

THE DAILY INDEX

Rev. Dr. Ore L. Spragin, Jr., Editor

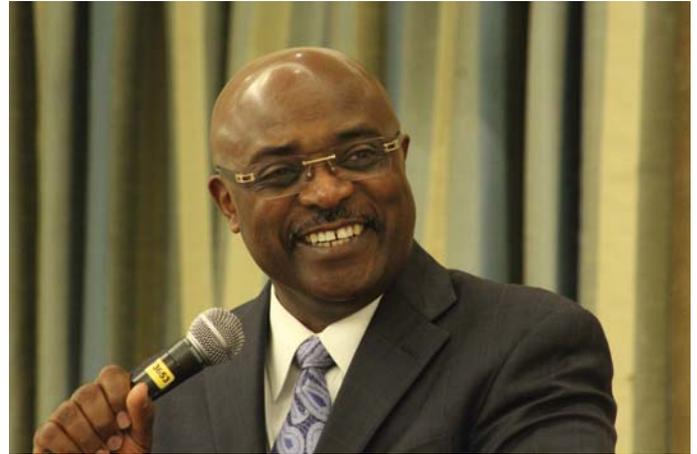
2018 General Conference

Wednesday, June 27, 2018

Bishop Walker Reports Advances

Submitted by Rev. Cassandry Keys

*Presiding Elder, Winston-Salem-Greenville District
Pastor, Bunton CME Church*



Bishop James B. Walker (stock photo)

Bishop James B. Walker, Presiding Prelate of the 7th Episcopal District, delivered his Quadrennial Report outlining how the district transitioned from a state of financial challenge to a state of winning. Bishop Walker stated that the winning not only had to do with finances; it also affected winning souls.

The Superlative 7th District, which includes the Carolina and New York/Washington Regions, put an emphasis on ministries and projects which impacted our continued growth. With Bishop Walker's influence and guidance, members of this great region learned how working together and embracing change would enable us to multiply disciples and strengthen us as an Episcopal district.

As a first-time delegate to the General Conference, I listened with pride as our Presiding Prelate listed the numerous accomplishments of our district. Through a collaborative effort of the conferences, the mortgage for the Helton Royal Plaza Center, a long-time indebtedness, was paid in full. Church planting became a focus, along with increased evangelistic efforts in the communities. Technological initiatives helped reach a broader audience and expose them to the meeting of the church in conference. New ministries were formed that addressed the needs of the homeless. Churches partnered with communities to improve the education of our children. Expanded mission programs increased our opportunity for discipleship.

The 7th District is richer in many ways for having Bishop Walker as our Presiding Prelate these past four years. "The enemy did not have the last word." We are winning!

Helpful Hints for Making Submissions to *The Christian Index*

1. Articles and pictures may be sent via email to the Editor at: ChristianIndex@thecmechurch.org.
2. Format for text may be either MSWord or PDF. Format for pictures may be either JPEG or BMP.
3. Typed submissions are much easier to process than handwritten manuscripts.
4. There is no charge for submissions that DO NOT contain pictures. There IS a charge for pictures.
5. Payments for pictures (\$20.00 per picture) should be sent at the same time as submissions. If you are sending the article by email, a PayPal invoice will be sent to you by the Editor.
6. Mailed payments should be made payable to "Department of Publications" and mailed to the editor at: 1700 Whisperwood Street, Albany GA 31721.
7. Payments will be submitted to the Department of Publications when articles are placed into an issue.
8. Please try not to submit dated material that is more than **three** months old. The Editor attempts to keep the magazine filled with relevant information.
9. For questions or concerns regarding the **content** of *The Christian Index*, please contact the Editor.
10. For all **other concerns**, you may contact the Publisher.

“Unction for the Function”

*Submitted by Rev. Kai Horn, MDiv
Pastor, Mary Stewart CME Church
Eighth Episcopal District*

The sun arose. The morning swelled with excitement in anticipation of the “International Ministries Worship Service.” Committee responsibilities delayed an on-time arrival. I entered the room only to hear one of my favorite hymns: “O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!”

