bishop Green asked if this was the new policy that they don't take witnesses anymore? I got it on camera too.

Reggie Burgess expressed that he will take care of it personally. He thanked Bishop Green for letting him know. **Bishop Green** will give the time date and the video. Burgess and Middleton took photos together with **Bishop Green** before they left.

Bishop Green called for the next order of business., the minutes, motion to approve the minutes with any necessary corrections motion made by Reverend Dr Herbert Jenkins it was seconded by Reverend Dr Charles McLamore. The motion carried.

Bishop Green called for the Literary Reports of the South Carolina Annual Conference they are as follows:

The report on Presiding Elder salary and Upkeep. A motion was approved and adopted the report by **Reverend Dr Lawrence Gordon. It was seconded by Reverend Eric Manning.**

Unreadiness: the Beaufort district did vote to increase Elder Anderson's salary, but he declined it.

The same unreadiness held for the Edisto district. Though offered, Elder Goff declined as well. The committee is tasked to have the salary for all 3 districts broken down by each church, plus the new salary amount they are expected to pay. **The motion carried.**

Ministerial efficiency committee initial report:

As **Reverend Wilton Brooks Harrison** failed to accept his new pastoral charge of Calvary Edisto, **we recommend that he be located immediately.** We further recommend that, based upon his email dated Friday, December 2, 2022, at 7:35 am, expressing his desire to resign as "pastor" in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, that **his ordination papers be returned the South Carolina Annual Conference Secretary, that his name be removed from the roll, and that the SCAC Secretary be empowered to place an ad in the local papers stating that Reverend Wilton Brooks Harrison is no longer affiliated with the AME church.**

We recommend that the **request for retirement** be granted to the **Reverend Eugene Collins Sr**, with high commendations and thanksgiving for his years of ministry and service to the AME Church.

We recommend that the **request for retirement** be granted to the **Reverend Harold Jefferson**, with high commendations and thanksgiving for his years of ministry and service to the AME Church.

We recommend that the **request for retirement** be granted to the **Reverend Dr. Charles Watkins** with high commendations and thanksgiving for his years of ministry and service to the AME Church.

We recommend that **the request for retirement** be granted to **the Reverend Cora Singleton** with high commendations and thanksgiving for her years of ministry and service to the AME Church.

We recommend that the **request for retirement** be granted to the **Reverend Edward Alston**. with high commendations and thanksgiving for his years of ministry and service to the AME Church.

We recommend that the **request for retirement** be granted to the **Reverend Anna P. Robinson** with high commendations and thanksgiving for her years of ministry and service to the AME Church. the motion was made by Reverend Eric Manning and seconded by Reverend Dr Kylon Middleton. The motion carried.

Report on Deeds Abstracts and Abandoned Properties move to adopt the report moved Presiding Elder Parrott. It was seconded by Presiding Elder Anderson

Unreadiness: **Elder Goff**: should it be placed in the church as well as the bank or just one or the other? Answer: no it should be at the church and the bank. The motion carried.

Incorporation of church property: motion to accept and adopt the report was made by **Presiding Elder Goff and seconded by Rev Dr Kylon Middleton**. Each presiding elder was asked to receive the papers of each church and send them to the conference secretary.

Report on Missions circuits and stations. A motion was made to accept and adopt the report by **Presiding Elder Goff, it was Seconded by Presiding Elder Parrott**. The motion carried.

Unreadiness: greater st James Fairfax stands by itself, it is not a circuit. It was requested that the change be made from circuit to a mission church.

Annuities and investments: the motion was moved by Presiding Elder Goff, it was seconded by Presiding Elder Anderson. The motion carried.

Bishop Green encouraged all to check their accounts in Westpath. You should see growth in your accounts. You can send additional funds on your own as well. You can do so monthly. If you want to stop buying lotto tickets you can spend that hundred or two hundred dollars a month on yourself. Invest it and let it work for you.

Presiding Elder Goff stood to acknowledge the fact that our bishop is the chair on statistics and finance. Those on the General board serving on his committee, he has led this church to come out of the muck and mire of financial disorder and it needs to be noted that through his leadership the church is now on a path towards accountability,

transparency, and integrity. I could not sit here and not let this conference know of the work that **Bishop Green** has done. conference applause. **Presiding Elder Goff** expressed his personal feelings regarding the formal account, and he stands encouraged to know that the finances are now protected and our children will have access to what is available should we go on to glory. We should be proud of the work of our bishop.

Bishop Green mentioned to the conference that **sis Patricia Parker** and at large member: **Jeannie Rivers** serve on the general board because you all have confidence in them to elect them delegates from your annual conference and because they were delegates, they were able to be elected to the general board of the general conference. They just got started and there is more work to do. If they go back, they will stay on the board, (conference applause). That would help Bishop Green to conduct the business of the church and do what we need to do. He asked **Judge Linen** to stand, he serves on the Episcopal committee of the AME church and deal with Bishop's assignments. They interrogate and question the Bishops. Judge Linen was part of the committee that brought Bishop Green in 2016 conference applause. To the Lay electoral college if you reelect him Bishop Green will put him on the Episcopal Committee. Bishop Green expressed that he was not campaigning for any of them, he is simply telling the conference what they do.

Bishop Green called for **Brother Mark Johnson**: he works with the lay legislation that goes to the general conference. Bishop Green hopes that he will be on the floor fighting for legislation. He can't be on the floor if he isn't elected today, conference laughter.

Bishop Green called for the bishop of the 12 district, **Bishop Michael Mitchell**. Bishop Mitchell was Bishop Green's only recommendation to go to the 12 district behind him and not erase everything I did. He made it a great district. He built headquarters, paid off the residence there, took the school to a new level and the entire campus is refurbished. Shorter college campus has its first dorm in over 20 years, built from the ground up. He brought sports back to the school: basketball, athletic programs, and its remarkable what he has done as the chair of Shorter College Board of Trustees. The school is more vibrant now than when Bishop Green was there. (conference applause). Bishop Mitchell was Bishop Green's roommate in seminary. They pastored at the same time in Florida. He's as 33rd degree mason and he's one of 15 children, and he's a miracle himself. When he was a child he couldn't walk. But yall saw him pimp walk down that aisle (conference laughter). He's also an Alpha. But all great Bishop's are Sigmas (conference laughter).

Bishop Green put the 160th Session in the hands of Bishop Mitchell

The mother conference welcomed him joyously.

Classification of Pastor's Report the motion to accept and approve the report was made by Presiding Elder Goff and seconded by Reverend Lashaun Flagg the motion carried.

Committee on social action the motion to accept and approve the report was made by **Presiding Elder Goff** and seconded by **Presiding elder Anderson** the motion carried.

Committee on Church Growth. A motion was made to accept and approve the report by **Presiding Elder Goff and seconded by Reverend Eric Manning. The motion carried**

Committee on church planting. A motion was made to accept and approve the report by **Presiding Elder Goff and seconded by Presiding Elder Anderson.** Unreadiness Patricia parker cane bay initiative is in Berkely county. The report will be amended. **The motion Carried.**

State of the Church. a motion was made to accept and approve the report by **Presiding Elder Anderson and seconded by Presiding Elder Goff motion carried**

The report of the State of the country. A motion was made to accept and approve the report by **Presiding Elder Anderon, it was Seconded by Presiding Elder Goff. Motion carried.**

The report on Temperance. A motion was made to accept and approve the report by **Presiding Elder Anderson and seconded by Presiding Elder Goff the motion carried.**

The report on Christian Education a motion was made to accept and approve the report by **Presiding Elder Parrott and seconded by Presiding Elder Goff. The motion carried.**

The committee on family life. A motion was made to accept and approve the report by **Presiding Elder Parrott seconded by Presiding Elder Goff. The motion carried.**

The Committee on Lay Activities. A motion was made to accept and approve the report by **Presiding Elder Parrott it was seconded by Presiding Elder Goff. The motion carried.**

Christian Debutantes and Masters Commission report. A motion was made to accept and approve the report by **Presiding Elder Parrott, it was seconded by presiding elder Goff. The motion carried.**

Report on the MSWAWO +PK'S: a motion was made to accept and approve the report by **Sister Anderson Seconded by Sister Barbara Parrott. The motion carried.**

Young Adult Ministry Report. A motion was made to accept and approve the report by **Presiding Elder Parrott. It was Seconded by Presiding Elder Goff. The motion carried.**

Church School committee report. A motion was made to accept and approve the report by **Elder Anderson. It was seconded by Elder Parrott. The motion carried.**

Bishop Mitchell called to adjourn in preparation for the Allen University Rally.

He asked for all itinerant Elders to stand. He said he wanted to scan the audience to see who he will take back with him to the 12th district conference laughter. Presiding Elder Norvel Goff called the names of worship participants. as we transitioned into worship. Meeting adjourned at 11:31am.

The Allen university/Dickerson Green Worship Service and Rally

The 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference opened with wonderful praise and adoration of the Lord. The Allen University Choir led us in selections such as *Yes God is Real* and *Guide My Feet*. **Presiding Elder Allen W. Parrott** introduced the **president of Allen University Dr. Ernest McNealy**, expressing the success of the football team this year, the Doctoral of Ministry Degree added as well as other new majors. The conference applauded him for the outstanding work he has done at Allen University.

Dr. McNealy greeted the Mother Conference, grateful to be with us. He thanked those on the board. He Thanked Dr Parrott for serving as chair of the Seminary Committee. He updated us on the status of the university and the state of higher education.

May: Allen University had its largest graduating class ever (conference applause)

During the summer the southern Assoc of colleges and schools gave us permission to move from level three to level five and offer doctoral programs (conference applause)

Currently we are sitting at 670 students enrolled. The enrollment number ebs and flows. We have 150 full time employees and 75% hold terminal degrees in their field of expertise. For most schools the percentage is around 50%

Our students have health care insurance with medication benefits. The students have e-book accounts. They all have MacBooks, and all these things are paid by the university itself (conference applause). We are purchasing additional mac books to distribute within a matter of days.

We spent \$160,000 cleaning residents homes.

He shared about Dickerson Green enrollment.

26 enrolled in the MDiv program

6 in the DMIN Program

2 in the Master of Arts for religious studies

We are working towards ATS accreditation. We anticipate by the end of the year we will have reached that goal.

This term, we began a psychology program and a women's wrestling program. (Conference astonishment)

We are working towards an MBA and Master of Environmental Studies. Both programs will still need to go to the board when it meets in October but needs work before submitting it. in 2016 polls show 65% of Americans believe a college degree would lead to a better

life for them and society. Since then, polling had declined significantly. If you go to the founding of our public, John Adams said his people had to study politics and war so their sons could study architecture and mathematics, so that their sons would be able to learn science etc. Thomas Jefferson Talked about the importance of an educated country for democracy to maintain. The belief in democracy is on the decline. The states that are red states show the least sense of value in higher education. Our church and university will work against that rising tide.

He shared a story with us: the African American community celebrated homecoming, thanksgiving ,and Juneteenth. And now we've added folding chair day (conference laughter) in Mt Bayou Mi there was a celebration of folding chair day. a couple heavily armed maga who kidnapped three of the celebrants, took them to an old warehouse where they set up an electric chair. They said "we don't like what's going on in our country but we're good Christians. If you survive the electrocution, we will let all of you go. First, they put a graduate of Dickerson Green Seminary, his last word was may the peace of God be with you. The chair didn't work, they let him go. The next was a graduate of Alabama State whose last words were expletives, you'll see me again, the chair didn't work, and they let him go. The final person completed a training program at the local community college. His last words were if you want to electrocute someone, make sure the chair is plugged in. so they plugged it in (conference laughter) this speaks to the value of education. We must have a sense of why and a caring for the greater good. We appreciate your continuing support.

Bishop Green led the conference in applauding **Dr McNealy** and the Allen University Choir. He prepared us for the Allen University Rally. Over the past 7 years, we have met yearly and successfully raised funds to support Allen and Dickerson Green Seminary. Bishop Green encouraged the members of the Conference to give and do the best we can to exceed expectations.

THE FOLLOWING WAS RAISED FOR ALLEN UNIVERSITY AND DICKERSON-GREEN SEMINARY:

FUNDS RAISED:	2021	2022	2023
EDISTO DISTRICT:	\$60,800	\$60,900	\$61,000
CHARLESTON DISTRICT:	\$45,650	\$45,660	\$46,670
BEAUFORT DISTRICT:	\$27,000	\$27,010	\$27,020
BISHOP'S TABLE	\$2,900	\$2,500	\$3,401
GRAND TOTAL:	\$136,350	\$136,070	\$138,091

Please note: there is a supplemental report of funds that adds to the grand total above. They are as follows: Presiding Elder Parrott thanked the membership for an online giving of \$1,000 dollars. Presiding Elder Goff through way of the Sister A. Marie Goff foundation donated an additional \$10,000 dollars. Making a full gift of \$149,091.00. to God be the Glory for the Great things He has done! **Bishop Green** thanked all those who supported the efforts of the South Carolina Conference. He called for a pastor that graduated from Allen University to pray over the gifts. **Reverend Archie Fair the host pastor of the 160th**

Session of the South Carolina Conference prayed for the gift and the University as a whole. Bishop Green asked for all to return at 2pm. Flu shots are being distributed today on site and the first 40 will receive a \$25 dollar gift card.

The 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference Friday Afternoon Business Session

The South Carolina Annual Conference Praise and worship was led by students of the Board of Examiners. *Songs such as I Call Jesus My Rock, Anointing Fall on me, What a Might God We Serve, Jesus is a Way Maker and What He's Done For Me* uplifted us and blessed us. the music and worship of the South Carolina Annual Conference is truly an opportunity for those present and online to worship the LORD in spirit and in truth!

The meeting came to order at 2:48pm by **Bishop Samuel L. Green Sr.** he was accompanied by **Bishop Mitchell** for the business session. The Mother Conference prepared to convene the electoral college. The lay were sent over to the old sanctuary of Greater St James. It actually has its own address. This ensures that we are within compliance of the law. The members of the Lay Electoral college were asked to stand and were given instructions. They were inquired of them regarding their credentials. The host Lay electoral College Delegate expressed her knowledge of her responsibilities. Bishop Green prayed and offered that **The General Conference will be held August 21st-28th.** This is a different time than usual as we are having it in August instead of July. Please consider this if you are running. we want you to bring back 12 good Delegates. **Bishop Green** received confirmation that this conference has been increased from 10 lay and clergy to 12 lay and clergy. The lay members of the electoral college left the building at 2:53pm. Prepared to vote in 12 good delegates to the General Conference. As they exited, we all sang together, *He's Already Done What He Said He'd Do.*

The clergy continued singing to the joy of the Lord led by **Reverend Dr Randolph Miller.** God is truly worthy to be praised! The combined Clergy of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference began singing *My Hope Is Built.* **Bishop Green** called for the first four rows of each set of pews to be reserved for the each of the Presiding Elder Districts: the Edisto District, Charleston District, and Beaufort districts Respectively. Only Itinerant Elders and Deacons were to sit in the seats provided for them. Supernumerary who are itinerant may sit with their district as well as superannuated.

Bishop Green reminded us of our last zoom meeting: we are going to general conference and as we prepare to go, there is a lot of work that must be one in this conference. A lot of decisions will be made regarding the future of the AME church. **Bishop Green** sees the Delegates as how clergy see our stewards and trustees. You appoint your stewards, and you nominate your trustees. Although you love everyone and all are gifted, the Discipline allows you to nominate 3-19 stewards and trustees. You don't have the space to do what you would like to do. We can only elect 12 delegates and 12 alternates. Bishop has suggested 12 delegates and 12 alternates, and we have been asked to respect Bishop Green's leadership. He has prayed diligently and gone through the conference names,

considering who should serve, and today he has come to a place where we are ready to offer names for the election. Let us allow a unanimous ballot to be cast by the secretary of the conference. Bishop Green expressed that he has learned how to sing in the Seventh district. There's a song he loves to sing but he could not sing it as well as **Bishop Mitchell**. **Bishop Mitchell** is one of the few singing Bishops on the bench. **Bishop Mitchell** sang a song that he sang when he was in school. he encouraged the Conference to sing it with him: *Try Jesus He's Alright and Amazing Grace*. The gathered Clergy of the Conference sang with him, we are blessed to be together in one place and share in our love of Jesus through our uplifted voices. **Bishop Mitchell** called **on Reverend Randolph Miller** to lead us in further vocal worship. He sang *The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power*.

Bishop Green called on Presiding Elder Goff who made a motion consistent with the AME Book of Discipline expressing a unanimous vote regarding the clergy delegates to the General Conference. Presiding Elder Moved that upon a unanimous vote, the secretary be empowered to cast a unanimous ballot on the following names of delegates and alternates:

Clergy Delegates

Norvel Goff

Allen Parrott

Phillip Anderson

Eric Manning

Randolph Miller

Lawrence Gordon

Jeanine Smalls

Cortney Colleton

Herbert Jenkins

Kylon Middleton

Myra Meggett

Archie Fair

Alternate Delegates

Leon Maxwell

Friendly Gadson

Keith Parker I

Willaim R. Jones

Yvonne Simmons Gregg

John Smalls

Hope Champaigne Rivers

Emmie Bernel Williams

E J Milligan

Rose Goodwater-Richardson

Tony J Slater

Shirley Pinckney

The motion was seconded by Reverend Dr Allen Parrott. The motion carried.

Edisto District: unanimous vote

Charleston District: unanimous vote

Beaufort District: Unanimous Decision

Bishop Green declared the names called and called on the Secretary of the South Carolina Conference to cast a unanimous vote.

Bishop Green declared his desire is for the delegates and alternates to work together as a team with him as the head coach. He declared three objectives:

- bring back Rev. Jarrett Washington as the next CIO of the Church
- that he goes where the Church needs him
- bring back a bishop that will take this District to another level

Presiding Elder Goff gave commendations to the clergy for voting for him and the team. Thanks to the Bishop Green for having the confidence for having them as a member of the team. They will make sure the three goals are brought to a reality: Rev. Jarrett Washington as the next CIO; that Bishop Green goes where the church needs him based on performance gifts and graces; and bring someone here to SC to build on what's been established and not tear it down.