Several ministers from the African delegation - Rev. Lawson Adjei, Dr. Victor Udo, Rev. Samson Fianko, Rev. Christian Keller, and Rev. Koko Daniel - participated in worship with praise and worship. The tone was set when the minister who prayed asked God to give to the worship the unction for function. God did just that! God gave to the worship leader and worshippers the guiding power of the Holy Spirit and ushered in a presence and power towards worship that cannot be denied.

The General Conference Choir began singing, ensuring us that God would turn things around. God showed up again. Rev. Koko Daniel begin to lead worship, and the African, Jamaican, and Haitian delegations went to where the choir was standing and began to sing until the power of the Lord came down.

Bishop Godwin T. Umoette preached “Be Encouraged”. He began singing a few songs from African tradition. He then began telling us to be encouraged because our Redeemer lives. Bishop Umoette said, “God makes a way out of no way and opens doors that no one can close and no one can stop.” He reminded us from the story of Paul and Silas in a Roman jail cell that with prayer, knowledge of Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit everything would be alright. “If you are baptized by the Holy Ghost, you will be ready for everything in life. God would not let us down. Just look to the hills. Would you allow Jesus to be your God?” “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come and dine with them. [Revelation 3:20] I am not sure what was touched on the inside; but John Wesley said it like this, 'My heart was strangely warmed. I wept.'”

Lastly, he reflected on the book by Marshall Gilmore “From Bastard to Bishop”. He compared his life of poverty with that of Bishop Gilmore’s life. He declared to us that he did not believe that God brought us this far to leave us. We picked up the mantle and began to sing the song.

The worship serviced ended with a powerful prayer for the church by Rev. Enobong Umanah. Our Senior Bishop, Lawrence L. Reddick, III, impressed and challenged us with a closing hymn, “Glory be to God the Father”. The words are:

Ukpono enyene Ete, Ukpono enyene Enyen, Ukpono enyene Spirit; Abasi ita ke kiet. Ukpono, Akwa ukpono Odudu ke Nsinsi.

Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son, Glory be to the God the Sprit; Great Jehovah three in one. Glory, glory, glory, while eternal ages run!

"And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."

--Isaiah 6:3 (KJV)

A Brief Summary on Several General Officer Reports

Submitted by Clarence Kelby Heath
Eighth Episcopal District

On Sunday evening, June 24th, the General Conference began receiving reports from several General Officers. All reports were completed during the Monday morning business session. I have the privilege of providing a summary report that will provide general information and highlight a few resolutions.

Finance

Dr. Victor Taylor provided his report during the Sunday evening session. He introduced that net assets grew by about \$1.7 million dollars to about \$6.7 million dollars. He took the time to appreciate the staff of both the Department of Finance and CMETV. These persons included his wife Wanda, and Cherhonda Greenlee and her family. Other staff members also were recognized for their service. Dr. Taylor made the following recommendations: (1) To dramatically increase the reserve fund allocation and set the general church on course to begin to reduce general church budget assessments and ultimately to eliminate general church assessments; (2) To provide a narrative and a budget to this General Conference that sets the church on a course of financial fidelity for the mutual benefit of all the church.

Christian Education

Dr. Carmichael Crutchfield provided a verbal report and video presentation. He commended his staff and a cadre of persons that work to make Christian Education a success. The work of Christian Education was categorized as Administrative, Connectional Ministry and Relations, Development of Resources, Ecumenical Work and Community Involvement, Higher Education, Leadership Training, and General Secretary Personal Development. A few recommendations for the Department of Christian Education were as follows: (1) CHANGE THE NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT AND ALL LEVELS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION; (2) That age level ministries be changed accordingly with a focus on leadership,

spiritual, and faith formation at each level, to be described as: Children (ages 0-11), Youth (ages 12-17), Emerging Adults (ages 18-25), Young Adults (ages 26-40), Middle Adults (ages 41-64), and Senior Adults (ages 65 and older).