Presiding Elder Parrott gave commendations and privilege for serving at the GC. They're going to do the work at the GC and give priority to the goals BG outlined.

Presiding Elder Anderson gave commendation and thanks for being part of the team. He knows how to be part of a team with good leadership.

The other delegates, along with the alternates, also gave commendations to Bishop Green and the clergy of the Conference for the privilege to serve the Church, to bring glory and honor to God and to move the Church forward.

Presiding Elder Goff closed the commendations to the bishop and clergy by proclaiming that **Bishop Green is our original Prime Time Coach** and the General Conference should take it personal because we're coming (Conference Applause)! **Bishop Green** provided a QR Code for all delegates and alternates to fill out immediately regarding our contact information. Those elected did so expeditiously.

Bishop Green called for Literary Reports

Committee on Prison Ministry. A motion was made to approve and adopt the report was made by **Reverend Dr Lawrence Gordon, seconded by Elder Goff. The motion carried.**

Committee on Hospital Ministry. A motion was made to approve and adopt the report was made by **Reverend Dr Kylon Middleton seconded by Presiding Elder Anderson the motion carried.**

Committee on Disaster Preparedness. A motion was made to approve and adopt the report was made by **presiding elder Goff, seconded by Reverend Dr Kylon Middleton. The motion carried.**

Bishop Green expressed that the memorial and retirement will be held Saturday morning. Reverend Dr Herbert Jenkins went over the roll of absent pastors.

Presiding Elder Parrot introduced a video of Bishop Green preaching at our first annual conference with him in September 2016. **The Mother Conference watched in sheer joy to see the beginning of our relationship with our Beloved bishop: The Right Reverend Samuel L. Green Sr!** the conference applauded the video that was recorded Seven amazing years ago!

The reason **Reverend Dr Jon black** is not offered as a delegate is because he is a chaplain. Chaplains already go so he is part of our team. The Episcopal district will pay all his expenses. As well, **Dr Black, the pastor of Campbell chapel will be serving as host for the 161st Session of the south Carolina annual conference** and will introduce the next Bishop to the unique experience of the Mother Conference.

Bishop Green called for a break

All lay women were asked to stand. **Bishop Green** commended them for coming to the Annual Conference and all the work they do for the Conference. Because of them they make the conference a success every year (conference applause). Bishop Green called on Reverend Samuel Green Jr to receive the brochures for the Holy Land trip.

Reverend Sam Green asked us to help him take care of his father. It is his last annual conference series and he has been humble and accepting invitations. Please do not

invite him to preach during annual conferences. He may not say much, but we need him. He's too humble to respond.

Bishop Green announced that the Ordination service will begin at 6:30 instead of 7pm. If we start early, we end early. The meeting was adjourned at 4:39pm.

The 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference Ordination Worship Service

Worship began with the soulful renditions of the songs of Zion such as *How Great Thou Art*, *I'm Fighting For the Lord*, and *Lord You Are Good*. The Holy Spirit permeated throughout **Greater St James AME Church**, showing present in our prayers, songs, preaching, and worship throughout. **The South Carolina Annual Conference, the Mother Conference worshipped in spirit and in truth, magnifying the name of the Jesus! The power of the choir and musicians of Greater St James could NOT be ignored!** Truly an inspiring and wonderful worship of the Lord was had by all in attendance in person and virtually! God is worthy to be praised!

The preached word came from **The Reverend H.E. Dixon, Founder, and pastor of Truth Tabernacle**. He and the Truth Tabernacle Choir sang *I Call Jesus My Rock*, and of course, *Somewhere Listening For My Name!* He pulled treasure from the earth through the biblical strength of the book of **Matthew 10:16. His topic: I'm On the Battlefield.**

All of us who love Jesus are on the Battlefield. The criticism of pharisees is like the ravening wolves. We are faced with similar hostility. Jesus never had problems with sinners and common folks. It was the scribes and Pharisees. Jesus' biggest problem came from church people. Don't be surprised if your problems come from church people. We can't be sheep. We must be sensible and capable. Jesus is sending you out because you know everything or do everything right.

You go where you go because you are the Lord's choice for the hour. Simply put, God has chosen you for this hour. We cannot be gullible or deceitful. On this battlefield there will be rain, on this battlefield, you will question if God called you or not. We must find balance between wisdom and vulnerability. You can't always fix it because its broken. You can hurt it trying to help it. you must ask God for the balance. This call has a guarantee: you will be persecuted. You will run into all kinds of people: good, bad, and the ugly. You must know how to deal with it all. We must be both clever and harmless. We believed some would be with us on the journey, only to find that they were nowhere to be found. But Jesus was always with you. Good times and bad times. He also promised he would be with us forever and always.

God holds us responsible for the task we are undertaking. If God is for us, who can be against us. To have a ministry, you must have a testimony. Talent and ability is not enough, you must be anointed, appointed, dedicated, and disciplined. **If you stay green, you'll grow. If you get ripe, you'll rot.** Try not to become what you're trying to change.

Remember this: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not unto your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge the LORD and He will direct your path!* If you don't pray, don't worry: Church folks will make you pray!!!!

Thoughts:

- 1) Even without prior experience, the Holy Ghost Will teach you, show you and direct you.
- 2) To heal the land, God will first heal the church. the church can heal all else.
- 3) If you want to see a change: humble yourselves and pray, seek God's face turn from our wicked ways.

Bishop Green called for the morning business session to commence at 9am. The new covid booster will be available all day beginning at 8am tomorrow.

The following were ordained deacons in the AME church:

Itinerant

Reverend Leslie L. A. Graham

Reverend Jeffrey P. K. Graham

Local

Reverend Carolyn L. Alford (Mt. Zion AME Church, Younges Island)

Reverend Joyce Ann Williams (Springhill AME Church)

Reverend Susan L. Heyward (Greater St. John AME Church)

Reverend Myron Carswell Tucker (Greater St. James AME Church, Summerville)

Reverend Syphio A. B. Whack (Bethel AME Church, Summerville)

The following were ordained Elders in the AME Church:

Itinerant

Reverend Carolyn B. Fields

Reverend Cecilia Gordon Jenkins

Local

Reverend Stanley Nelson (Mother Emanuel AME Church, Charleston)

Reverend Janella Joshua (Mt. Zion AME Church, Goose Creek)

Reverend Kawanna F. Murray (White Hall AME Church, Greenpond)

Those ordained shared in communion with their immediate family members, administering the elements to them for the first time. The minister's spouses provided stoles for the ordained Elders. The Board of Examiners is to meet with Bishop Green in the office where they robed. Reverend Dixon gave the Benediction. To God be the Glory.

Humbly Submitted,

The South Carolina Conference Secretarial Team

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District; **Mrs. Phyllis N. Green**, Episcopal Supervisor; **Presiding Elder Norvel Goff, Sr.** of the Edisto District; **Presiding Elder Allen W. Parrott** of the Charleston District; and **Presiding Elder Phillip Anderson** of the Beaufort District; Conference, Area and Local Leadership on all levels; **Pastors, Clergy and Lay people of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference.**

The 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference Day 3 Morning Business Session

The morning business session was called to order by **The Right Reverend Samuel L. Green Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District at 9am.** Bishop Green called for The Committee on Memorials, led by the chair, **The Reverend Harold Jefferson.** The service began filled with love for those who are now our dearly departed. The 160th Session of the South Carolina Conference sang ***When I've Gone the Last Mile of the Way.***

The following names were called:

The Right Reverend Richard Franklin Norris, Sr.

Dr. Sylvia Ross Talbot, Retired Episcopal Supervisor

Sister Lula Shaw Cleckley, Connectional MSWAWO +PKs

Reverend Eugene Lebby, Itinerant Elder

Reverend Clarence Rivers, Itinerant Elder

Reverend Regina Capers, Local Elder

Bishop Green offered soul-stirring prayer beginning with *Come Ye Disconsolate* while the 160th Session paused in humble reflection of our loved ones. May God bless their souls' with peace, and may He strengthen us who travel on.

A motion was made to accept The Memorial Report. It was moved by Presiding Elder Norvel Goff, Sr. and seconded by Presiding Elder Phillip Anderson. The motion carried.

Bishop Green then called for the Retirement Service. The Conference Secretary, Reverend Dr. Herbert Jenkins Sr., reported the following Reverends requesting retirement:

The Reverend Edward Alston: 32 years of pastoral ministry

The Reverend Eugene Collins: 26 years of pastoral ministry

The Reverend Harold Jefferson: 29 years of pastoral ministry

The Reverend Anna P. Robinson: 26 years of ministry

The Reverend Cora Singleton: 33 years of pastoral ministry

The Reverend Dr. Charles Watkins: 29 years of pastoral ministry

Bishop Green gave reflection with Psalm 126:6-- "Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them". By request of Bishop Green, the **Presiding Elders of each retiree gave words of commendation and appreciation for their work of ministry.**

Dr. John Thomas, Editor of the Christian Recorder, gave expressions for the regular and timely submissions of **the Reverend Dr. Charles Watkins.** The Christian

Recorder is the world's oldest publication with its beginning in 1852. When changes were being made with the Christian Recorders' staff, Dr. Thomas was urged to keep **Dr. Watkins** as a writer. **Dr. Thomas** declared that despite Dr. Watkins' illness, he faithfully submitted an article every month. Dr. Thomas agreed with the expression given by Elder Goff that Dr. Watkins is a sharp mind; additionally, he's a gifted talent. Dr. Thomas expressed to the Mother Conference that Dr. Watkins is loved and appreciated by the Connectional Church and he's invited to continue writing permitting his continued ability. Finally, Dr. Thomas thanked the Conference for allowing Dr. Watkins to serve the Christian Recorder.

Bishop Green advised that the words by the Elders and the Christian Recorder editor, Dr. Thomas, collectively reflect the retirees character. He thanked them, referring to them as servants of God and was appreciative that their sermons weren't drowned out by their lifestyle. He thanked them for being faithful and good servants for the Kingdom.

Bishop Green advised the retirees that the record of their active ministry is written in the record of God. They've given a good day's work but aren't through yet; in more ways than one, the best is yet to come! The Conference gave a rousing standing ovation for the retirees and their work of service.

Bishop Green is thankful to God that he was able to experience ministry with each of them. It was his pleasure to assign them to their respective charges.

Bishop Green called for the previous day's minutes. The Conference Secretary, **Reverend Dr. Herbert Jenkins, Sr., requested that any changes be emailed to him and moved that the minutes be approved with any necessary corrections. Rev. Dr. Kylon Middleton seconded the motion.** The motion carried.

Rev. Dr. Kylon Middleton asked **Bishop Green** if he could give expressions to the Conference Secretary and his staff for their tireless effort and efficient work. Bishop Green obliged his request.

Bishop Green called for the Board of Examiners supplemental report.

The Board requested that **Reverend Pamela Smalls be elected and be ordained an Itinerant Elder at Founder's Day, February 2024 at Mother Emanuel as she will complete her degree requirements in December 2023. A motion was made by Rev. Dr. Lawrence Gordon and seconded by Rev. Dr. Jon Black.** The motion carried.

The Board of Examiners requested that Licentiate Rontrell Matthews, 1st year student, be released from the Board and return to his local church.

The motion was made by Rev. Dr. Lawrence Gordon and seconded by Dr. Jon Black. The motion carried.

The Board of Examiners requested that Licentiate Vernon E. Cannady be released from the Board of Examiners and removed from the Board per his request. The motion was made by Rev. Dr. Lawrence Gordon and seconded by Rev. Dr. Jon Black. The motion carried.

Reverend Dr. Lawrence Gordon gave words of appreciation to **Bishop Green** for giving the Board of Examiners the opportunity to serve the Church and the candidates.

The motion for the approval of the report in its entirety was made by Rev. Dr. Lawrence Gordon and seconded by Rev. Dr. Jon Black. The motion carried.

Bishop Green advised the Conference that **Rev. MacKenneth Rivers was elected to be re-obligated as an Itinerant Elder**; however, he fell sick and was not able to attend yesterday's Ordination Service. **Bishop Green advised the Conference that Rev. Rivers will be ordained in February 2024 along with the other candidates.**

Furthermore, **Bishop Green** advised that the Board of Examiners' work is not complete until the candidates are ordained in February at the Founder's Day to be held at Mother Emanuel. Reverend Dr. Lawrence Gordon amended his report to account for the pending assignment of the Board.

Bishop Green called for the report of the LAY electoral college. Sister Patricia Parker, LAY electoral secretary, reported the following:

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE LAY ELECTORAL COLLEGE

MINUTES

September 15, 2023

3:25 p.m.

Sister Dorothy Haynes, the Electoral College Delegate from Greater St. James AMEC convened the Electoral College for the purpose of electing delegates for the 2024 General Conference.

Brother Leroy Linen was elected as the temporary Chair and Sister Patricia G. Parker was elected as the temporary secretary. Brother Linen asked volunteers to sing a song, pray and read a scripture.

We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder was sung, followed by a prayer led by Brother Cleveland Frasier. Sister Lucille Kannick read 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, and 10-13.

Sister Jeannie Rivers was elected as the permanent Chair and Pat Parker was elected as the permanent secretary. 3 marshals were elected: Beaufort District- Sister Myrtle Robinson, Charleston Dr. Shirley Martin and Edisto District- Sister Carolyn Doctor.

The Voting Strength was Beaufort District-19, Charleston District-21 and Edisto District-32 for a Total of 72.

Clerks and Tellers were elected. The Clerks were Sister Arletta Holmes-Sumter & Sister Lucille Kannick and the Tellers were Sister Josephine Freeman and Sister Patty Britt-Pooser.

President Britton gave instructions on the voting apparatus and defined the duties of the clerks and tellers. Sister Rivers continued by answering questions and giving directions. The ballots were disseminated and the voting process began.

The results of the election are as follows:

DELEGATES – Elect 12

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CLASSIFICATION	VOTES RECEIVED
1. Linen	Leroy		69
2. Rivers	Jeannie		66
3. Haynes	Dorothy		64
4. Johnson	Mark		64
5. Britt-Pooser	Patty		63
6. Parker	Patricia G.		62
7. Williams	Jamesha	(YA)	62
8. Ravenel	Darlene		60

9.	Rivers	Nikole	(YA)	58
10.	Brown-Simmons	Kiara	(YA)	56
11.	Smalls	Sebrena		50
12.	Kannick	Lucille		48
13.	Frasier	Cleveland		42
14.	Gray	Sidney		42
15.	Simmons	Kevin	ABSENT	10
16.	Terry	Chassidy	(YA) ABSENT	4

ALTERNATES-Elect 12

	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CLASSIFICATION	VOTES RECEIVED
1.	Simmons	Tara		71
2.	Bryant	Deloris		70
3.	Smith	Phillip	(YA)	69
4.	Blackwell	Barbara		68
5.	Freeman	Josephine		68
6.	Holmes-Sumter	Arletta		68
7.	Robinson	Myrtle		68
8.	Brown	Alphonso		67
9.	Myers,	Rose		65
10.	Frasier*	Cleveland		

11.	Gray*	Sidney		

*Since the number of alternates elected was less than required, a **motion from the floor was made to elect Brother Cleveland Frasier and Brother Sidney Gray as alternates. The motion was carried and approved.** Brother Kevin Simmons and Sister Chassidy Terry were not present.

Upon adjournment, the delegates and alternates were asked to remain by the 7th Episcopal personnel in order to complete forms to obtain contact information.

Respectfully submitted,

Sister Patricia G. Parker, Secretary

Sister Jeannie L. Rivers, Chairwoman

Bishop Green called for the LAY delegates and alternates who were elected to attend the **General Conference, to be held August 21-28, 2024 in Columbus, Ohio.** He thanked them for offering themselves. **He declared that the persons are duly elected delegates of the General Conference.** The first delegation meeting will be at the Fall Convocation meeting in November. He expects they will be in attendance. He advised, they're going as a team to work together to win. Bishop Green advised that someone needs to sit back to strategically put the plan together. They would be considered the coach. He hopes the team will be willing to follow the coach and the plays sent down to the team captains.

Bishop Green requested **Brother Leroy Linen** speak on behalf of all the LAY delegates elected to the General Conference. Brother Linen thanked **Bishop Green** along with the local churches for having faith in them. They realized it's not a right but a privilege that is to be taken seriously. **Brother Linen** continued: It's not a vacation, rather, it is where the work begins to make decisions on behalf of the Church. He advised, they will go in the spirit of fellowship. Further, they will make decisions in collaboration of the best interest of the Church and do what's right for South Carolina. He expressed that **Bishop Green** will do what is right for us and he will point us in the right direction. He thanked God that we have a great example and we want someone who will take us higher. However, he realizes we're already there with **Bishop Green** leading the District and not sure who'd be able to come after and do that.

Bishop Green gave the General Conference 3 point objective:

- 1. Elect the Reverend Jarrett Washington as the next CIO of the AME Church.**

2. **Make sure that Bishop Green is assigned to a district representative of his gifts and his talents.**
3. **Make sure the newly assigned Bishop is one who can take the District higher and not cause it to regress.**

He stated that these are the first 3 priorities with others to follow. **Bishop Green** declared we are going to be heard at the General Conference.