Personnel Services

Dr. Tyrone T. Davis presented a video report. He announced the website to be used to access information. He expounded upon the CME Retirement Plan & Trust, the CME 403(b) Plan, the CME Fire & Casualty Insurance Plan, the CME Gift Fund, Specialized Insurance Coverage, and Zion Christian Cemetery. His staff was acknowledged and appreciated along with his wife, Janice. Questions related to the following *Disciplinary* sections were offered for consideration: (1) Paragraph 226, section 50(d) - How many of the churches have paid the 12% of the pastor's salary to the annual conference for the CME Retirement Plan? (2) Paragraph 226, section 50(e) - How many of the pastors have completed enrollment in the CME Retirement Plan? (3) Regarding retirement: Paragraph 255, section 10(a) - Has the church paid through the Presiding Elder the 12% of the pastor's salary to the annual conference for the CME Retirement Plan? (4) Paragraph 255, section 10 (b) - Has the pastor completed enrollment in the CME Retirement Plan?

Ministry to Men

Dr. Leo Pinkett spoke about various areas of his ministry that make him excited about the work. One item that excited him more was the increased participation of young Black men. He stated that he looked forward to continuing his work in the US and to going abroad to Africa. Some of his recommendations for the Ministry to Men were as follows: (1) We want to applaud all the bishops and Episcopal districts that have had retreats for men in our churches. (2) Each Episcopal District should develop a Department of Ministry to Men and partner with The Black Male Project. (3) Ministry to Men should partner with Save Our Sons (a program of the CME Church Women's Missionary Society) to increase or initiate male mentoring programs in every local CME Church and to provide scholarship aid for the Save Our Sons Programs.

Observations and Notes from Sunday, June 24, 2018

Submitted by Dr. Barbara Campbell

Member, Shy Temple CME Church

Sixth Episcopal District

Sunday, June 24, 2018 was filled with the spirit of the Lord. The Fifth Episcopal District Choir did a rendition of the song "Total Praise" that had members standing on their feet, hands lifted in praise, and words of adoration filled the room. It looked like the church, and it felt like the church.

Bishop Henry Williamson, Presiding Prelate of the First Episcopal District, was presiding over the session at the time, and he admonished the congregation that God was worthy of all the praise we could lift up! The response, again, was simply total praise to the Lord.

Bishop Thomas Brown introduced his classmate, Bishop Kenneth W. Carter, who was the preacher for morning worship. The scripture background was Luke 5:1-5.

He began the sermon by sharing a story about a man on a boat who had a pen, a note pad, and a gun. He was going through a hard time because he was out of work and needed a job. He wrote on the pad, the letter "J", so he went to Job Corps, and they told him he was too old. He went to the Employment Office and he was told he was over qualified. He went to the Social Security Department, and he was told he was too young. He then went to United Way and he was told they were out of funds. He went to the Salvation Army, and he was told there was no room.

Returning to the scripture background, the fishermen that Jesus encountered had fished all night and caught nothing. Jesus sent them back out to the same place they had been fishing and told them to let down their dirty nets. The moral of the story is that failure is not fatal and being obedient to God can change your circumstances.

When the man on the boat reviewed what he had written down, he realized that the first letter of each

word, when taken together, spelled JESUS, and Jesus is the answer for all of our problems.

During the closing of the session, the following announcements were made:

Sign up for CME text messages:

Text your name and episcopal district to:
253-460-1527

Visit the CME table for audio cards of the Episcopal Address!

Bishop Othal H. Lakey presented a copy of his book: *Miles to King (The Bishops of Christian Methodism 1870-2014)* to the Senior Bishop and to all of the wives and widows, and that it is available for purchase for \$14.95.

"If God answers your prayer,
He is increasing your faith.
If He delays,
He is increasing your patience.
If He doesn't answer,
He has something better
for you."