Bishop Green called for the Ministerial Efficiency Committee. Rev. Eric S. C. Manning reported the following:

Summary Report

Candidates Admitted to the South Carolina Conference Board of Examiners:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Bertha J. Dantzler (Itinerant) | 5. Pearl Singleton (Local) |
| 2. Arkie Jamal Freeman (Itinerant) | 6. Syphio A. B. Whack (Local) |
| 3. Aaron R. Washington (Itinerant) | 7. Cheryl Denise Wigfall (Local) |
| 4. Susan Heyward (Local) | 8. Lathaddues L. Williams (Local) |

Candidates in First year studies who were advanced to the Class on 2nd Year Studies:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Jeffrey Graham (Itinerant) | 4. Denise Johnson (Local) |
| 2. Leslie Graham (Itinerant) | 5. Susan Heyward (Local) |
| 3. Martina Jacobs (Itinerant) | 6. Syphio A. B. Whack (Local) |

Candidates in Second year studies who were advanced to the Class on 3rd Year Studies and Elected and Ordained Itinerant/Local Deacons:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Jeffrey Graham (Itinerant) | 4. Joyce Anne Williams (Local) |
| 2. Leslie Graham (Itinerant) | 5. Susan Heyward (Local) |
| 3. Carolyn Alford (Local) | 6. Syphio A. B. Whack (Local) |
| 7. Myron Carswell Tucker (Local) | |

Candidates in Third year studies who were advanced to the Class on 4th Year Studies:

1. Tradd Corinthians Williams (Itinerant)

2. Myron Foxworth (Local)
3. Cynthia Smalls (Local)

Candidates in Fourth year studies who were Elected and Ordained Itinerant/Local Elders:

1. Reverend Cecelia Jenkins (Itinerant)
2. Reverend Carolyn Fields (Itinerant)
3. Reverend Stanley Nelson (Local)
4. Reverend Janella Joshua (Local)
5. Reverend Kawana Murray (Local)

Candidates in Fourth year studies who were elected and given a provisional ordination:

1. Tradd Corinthians Williams (Itinerant) was elected by this Annual Conference, but must complete his M.Div. during the Spring Semester 2024 in order for him to be ordained at Aspire 2024.
2. Joann Martin Nesbitt (Itinerant) was elected by this Annual Conference, but must complete her M.Div. by December 2023 in order for her to be ordained at Founder's Day 2024.

Summary Report

Request made to the Board from non-Board members.

Reverend Rose Kitty, a Local Elder and Supply Pastor in the Beaufort District, upon receiving her Master of Divinity Degree by December 2023 to be re-obligated as an Itinerant Elder at the Founder's Day 2024.

Reverend MacKenneth Rivers, a Local Elder at St. Paul AME Church, Edisto District, having a Master of Divinity Degree requested that he be re-obligated as an Itinerant Elder.

Pending Actions (Recommendations)

- Rontrell Tawauin Matthews be released from the BOE and returned to his local church.
- Vernon E. Cannady be released from the South Carolina Conference Board of Examiners, per his request.

- Rev. Pamela Smalls be elected by this Annual Conference, and must complete her M.Div. by December 2023 in order for her to be ordained at Founder's Day 2024.

In response to the Ministerial Efficiency Committee's report, Bishop Green advised that they had already acted on Rontrell Matthews and Vernon Cannady.

Further, because of information received regarding his illness, they should let Reverend Maxwell Samuel remain on the roll.

Reverend Eric S.C. Manning asked that the character be passed for the clergy of the 160th South Carolina Annual Conference. **Bishop Green advised that all characters be passed with the exception of Reverend Dr. Phil Flowers. Bishop Green** called for any information regarding the moral character passing of the other clergy members. A member of the Conference spoke with Bishop Green. Bishop Green conferred with Elder Anderson.

Bishop Green called again if there was any information regarding the moral character of the standing clergy persons. No voice was heard. **Bishop Green stated, hearing none, all characters are passed and all are eligible for appointment with the exception of Rev. Dr. Phil Flowers.**

Bishop Green called for the Disciplinary Questions

Disciplinary Questions 2023

1. Who are the preachers admitted on trial?

Itinerant: Arkie Jamal Freeman, Bertha J. Dantzler, Aaron Roland Washington,

Local: Syphio Arnetta Beverett Whack, Cherly Denise Wigfall, Susan Lucille Heyward,

Lathaddeus Leon Williams, Pearl Singleton

2. Who shall remain on trial?

Those persons read in question number 1 along with all names included in the

Board of Examiners Report.

3. Who are admitted or readmitted to full connection?

None

4. Who have been elected and ordained Deacons:

Itinerant: Jeffery P.K. Graham, Leslie L.A. Graham

Local: Carolyn Alford, Susan Heyward, Myron Tucker, Syphio Whack, Joyce Williams

5. Who have been elected and ordained Elders:

Itinerant: Reverends: Carolyn Fields, Cecelia Jenkins

Local: Reverends: Janella Joshua, Kawana F. Murray, Stanley Nelson

6. Who have been located this year?

None

7. Who have been elected by the General Conference to exercise the Episcopal Office and to superintend the African Methodist Episcopal Church?

Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr. the 125th Elected and Consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and all the Elected and Retired Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

8. Who are the Supernumerary Preachers?

The Reverends: Elizan Collins, Carolyn Davis, Betty C. Hawkins, James Arthur Holmes, Ronald Jones, Dwight McCloud, James Murdaugh, Nanette Pierson, and Robert J. Reid

9. Who are the Superannuated Preachers?

The Reverends: Edward Alston, John Alston Jr., John Paul Brown, Deborah Carter, Eugene Collins, Eugene Cryer, Nathaniel Edwards, Arthur Glover, John P. Harrison, Alfred D. Heyward, Harold Jefferson, Bernard Johnson, Serena King-Freeman, Alvin Larke Jr., Jack Lewis, John Mack, Thomas McClary, Leroy Middleton, Lawrence Miller, Moses W. Miller, Jr., Anna P. Robinson, Evon Robinson Sr., Johnny Robinson, Alice Salters, Charles Seabrook, Cora Singleton, Julius Steed, Joseph Washington, Charles Watkins, Leroy Weathers, Anna Ruth Williams-Gleaton, and Henry Young

10. Who have been expelled from the Connection this conference?

None.

11. Who have withdrawn this year from the conference and connection?

Brooks W. Harrison

12. Are all the preachers blameless in life and conversations?

All characters are passed with the exception of The Reverend Dr. Phil Flowers

13. What members of this conference have died this year?

The Right Reverend Richard Franklin Norris

Dr. Sylvia Ross Talbot

Sister Lula Shaw Cleckley

Reverend Regina Capers

Reverend Eugene Lebby

Reverend Clarence Rivers

14. Have all the preachers subscribed to The Christian Recorder, The AME Review, The Voice of Missions, the Journal of Christian Education, The Secret Chamber, and the Missionary Magazine?

Yes.

15. What preachers are indebted to any of the departments or church publications?

No one reported

16. Does each station, circuit or mission in this Annual Conference have a Lay Organization?

- No:
 - **Edisto:** New Generation
 - **Charleston:**
 - **Beaufort:** Ebenezer AME, St. Paul AME (Hardeeville)

17. Does each station, circuit or mission in this Annual Conference have a Women's Missionary Society?

- No:
 - **Edisto:** New Generation

- o **Charleston:**
- o **Beaufort** Ebenezer AME, Joshua AME, St. Paul AME (Hardeeville)

18. When shall this Annual Conference next meet?

- At the discretion of the Bishop.

19. Where shall our next Annual Conference be held?

Reverend Eric S.C. Manning offers up Mother Emanuel AME church to Host the 161st Session of the South Carolina Conference. The motion was made by Presiding Elder Goff and seconded by Presiding Elder Phillip Anderson. The motion carried.

20. Where are the preachers stationed this year?

- At the Bishop's Godly judgment

To clear the confusion regarding the location of the next Annual Conference, **Bishop Green** advised that he spoke to **Rev. Dr. Black** about hosting the Conference next year. When Bishop Green first arrived to the South Carolina Annual Conference, it was hosted by the Beaufort District. Since Mother Emanuel is currently having renovations, they couldn't host this year; therefore, the Charleston District hosted consecutively two years. In conversation with Reverend Dr. Black, pastor of Campbell Chapel of the Beaufort District, and the Presiding Elders, in order to get the Annual Conference back in rotation, Mother Emmanuel will host the 161st and Campbell Chapel the subsequent Annual Conference.

Presiding Elder Norvell Goff, Sr., Edisto District, made the motion and it was seconded by Elder Phillip C. Anderson, Beaufort District, that the invitation of Mother Emanuel to host the 161st Annual Conference be accepted. The motion carried.

Bishop Green announced the presence of **Representative Wendell Gilliard, Democrat - Charleston District 111**, who's running for Senate seat 42, and allowed him to greet the Conference. Mr. Gilliard is thankful for the impact of Bishop Green and his influence. He advised us to call our senators. We're in a supermajority as it pertains to the Republicans. When we go to Columbia, it's a learning process. You can gain knowledge from the time you spend there and make friends on both sides of the aisles as it works for the constitution. **Rep. Gilliard looks for the hate crime bill to be passed.** He said he made a promise to Mother Emanuel. South Carolina and Wyoming are the only states without a hate crime law.

Further, Representative Gilliard stated, if we have state crime law we have a mandate to keep records of cold and hot spots of the cases. We need the hate crime law to further expedite cases. Thirdly, it is proven that when you have a hate crime law people are now more apt to come forward to report it. He is responsible for bringing the body camera law to South Carolina.

Representative Gilliard said he told **Walter Scott's** parents that it was the tragedy of their son's death that gave his body camera bill wings. **Far too many times in South Carolina we're first in the things that are last and last in the things that are first.** The runoff for Senate seat 42 is important and its issue is economics. We have the inroads to the state port. There was no inclusion for black people, no black restaurants, and no affordable housing.

Representative Gilliard encouraged the if you have a problem, having the solution is most successful by putting it in writing. Big business doesn't want a person with a union background, nor do they want you to tell them let's do it this way--include the many and not just the few. We have work to do and a back bone in politics. He only fears God and to be effective in politics, he does his research and consults with his team. He says there is nothing holy about our State. Everybody wants to act like God but no one wants to do the will of God.

Representative Gilliard gave thanks to **Reverend Randolph Miller** for his work on **Bounce Around Charleston.** He told Bishop Green that he is a man ahead of his time and thanked him.

Bishop Green reminded the Conference that **the runoff election for District 42 is this Tuesday. Polls open at 7am and close at 7pm. He encouraged those in District 42 to go out and vote. He says the young girls who died in 16th Street Baptist Church and Rep. John Lewis are crying out from the grave---to go vote.**

It's unfortunate that the General Conference, to be held in Ohio, changed the dates because the Democratic National Convention (DNC), to be held in Chicago, is at the same time. **Bishop Green** said his objective is to get Harold Mayberry reelected while at the DNC, then fly back to Columbus Ohio.

Bishop Green called for a motion that the Annual Conference be adjourned sine die pending the YPD Worship Service and Closing Service today with the reading of appointments to be read at the Post Convocation in November 2023. *The motion to adjourn the conference sine die--Adjournment sine die (from the Latin "without day") means "without assigning a day for a further meeting or hearing". To adjourn an assembly sine die is to adjourn it for an indefinite period. A legislative body adjourns sine die when it adjourns without appointing a day on which to appear or assemble again.*

Motion made by Presiding Elder Goff and seconded by Reverend Dr. Kylon Middleton. The motion carried.

Bishop Green asked that we be patient with the appointments as he deliberates and seeks the Lord for holy guidance. Just pray. Several appointments will have a *T*, meaning temporary. He expressed to the pastors of the 160th Session that you must go where you are sent. Meeting adjourned.

The 160th Session of the South Carolina Conference

Youth and Young Adult Worship Experience

The Youth and Young adult worship service began promptly at 11am with the praise and worship of the LORD!! They sang songs that recharged our souls such as *Melodies from Heaven*, a wonderful rendition of *Blessed Assurance, Sweeter Than Anything I Know*, and *Come on In*. It was a blessing to see the choir loft and pulpit completely filled with the youth and young adults of the South Carolina Annual Conference! God is truly worthy to be praised!

The preached word came from **Reverend Tremayne Bowman Sr.**, who drew treasured exegetical purchase from the book of **Romans 1:16-17**. The sermon title: I Have the Power.

How do I hold my peace and keep my cool when folks want to make things personal? How do you keep our character when people keep testing us? Paul dealt with something similar to this. Paul, however, knew he had the power. Paul writes after he has faced many trials and challenges. He had to find the space to do what God called him to do. However, he has to fight just to do it. He has dealt with people that live contrary to the word of God. Paul even faced trial and tribulation by his own people. It's your own folks that turn on you and try to destroy you.

Opposition in your life is validation in your life to go somewhere and be somebody. God has purpose for your life. Paul was in the presence of both saints and 'aints. Be careful not to waste time on folks who want to make you dream small and your proclivities little. You can't worry about your haters and detractors. Do what God has called you to do. Still, you must forgive them. Because if God be for you, who can be against you?! They don't understand why you won't give up even when you're weak. You are where you are because you've trusted in the LORD.

Some people look like church people, but it's easy to emulate. Some folks have all these followers and ministries, but they have no power. There are three things you need to have and keep the power. AND you'll be alright!

Points: (the 3 things we need!)

1) Jesus

2) The Gospel

3) Faith

There's something about being in the presence of Jesus. He will turn your life around. He will make the crooked places straight. He will make your way clear. Jesus makes intercession for us to God. Even when we don't deserve mercy, Jesus will speak on our behalf. Your faith will activate your power. You have to put your faith where you want your faith to be. Do this and God will show up. Don't be discouraged. Because of Jesus, we have the power! When we call on the name of Jesus, God will step in and work wonders! Through Jesus, you have the power!

The Youth and Young Adult Worship Service impacted the lives of those both online and in person, strengthening our spirits to know that through Christ, we have the power!

The Annual YPD report was presented via video for all to view together. Sister Nikole Rivers, South Carolina Conference YPD President; Tara Simmons, South Carolina Conference Branch YPD Director; Brother Deontrae McCray, Interim YPD Episcopal President; Dr. Illa McFadden, Episcopal Director; Supervisor Phyllis N. Green and Bishop Samuel L. Green all came forth to greet the Conference and make their remarks. Each expressed their love and devotion to God and together we celebrated the youth and their amazing love for God! Each Conference of the Seventh Episcopal District were welcomed and their presence in worship was greatly appreciated.

Bishop Green expressed his appreciation of the worship experience led by our youth and young adults. Our youth and young adults have dreams. If you don't help them shine a light, they will never reach those dreams. God said they can be the head and not the tail. Teach them the LORD's prayer and also teach them that we didn't come here on the mayflower. We came on slave ships. They thought they could keep us enslaved. But we mastered what they thought they knew and we freed our minds. If we free our minds, we can free our families. If we free our families, we can free our communities. If you think the fight is over, just look how they have stopped teaching who we are.

Egypt is in Africa. The first people God created were black people. Jesus went to Egypt to hide. How could a blue eyed blond haired Jesus hide in Egypt? We are the cradle of civilization! Cuneiform Language came from Africa. We need to teach our young black boys and girls to hold their heads up, because you are somebody! The pyramids are still standing and people are still trying to figure out how they did that. The power that God put in our people to not just survive but to thrive. If you go to a traffic light thank God for a black man. If you need heart surgery, thank God for a black man. We have to tell our story because they won't let the story be told. When we tell it, we don't have to color it a certain way, we can tell it like it 'TIS. We can be anything we want to be: doctors, lawyers, teachers, preachers, SIGMAS (conference laughter).

Bishop Green expressed that the youth inspire him to do what he does. Their productivity. As long as he lives, he will remember the 6 annual conferences he had with the South Carolina conference young people. He told us all that he loves us. Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr., the Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District, will TRULY TRULY be missed!

The 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference Bible Live Church School Explosion

The Bible Live Church School Explosion began at 3pm with introduction to the lesson by Reverend Shirley Pinckney. She called on the devotion team to come forward and settle our spirits into connection. They sang Every Praise. The praise and devotion empowered the Mother Conference to join in the celebration of life that comes with a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Matthew 4:1-10 NIV

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted¹ by the devil.
²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."⁴ Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:" ⁷"He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'⁹ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ¹⁰"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."¹⁰ Jesus said to him,

“Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.

There are four aims for our lesson today:

- 1) Acknowledge temptation as a reality
- 2) Determine when you are the most vulnerable to temptation
- 3) Determine what to do when confronted with temptation
- 4) Apply the word of God when being tempted to sin

The Church School participants taught us the church school lesson with creativity. Power point, Today's lesson taught the Mother Conference that Satan is a tempter and the truth can be found in our Bibles. Biblical references such as 1Peter 5:8, John 8:44 and 1 John 3:10 remind us that Satan only comes to lie, steal, and destroy. Satan is the father of lies. Regardless of Satan, temptation is a choice between being faithful or unfaithful.

They used a visual expression of temptation. Reverend Eugene Collins brought up triple chocolate muffins. He told the Mother Conference that his temptation was chocolate and he has been delivered from it. He offered up the muffins because he didn't need them anymore. The muffins were given to the secretarial staff of the South Carolina Conference.

Many others such as Reverend William Jones, Licentiate Marilyn Lee, and Sister Chassidy Terry taught us that we can not only be tempted to do things, but we can be tempted to say things about others. Gossip is a bad temptation. We ALL have a habit of doing it. We don't even know we're doing it sometimes. The Conference pondered the question: when are you the most vulnerable to temptation? When we refuse to forgive, we are then tempted by Satan to talk about people we haven't forgiven. Satan's temptation is like a piece of cheese to a rat in a rattrap. How do we resist temptation? Intentionally meditating on God's word and seeking God's will and way.

1 Corinthians 10:12 teaches us “**So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!**”. The reward for resisting temptation: the devil will leave you and the angels will minister to you! As well, the Holy Spirit is at work in you and Satan WILL BE DEFEATED! To God be the Glory! Reverend Pinckney closed out the Bible Live Church School Explosion. We thank God for this relevant and impacting Church School lesson.

The 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference Closing and Commissioning Service

The Closing and Commissioning Service of the South Carolina Conference's 160th Session began with pomp, power and verve. The Conference's collective love of Jesus permeated the entire edifice of **Greater St. James AME Church where the Reverend Archie Fair serves as pastor**. The choir sang songs of Zion that blessed our souls such as *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name, Lead Me Guide Me, We Are Often Tossed And Driven, God is a Good God*, and many other soul-stirring songs! The Mother Conference shared in our collective Joy of Jesus!

Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green Sr., Presiding Prelate of the Seventh Episcopal District brought a word from Jeremiah 37:16-17. Sermonic Title: Rhetorical Questions

The genius of the Bible is not found in its answers, but rather in the formulation of its questions. What God has to say to us does not always come as a declarative statement. Often it comes in the form of the mystery of a question. Some of the best questions are not posed by people looking for immediate answers. But rather they question things that don't need to be questioned. We need certain questions so that there be no need for questions. Not all questions are equal. There are various types of questions, philosophical, ontological, obvious, rhetorical, and many others. The Bible is full of great rhetorical questions.

Jesus asked 307 questions and most of them were rhetorical.

My God, my God why have thou forsaken me, and others fall in the line of rhetorical questions. The question is designed to make a larger point. You should never underestimate the power of a good question. It can change your life and give you clarity in a way that nothing else can.

You should not be impressed by what people have, but be impressed by WHO YOU ARE! People may know powerful people, but you know a powerful God. You can always go to Him if you need Him and the blood still works! The devil doesn't care what you have, he's only afraid if you have a prayer life. You have to know how to get a prayer through. Prayer still changes things. You have to call on God for YOURSELF! You have to fall on your knees and have a little talk with Jesus because He makes it right. When you get a prayer through, you become dangerous to the demonic. You are a prophet that can call down fire. Your enemies need to be glad that you're saved and delivered. Your enemies should be glad that you don't use the power that you have. You can be in a mess and still have all the power in the room. Don't let where you are devalue who you are in Jesus Christ. Don't lose who you are with your pastoral appointment. God is the same God who worked miracles in your assignment.

Thoughts:

- 1) We have all had to rely on Jesus.
- 2) Jesus never would have called you if you were a nobody.

3) God is going to take you higher not because of where you are or have been, but because of who you are.

God is able to deliver you!

Bishop Green called for Brother Deon Tedder, Candidate for Senate Seat 42.

Deon Tedder:

Thank you for letting me speak. I am a graduate of SC State University. I was born in North Carolina and had a full academic ride to the state. I made my journey down, but my mother passed away. I felt I should stay and take care of mom. But because of God, prayer, and family I was able to make it. I was in house seat 109. I do what I do because my parents sacrificed for me. I am a first-generation college student. I want to open doors and allow others to have the support, access, and resources. I see the effects of legislation every day. Words matter and there's some unintended consequences. I deal with this every day and this is why I do what I do.

We can do Three things for him:

1. Tell others about the Special election
2. **Congressman James Clyburn** has endorsed me
- 3) Please pray for me and to please vote, your voice does matter. God bless you.

Bishop Green asked who he wanted us to vote for. His answer for Bishop: Deon Tedder (conference laughter). **The special election this Tuesday is from 7 to 7. Please** vote during those hours. Check your registration status at: scvotes.gov.

Bishop Green called for **Pastor Archie Fair and the members of Greater St. James. Bishop Green** thanked him and the members of Greater St James. They were thanked with a standing ovation by the members and guests of the South Carolina Annual Conference. Their hospitality was top notch. If Bishop Green was ever the type to celebrate in libations, he would compare this to "top shelf". Conference applause.

He presented him with \$18,800.00 for their hard work. There is no way to pay them for what they did, but the fund given is Bishop's way of saying thank you.

Bishop Green called for Leaders of Night in White, Lay Witness, Sons of Allen, YPD worship, and gave them thanks for their worship and dedication.

Presiding Elder Goff spoke on behalf of the **160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference** and thanked Bishop Green for the sermon described as an "eclectic moment". As he closes out his ministry in the seventh district, he will never leave our hearts. Presiding Elder Goff wanted to find a rhetorical question to describe him: **is there a better bishop in all Christendom than Bishop Samuel L. Green?** The Mother Conference responded with a resounding "NO"!!! Presiding Elder Goff reminded him that we will do what we are called to do at General Conference and will ensure he gets to where his talents can be best used.

Bishop Green gave out certificates for Conference Trustees, Sons of Allen, WMS, YPD, CDMC, certificates of admission to the conference, certificates of election for lay

delegates and alternates, certificates of election for the clergy delegates and alternates.

Before the reading of appointments, Bishop Green thanked the six pastors that retired this year. He called on **Reverend Dr. Watkins, who** was not present during the retirement service and told him that the Conference celebrated him in absentia and he personally wanted to celebrate him in person. Bishop Green informed Reverend Dr. Watkins that he gave God an excellent work. Even in his sickness he has been a treasure to the kingdom of God. Bishop Green mentioned that as the two of them shared on the phone and talked periodically: Reverend Dr. Watkins knows how Bishop Green feels about him. Reverend Dr. Charles Watkins was described as God's greatest pastor, and we don't know why things end up the way they do, but it can be used to inspire people further in God.

With all that was shared at the 160th session of the South Carolina Conference, The Mother Conference, and with this being the final time this conference would meet with **Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr** as our Presiding Prelate, we would be remiss if we did not include a copy of the final resolution for the final time with Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green sr., as written by **Reverend Randolph Miller and the committee on resolutions:**

7th Episcopal District

160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference

Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green Sr, Presiding Prelate

Sister Phyllis N. Green Supervisor

**Host Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. Allen Wayne Parrott & Mrs. Barbara Parrott
Charleston District**

Presiding Elder Rev. Dr. Norvel Goff Sr., Edisto District

Loving Memory of Mrs. A. Marie Goff

Presiding Elder Rev. Phillip Anderson & Mrs. Sandra Anderson, Beaufort District

**Host Pastor, Rev Archie & First Lady Linda Fair & The Greater St James AME
Church Family**

Statement of Resolution

Well, here we are at the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference Worshipping and Working. Embracing the Theme: "Releasing the Power Within".

Whereas: Bishop Sam called the Mother Conference to assemble at Greater St. James AME Church in the Suburb area of Summerville, SC called Cooperstore

Whereas: Bishop Sam made sure the Conference followed the protocol of the CDC: Registration, Covid Testing and the wearing of Masks every day.

Whereas: The Devotions Committee opened the Conference at 7:45am with Praise and Worship

Whereas: Bishop Sam was in his seat at 8:00am for the Opening Session Organizing the Conference and I must say, He came ready to put us on a fast track to complete the work of the Conference. To tell the truth, everything was handled in an organized and timely manner,

Whereas: The preaching was proclaimed by all retirees of the Conference. The Music and the Word together was Powerful, and we must commend Greater St James's music Department for a job well done.

Whereas: The Board of Examiners Presented in an excellent way the Preachers coming through the classes to The South Carolina Annual Conference being admitted on trial and others to Ordained Local/Itinerant Deacons or Local/Itinerant Elders in our Zion. However, we must commend Pastor Henry E. Dixon for his Anointed Ordination message.

Whereas: The Edisto, Charleston, and Beaufort Districts Presiding Elders, and Pastors gave their District and Pastoral reports Virtually sharing the success of their work for the past Conference year

Whereas: The Literary reports were shared to inform the Conference of the various ways work was being done in the South Carolina Annual Conference

Whereas: Bishop Sam welcomed our guests from across the U.S. who came to visit the Mother Conference, especially our wonderful guest in the person of Bishop Micheal Mitchell of the 12th Episcopal District. It was a pleasure having him sit in and share with our Bishop.

Whereas: The Politicians were given an opportunity to make an appeal to the Conference for their support.

Whereas: The WIM, WMS, SOA, SCC Lay, and the YPDers each celebrated an uplifting worship experience.

Whereas: The South Carolina Annual Conference says thank you to the Greater St James Media Team, Musicians, Golf Cart Uber Driver, Security and the entire Loving Staff of this church. You made our stay so enjoyable, we may not go home.

Whereas: The SCAC wishes to Commend the Greater St James AME Church Choir for allowing God to use you. Your Music Blessed us.

Whereas: The Culinary Team of Greater St James cooked Turkey Wings, Ham, Fried and Baked Chicken and we cannot forget the Stew Beef. We have all added pounds, and we say thank you for your delicious food.

Whereas: Host Presiding Elder Dr. Allen Wayne Parrott, Dr. Norvel Goff and Elder Anderson, the Conference says thank you for your leadership and supporting Rev. Archie Fair and Greater St James Family

Whereas: Rev. Samuel Green Jr. we must applaud you for your knowledge and professionalism guiding us through Christian Education and we see the work of your hands in our Conference Series. We want you to know that you are a true Blessing to the Body of Christ.

Whereas: Supervisor Phyllis Green we say thank you and we continue to celebrate you and your Husband Dr. John Green in Global Ministry. Your smile, your voice and your work in Missions has Global Presence. Thank you for your service in the 7th and you know that we truly love you.

Whereas: Bishop Samuel L. Green Sr. the SCAC says thank you for your vision, your care for the people and your Love for God exhibited through your Preaching and teaching. African Methodism has to realize that your presence and your knowledge makes a difference in this our Zion. Our Church is better because of your Leadership and your Anointing to hear from God.

Whereas: The General Conference Team of Delegates and Alternates will listen to our coach, and we will get everything we want, because we listened and followed your lead.

Be it resolved: Rev Archie Fair and the Members of Greater St James AME, The SCAC says thank you to all the workers who served us every day, driving the golf carts, to monitoring the halls, registration every morning, just plain good old hospitality. Whatever you did to help the SCAC make it through this week, we say thank you.

Be it Finally Resolved: The 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference will go down in History as A Conference that went back to Church and someone said we couldn't do it. The Green Team of Bishop Samuel Lawrence Green Sr., our Presiding Prelate and extraordinary Leader and Sister Phyllis Green our Supporting and Caring Supervisor, We say thank you for not missing a beat and allowing God to show you how to lead and keep our congregations together. However, the greatest part of this is that you have shown us how to Worship God in Spirit and in Truth. Thank you, Bishop Sam, for your sermons every Sunday, for your telephone calls every Sunday afternoon, your Birthday and Anniversary Cards and for just loving and teaching how to Worship God through any Storm because "The Best Is Yet To Come."

Your Committee on Resolution: Reverends: Randolph Miller, Yvonne Gregg, Jack Lewis Jr., Emmy Williams, Carol Berry, Rose Goodwater-Richardson, Clifford Levine, Leon Maxwell, James Mack, Damon Thornhill, Patricia Vanderhurst

Sisters: Cynthia Smalls, Natalie Williams, Mary Washington, Lenora Grayson-Jenkins, Sharon Blake, Martha Graham, Marie Brown, Josephine Washington

Bishop Green called for pastoral appointments: they are as follows.

The SC Conference Appointments For The:			
EDISTO DISTRICT			
#	Church	2022-2023 Appointment	2023-2024 Appointment
1	Mother Emanuel	Eric S.C. Manning	Eric S.C. Manning
2	Greater Macedonia	Lawrence Gordon	Lawrence Gordon
3	St. Luke	Herbert Jenkins, Sr.	Herbert Jenkins, Sr.
4	Nichols Chapel	Joseph A. Darby	Joseph A. Darby
5	St. James Bethel	William Jones	William Jones
6	New Jerusalem	Toney Slater	Toney Slater
7	Mount Horr	Myra Meggett	Myra Meggett
8	Shiloh	Eugene Collins, Sr.	in the hands of the elder
9	St. Stephen	Robert Gordon	Robert Gordon
10	Greater Beard	Charles MacLamore	Charles MacLamore
11	Calvary, Edisto Island	Oliver Burns, Jr.	JP Harrison (supplying)
12	Greater St. John	Harold Jefferson	in the hands of the elder
13	Greater New Bethlehem	James Eric Nelson	James Eric Nelson
14	St. Matthew, Davidson	Thomas Habersham	Henry Gabe
15	Bethel, Ravenel	Clifford Levine	Clifford Levine
16	St. James	E. J. German	E. J. German
17	Graham	Hope Champaigne-Rivers	Hope Champaigne-Rivers

18	St. Paul	Andre Thornhill	Andre Thornhill
19	St. Matthew, Johns Island	Robert Stokes (supplying)	Robert Stokes (supplying)
20	Allen, EI	Rose Goodwater-Richardson	Rose Goodwater-Richardson
21	Emanuel, WA	Shauntay Fludd Bowers	Shauntay Fludd Bowers
22	Allen, Petersfield	Brenda Thornhill	Brenda Thornhill
23	St. Mary	Latonya Smalls	Latonya Smalls
24	Greater Bethel, JI	Nathan Brown	Nathan Brown
25	James Chapel	Charles Watkins	in the hands of the elder
26	New Bethel, Red Top	Spavarie Taylor	Spavarie Taylor
27	St. Phillip	Rhonda Heyward	Rhonda Heyward
28	Mount Zion	Bernard Brown	Bernard Brown
29	Calvary, Johns Island	Melvin Hunter	Melvin Hunter
30	St. Mark	Walter Middleton	Walter Middleton
31	Greater Bethel, EI	Krystal Campbell	Krystal Campbell
32	Mount Nebo	James Peterson	James Peterson
33	New Generation AMEC	Ashanti Brown	Ashanti Brown

The SC Conference Appointments For The:

BEAUFORT DISTRICT

#	Church	2022-2023 Appointment	2023-2024 Appointment
1	Allen Chapel	Keith I. Parker, II	Keith I. Parker, II
2	Bethel, Jacksonboro	Dingle Stokes	Dingle Stokes
3	Campbell Chapel	Jon R. Black	Jon R. Black
4	Ebenezer	Rose Kitty	Rose Kitty

5	Grace Chapel	Jeannine R. Smalls	Jeannine R. Smalls
6	Greater Bethel	Rose Kitty	Rose Kitty
7	Greater Calvary	Emmy B. Williams	Emmy B. Williams
8	Greater Mount Olive	Samuel Haney, Jr.	Samuel Haney, Jr.
10	Greater Saint Mark	Roeteshia Jackson	Roeteshia Jackson
11	Jericho	Carolyn Fields	Carolyn Fields
12	Joshua	Biner Lawyer-Green	Biner Lawyer-Green
13	Mount Olive	Pamelia Smalls	Pamelia Smalls
14	Mount Pisgah	Thaddeus Smith	Thaddeus Smith
15	Mount Pleasant	Henry Bobor	Henry Bobor
16	Mount Zion, Garnett	Arnold Gordon	Arnold Gordon
17	Mount Zion, Round O	Tradd C. Williams	Tradd C. Williams
18	Queen Chapel	Edward Alston	Edward Alston
19	Saint James	Benjamin Dwight	Benjamin Dwight
20	Saint John, Cottageville	Shirley Pinckney	Shirley Pinckney
21	Saint John, Ridgeland	James Mack	James Mack
22	Saint Mark	Synetria Hawkins	Synetria Hawkins
23	Saint Matthew	-----	-----
24	Saint Paul	Tanzala Shanklin	Tanzala Shanklin
25	Saint Peter, Gifford	Jessie M. Townsend, Jr.	Jessie M. Townsend, Jr.
26	Saint Peters, Walterboro	Leon R. Maxwell	Leon R. Maxwell
27	Saint Stephen	L. Vanessa Johnson	L. Vanessa Johnson
28	Springhill	Barbara Ling-Terry	Barbara Ling-Terry
29	Trinity	Debra E. Green	Debra E. Green

30	Whitehall	Courtney Colleton	Courtney Colleton
31	Williams Chapel	Joann Nesbitt	Joann Nesbitt
32	Zion	Kathy E. Shider	Kathy E. Shider

The SC Conference Appointments For The:

CHARLESTON DISTRICT

#	Church	2022-2023 Appointment	2023-2024 Appointment
1	Greater Unity	Randolph Miller	Randolph Miller
2	Greater Target	Friendly J. Gaston	Friendly J. Gaston
3	Greater St. James	Archie Fair	Archie Fair
4	Mount Zion (Charleston)	Kylon Middleton	Kylon Middleton
5	Trinity	Jerome Wilson	Jerome Wilson
6	Bethel (St. George)	John Smalls	John Smalls
7	Bethel-Ridgeville	Larry Harris	Larry Harris
8	St. Paul	Yvonne Simmons-Gregg	Yvonne Simmons-Gregg
9	Cumberland - Aiken	Phil Flowers	in the hands of the elder
10	Mount Pisgah	Rubin Smalls	Rubin Smalls
11	Bethel (Summerville)	Lorraine Bradley	Lorraine Bradley
12	Ebenezer Zion	Thornell Thompson	Thornell Thompson
13	Mount Zion (Goose Creek)	Sinclair Frasier	Sinclair Frasier
14	New Hope (Ridgeville)	Carol Berry	Carol Berry
15	Bethel (Holly Hill)	Michael Clark	Michael Clark

16	Ebenezer (Lincolntonville)	Jack Lewis, Jr. (supplying)	Jack Lewis, Jr. (supplying)
17	Branch	Rufus Berry, Sr.	Rufus Berry, Sr.
18	New Hope (St. George)	Betty Walker-Collins	Betty Walker-Collins
19	Mount Zion (Harleyville)	Kortez Chisolm	Kortez Chisolm
20	St. Luke	Lubert Pressley	Lubert Pressley
21	Bethel (Goose Creek)	LaShaun Flagg	LaShaun Flagg
22	Bethel (Denmark)	Valerie Williams	Valerie Williams
23	New Mount Zion-S'ville	Patricia Vanderhurst	Patricia Vanderhurst
24	Mount Carmel	-----N/A-----	-----N/A-----
25	Ebenezer-Aiken	Angela McGhee	Angela McGhee
26	Providence	Cora Singleton	Jeffrey P.K. Graham
27	Shiloh	Jackie Jamison	Jackie Jamison
28	Adams	Tremayne Bowman	Tremayne Bowman

It has been our pleasure to serve the 125th Elected and Consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop Samuel L. Green Sr. We thank you sir, for the opportunity to serve in this capacity, and pray blessings upon all who read this report.

Humbly Submitted,

**The Secretarial Staff of the 160th Session of the South Carolina Annual Conference,
The Mother Conference.**